

## LOG OF MEETING

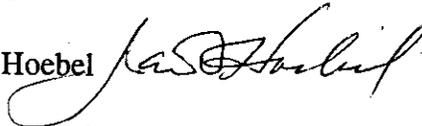
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**SUBJECT:** Mattress/Bedclothes Open Flame Fires

**DATE OF MEETING:** January 23, 1998

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** January 26, 1998

**PERSON SUBMITTING LOG:** James F. Hoebel



**LOCATION:** Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bethesda, MD

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Pat Fairall, Compliance  
Marilyn Borsari, Compliance  
Linda Fansler, Laboratory Sciences  
Linda Smith, Epidemiology and Health Sciences  
James F. Hoebel, Engineering Sciences  
Andrew G. Ulsamer, Laboratory Sciences  
Walter Sanders, Office of Chairman Brown  
Ron Medford, Hazard Identification and Reduction  
Andy Stadnik, Engineering Sciences  
Warren Prunella, Economic Analysis

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Brian Axell, International Mass Retail Association  
Pat Martin, Sleep Products Safety Council  
Tom Ohlemiller, National Institute of Standards and Technology  
Gordon Damant, Sleep Products Safety Council  
Phillip Wakelyn, National Cotton Council  
A. R. Klancnik, Sleep Products Safety Council  
Russ Abolt, International Sleep Products Association  
Bruce Navarro, Navarro Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
Christine Eames, Product Safety Letter  
Kay Villa, American Textile Manufacturers Institute  
Richard Gann, National Institute of Standards and Technology

### SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has scheduled a Chairman's Roundtable meeting on open flame ignited fires involving mattresses and bedclothes, reflecting recent CPSC interest in such fires. While there has been a reduction in smoldering ignitions of mattresses and bedclothes, the number of open flame fires has shown a much smaller reduction. During a December 10, 1997, meeting with the CPSC General Counsel, the International Sleep Products Association (ISPA) indicated their plans to sponsor research at the National Institute of Standards and Technology to understand more about the interaction of the products involved in these fires, possibly leading to the development of appropriate standards to address the fires. This meeting was intended to update these plans



for the CPSC staff.

Mr. Abolt reviewed the intention of ISPA, and suggested that tests to define the interaction of bedclothes and mattresses be conducted on two types of mattresses: one that would be typical of current mattress production and another to be constructed to resist ignition from a small open flame source, such as a match or cigarette lighter. Such tests would subject the mattress to an ignition source simulating a fire involving typical bedclothes. The extent to which the second type of mattress would provide lower heat release characteristics would be observed. The merits of these experiments were discussed. While no decisions were made, the discussions would be considered during future ISPA/NIST negotiations on the scope of the research.

Future standards based on the research could be performance based or prescriptive (design-based). CPSC emphasized their preference for performance standards. Construction guidelines could be provided by ISPA to the industry to describe how to meet possible performance requirements. This was the approach taken when the existing mandatory standard for smoldering ignition of mattresses was issued.

Other issues discussed included the extent to which mattress/bedding fires impacted lower income individuals, the costs of performance tests for heat release and ignitability, and current knowledge of the behavior of small open flame fires.

Since the ISPA/NIST research plans were still being developed, CPSC staff asked that ISPA get back to CPSC when internal agreement was reached.