

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: ASTM Subcommittee on Furnishings and Contents

DATE: September 19-20, 1996

PLACE: National Institute of Standards and Technology,
Gaithersburg, MD

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Subcommittee members, including:

Tom Fritz, Armstrong
Marcelo Hirshler, Consultant
John Hall, NFPA
John Michener, Milliken
Hugh Talley, UFAC
Handley Fincher, Drexel
Hugh Hunnicut, Brown & Williamson Tobacco
Dallas Pinion, American Tobacco
Bob Strength, Consultant
Randy Lawson, NIST
Rick Peacock, NIST
John Krasny, Consultant
Frank McGarry, National Assoc. of State Fire Marshals
Kay Villa, Amer. Textile Manufacturers Institute
Bob Barker, American Fiber Manufacturers Assoc.
Herman Forsten, DuPont
John Bunch, Liggett Group

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Dale Ray, Furniture Project Manager
Rikki Khanna, Engineering
Linda Fansler, Laboratory Sciences
James F. Hoebel, Engineering

LOG ENTRY SOURCE, James F. Hoebel *James F. Hoebel*

SUMMARY: This was a regular quarterly meeting of the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee requested an informal presentation from CPSC staff on the status of the current upholstered furniture project. Mr. Hoebel and Mr. Ray provided a brief review, supported by Ms. Fansler and Mr. Khanna. The Commission staff is currently monitoring three outside laboratories, that are testing common specimens using the CPSC test method and equipment. The staff expects to proceed with an options briefing package to the Commission early in calendar 1997, when the Commission is expected to decide whether to proceed with a proposed mandatory flammability standard, defer to a voluntary standard, or other action.

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CPSC 6 (b)(7) Cleared

No Mfrs/Provblrs or
Products Identified

Excepted by _____
Notified.

10/4/96
JTB

Mr. Hoebel suggested that the Subcommittee may wish to consider an active role in this activity. After considerable discussion, the Subcommittee Chairman agreed to appoint a working group to look into the appropriate role of the Subcommittee. This does not commit the Subcommittee to any action. The Chairman will inform CPSC staff of the appointments and will write to express the interest of the Subcommittee in the CPSC project. The subject will be on the Subcommittee agenda for the next meeting in December 1996.

During previous meetings, the Subcommittee had considered developing a standard based on the NIST work on fire-safe cigarettes. Considerable criticism of the NIST work, particularly the interpretation of interlaboratory test data, was provided. The Subcommittee has supplied all available data to another ASTM Committee, E-11, Statistics. E-11 will analyze the data and provide E5.15 with an evaluation. Further action will depend on this evaluation.

A standard on stacking chairs is being processed. The Subcommittee is preparing for a large-scale round robin, and is looking for chair manufacturers who would donate test chairs.

Mr. Hirshler has prepared precision and bias statements for two existing ASTM upholstered furniture cigarette ignition standards.

An upholstered furniture hazard assessment example was debated. A fifth draft was prepared, after considering many negatives. There was still some significant objections.

Another hazard assessment example covering floor coverings was reviewed. After considerable discussion, a task group will expand and clarify this document, especially relating to the test scenarios and applications. They hope to have an upgraded document in time for the December meeting, in New Orleans.