

Log of Meeting
Consumer Product Safety Commission

Directorate for Engineering Sciences

Subject: Meeting with the ASME/ANSI A112.19.7 and .8 Working Group to discuss spa/suction drain covers.

Date of Meeting: July 26, 1995 Place: Baltimore, Maryland

Log of Entry Source: Troy Whitfield, ESME/CPSC

Commission Attendees:

William Moore, CAL
Suad Nakamura, EHPS
Troy Whitfield, ESME

Non-Commission Attendees: see attached list

Summary of Meeting:

The meeting was a regular scheduled meeting of the subject working group. CPSC staff were invited to attend the meeting to provide insight into cases of hair entrapment and share our concerns on the adequacy of the suction drain fitting industry's voluntary standard. CPSC staff were invited to join the meeting at 10:00 am and introductions were made.

William Moore discussed the staff's concern over the amount of hair used in testing the entrapment potential for drain covers. The staff provided a list of 20 In-Depth Investigations involving suction cover/hair entrapment and a brief description of the amount of hair (and length when available) on the head of each victim. Photographs from several IDIs were shared with the group in further support of staff's concerns. The current test requires that two ounces of human hair be manually introduced to a submerged drain cover. The force (which can not exceed 5 lbs.) required to remove the hair in a vertical direction is then measured and recorded. Staff has some concerns regarding both the amount of hair used in testing, and the amount of force allowed by the standard to remove the hair.

Suad Nakamura discussed her findings and calculations in determining the weight of hair on the female human head. Her calculations showed that nine ounces of hair might be a more realistic representation for testing purposes. Photos from the IDIs tend to support this assertion. Suad also expressed concern that in a panic situation where the swimmer may have already exhausted some of their air supply, they may not be in a position to exert 5 lbs of pressure to free themselves.

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

No Mfrs/PrvtLbrs or
Products Identified

8-3-95
N/N

The Group listened to the staff's concerns with great interest and tended to agree that a larger sample of hair may be needed to test the covers for entrapment potential. They were not sure whether the pull force was an issue, but agreed that it could be further explored. The Group was interested in obtaining copies of the CPSC's in-depth reports to see if additional information could provide insight to the group in addressing both parties' concerns. They also asked if a copy of the CPSC field investigators guidelines were available for review so that they may suggest additional questions/checklist that could provide further information to better understand the product involvement. William Moore said he would look into providing a copy of the guidelines to the Group. The staff portion of the meeting concluded at 11:30 am.

Codes and Standards

212 605-3333
212 605-8750 Fax

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COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

Meeting Attendance Sheet

Meeting date: JULY 26, 1995

Meeting (group): ASME A112.19.7 E.8

Location: SHERATON INNER HARBOR HOTEL, BALTIMORE, MD

Name	Contact	Phone/Fax	FAX
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10. MORRIS KLIMBOFF	CARNE PLUMBING/FIT PRODUCTS	609-588-6762 / 609-584-1145	
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14. BILL MOORE	CPSC	(513) 943 2125 / 913-2738	
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16. TROY WHITFIELD	CPSC / Engineering	301-504-0477 X1202	
17.			
18.			
19.			