



CPSA 60000 CLEARER
NO MFRS OR VTL PL
PRODUCTS IDENTIF
EXCEPTED BY: PFT
RULEMAKING ADM
WITH PORTIONS REMOVED

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

TRIP REPORT

CONFERENCE/MEETING: Presenter at Apparel Sourcing Show's Session on Product Safety Meet with representatives of DIACO

DATE OF MEETING: May 22-24, 2012

LOCATION: Guatemala City, Guatemala

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Allyson Tenney, Textile Flammability Team Leader, Division of Regulatory Enforcement Division, Office of Compliance

Guatemala's Apparel Sourcing Show is an international apparel and textile industry trade show held annually in Guatemala City. The Apparel Sourcing Show promotes Dominican Republic/Central American Free Trade Agreement CAFTA-DR region development.

CPSC staff was sponsored by Guatemala's Ministry of Economy to speak during the show's session on *Product safety: What you need to know about U.S. testing and certification requirements*. The purpose of the session was to outline the CPSC and U.S. requirements for textile and apparel garments imported to the U.S. It was estimated that about 80 people attended the session. Attendees asked questions about the lead requirements, certification requirements, drawstrings, and tracking labels during the session.

VESTEX is Guatemala's Apparel and Textile Industry Commission and part of the Guatemalan Exporters Association (AGEXPRONT). VESTEX provides assistance to develop the textile and apparel industry and promotes competitive export.

- Textiles and apparel are one of the main exports, most (about 90%) to the United States
- Mills produce yarns, woven fabrics and knits (cotton and synthetics); a majority of the exports are knits
- The textile and clothing industries are responsible for almost three-quarters of the total industrial workforce
- Competitive advantages include a low labor costs, adaptable capabilities, and geographical proximity to United States (quicker and shorter delivery)
- Major source of garments for many large brands (JC Penney, Fruit of the Loom, Gap, Wal-mart) as well as many small, specialty firms

During the trip, CPSC staff also met with representatives from DIACO. DIACO is under the Ministry of Economy and is responsible for educating consumers and users on their rights and to defend them when those rights are violated. The representatives expressed interest in CPSC textile and apparel requirements, CPSIA lead and phthalate requirements, how CPSC conducts recalls, and how DIACO might establish a closer relationship with CPSC.