

MEETING LOG
ISANTA NAIL GUN MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

12/04/98
No Mfrs/PrvtLbrs on
Products Identified
Excepted by _____
Firms Notified, _____
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SUBJECT: Meeting with the International Staple, Nail, and Tool Association (ISANTA) to discuss nail gun injuries and modifications to ANSI SNT-101-1993, *American National Standard for Safety Requirements for Portable, Compressed-Air-Actuated, Fastener Driving Tools.*

DATE OF MEETING: December 4, 1998

PLACE OF MEETING: CPSC Headquarters, Bethesda, MD

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Caroleene Paul, Engineering Sciences CP.

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Roy Deppa, Engineering Sciences
Mary Donaldson, Economics
William King, Engineering Sciences
Nick Marchica, Engineering Sciences
Suad Nakamura, Health Sciences
Robert Ochsman, Human Factors
Caroleene Paul, Engineering Sciences
Carlos L. Perez, Compliance
George Rutherford, Epidemiology
Terry Van Houten, Human Factors

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Gilbert B. Lessenco, Thompson Hine & Flory representing ISANTA
Jed Mandel, ISANTA
Anthony J. Muto, SENCO Products, Inc.
Ray Novak, Duo-Fast
Henry Schniedermeier, Paslode
Jay Tilley, Product Safety Letter

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The purpose of this meeting was to discuss CPSC concerns that nail gun injuries appear to be increasing and to discuss changes to ANSI SNT-101 that could be made to address these injuries.



Background Presentations:

Data from CPSC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) indicate that nail gun injuries appear to be increasing. Incident reports often cite accidental contact as the cause of injury leading CPSC to examine the trigger mechanism on nail guns. CPSC is also aware that nail guns can be purchased at many hardware retail stores and can be rented at most rental centers.

ISANTA is a technical association made up of 18-19 companies. They sponsored ANSI SNT-101 "Safety Requirements for Portable, Compressed-Air-Actuated, Fastener Driving Tools" in 1983. The most current standard revision is from 1993.

Trigger Mechanism and Standard:

The two main trigger options are the contact or touch trip trigger (a dual activation trigger that does not require a sequence of actions) and the sequential trip trigger (requires a sequence of actions). ISANTA maintains that different customers have different preferences. ISANTA proposes to modify ANSI SNT-101 to require that manufacturers provide at least two activation systems to the customer. ISANTA will be using the ANSI canvass process and does not wish to formally include CPSC. ISANTA maintains that nail guns are a professional tool without significant consumer use; therefore, CPSC does not have jurisdiction. However, ISANTA is willing to provide CPSC with a copy of the proposed changes for informal comment.

Safety Issues:

ISANTA does not have an active rental program. Many manufacturers do have a tool loan program to customers with large fastener volumes. ISANTA does disseminate safety information through the ISANTA Safety Alliance. The Safety Alliance partners with unions, OSHA, NIOSH, etc. to train end users in nail gun safety. The Safety Alliance message exhorts the user to keep fingers away from the trigger when the nail gun is not in use.

CPSC pointed out that by ISANTA's own admission the capacity of the nail gun market has tripled. Consumers do have access to nail guns either by purchasing them at retail hardware stores or by renting them, and injuries have emerged that involved consumers. CPSC suggested that ISANTA's Safety Alliance consider expanding the dissemination of their safety message to consumers as well as the present industrial associations.