

LOG OF MEETING

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
4/3/00
No. (Mrs/Prvt/Blrs or
Products Identified

Excepted by _____

Firms Notified,

Comments Processed.

SUBJECT: Potential External Ignition of Information Technology Equipment

DATE: March 30, 2000

PLACE: 1350 I St., N.W.
Washington, DC

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: March 31, 2000

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: William H. King, Jr., ES *WHLKJ*

CPSC PARTICIPANT: William H. King, Jr., ES

NON-CPSC PARTICIPANTS:

John Godfrey, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Jack Snell, National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST)
Tom Owens, AFL-CIO
Gordon Gillerman, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL)
Debra Rade, UL
Tony O'Neill, National Fire Protection Assoc. (NFPA)
John Hall, NFPA
David Evans, NIST
Ed Gillespie, IBM
Connie Correll, ITI
Jim Beyreis, UL
Kevin Ravo, UL
Richard LeVitt, Hewlett-Packard Co. (HP)
David Lang, HP
Tom Mock, Consumer Electronics Assoc.
Wayne Morris, Assoc. of Home Appliance Mfrs.
June Anderson, IBM
Ed Jones, IBM
Steve Ortmann, Compaq
Josh Tenuta, Apple
Steve Harper, Intel

SUMMARY:

Mr. King attended a meeting organized by the ITI Council and NFPA to address a concern expressed by the National Assc. of State Fire Marshals (NASFM). Although invited, no representative of NASFM attended the meeting.

The meeting was entitled "Safety Forum on Potential External Ignition of Information Technology Equipment". Attached is a copy of the purpose and agenda for the meeting. During the meeting, Mr. King gave a brief explanation of

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the fire safety program at the CPSC, and indicated that the CPSC staff reviewed available data on computers and computer-related products, and was not able to identify a significant risk related to external ignition of computers and computer-related products. The participants at the meeting were not able to identify any sources of field data or other information that would point to a problem or potential problem with computer products being more likely to be victimized by external ignition sources than other products.

The ITI group concluded the meeting by indicating that they viewed the risk presented by external ignition of information technology (IT) products to be low, and the hazard to be of an isolated nature. They expressed a need for the fire marshal's participation in order to consider further the matter.

**Safety Forum on
Potential External Ignition of Information Technology Equipment**

**The Information Technology Industry Council
and the National Fire Protection Association**

**Franklin Square Club
1350 I ("Eye") St., N.W., Washington, D.C.**

**March 30, 2000
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 pm.**

Leading organizations with an interest in fire safety will be invited to attend. Advance registration is requested. A registration form is attached.

Charter

The forum will enable leading safety organizations to present and discuss their perspectives on potential risks associated with external ignition of information technology (IT) equipment typically found in homes, schools, and offices. *External ignition* refers to potential ignition by candles, matches, and other fire sources external to IT equipment. Forum participants will review available field data and discuss whether they offer evidence of any significant risks; discuss applicable risk assessment methodologies; identify any additional information necessary to advance the fire safety community's common understanding of potential risks; and identify possible cooperative actions to promote fire safety.

Agenda

9:00 - 9:15

1. Opening and Purpose of Forum
Rhett Dawson, Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)
Tony O'Neill, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)

9:15 - 10:15

2. External ignition: review of National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) concerns on flammability of IT equipment outer coverings
 - a) NASFM perspectives on external ignition of IT equipment
National Association of State Fire Marshals (invited)
 - b) Technical findings of ITI/UL enclosure flammability task force
John Godfrey, ITI

10:15 - 10:50

3. Analysis of the available field incident data concerning external ignition of plastics in IT equipment and related materials
John Hall, NFPA

10:50 - 11:00
Coffee break

11:00 - 12:00

5. Priority setting and the role of consensus standards in the U.S. fire safety system

Panelists:

Debra Rade, Underwriters Laboratories (UL) - *revisions to slide*

Tony O'Neill, NFPA

William King, Consumer Product Safety Commission

12:00 - 1:30

Working lunch will be provided

6. Risk assessment applied to external ignition of IT equipment

Discussion leader: John Hall, NFPA

- a) Overview of NFPA's fire risk assessment research and methodology
- b) Proposal for applying the methodology to external ignition of IT equipment
- c) Discuss related risks (e.g., environmental, others) and how they may affect the risk assessment
- d) Identify information necessary to complete risk assessment

1:30 - 2:30

7. Wrap-up of discussions, planning for next steps

- a) Consider actions necessary to complete risk assessment
- b) Identify possible cooperative actions to promote fire safety

2:30

Adjourn