

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared  
7/8/03  
No Mfrs/Prvtblrs or  
Products Identified  
2 Excepted for Pat Prody  
Firms Notified,  
Comments Processed.

## LOG OF MEETING

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF COMMISSIONER THOMAS H. MOORE

**SUBJECT:** Meeting with the Treestand Manufacturer's Association (TMA) to discuss hunting tree stands with full body fall arrest systems.

**DATE OF MEETING:** June 24, 2003

**PLACE:** Room 725, CPSC Headquarters

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Michael Gougisha, COTM

**DATE OF ENTRY:** July 1, 2003

### COMMISSION ATTENDERS:

Commissioner Thomas H. Moore  
Michael Gougisha, Counselor to Commissioner Moore  
Pamela Weller, Counselor to Commissioner Moore

### NON-COMMISSION ATTENDERS:

Mark Nelan, President of the TMA  
Bridget Nelan, Wife of Mark Nelan  
Jeffrey A. DeRegnaucourt, Communications Coordinator for TMA  
Bruce Navarro, Counsel for TMA  
Rachel Weintraub, Consumer Federation of America  
Sean Oberle, Product Safety Letter  
Norman Johanson, Robson Lapina  
Chap Pierce, Safety Engineer, SME Technical Services  
Richard Holcroft

### SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The Treestand Manufacturer's Association requested the meeting in order to provide Commissioner Moore and his staff with information about the association, its membership, and various types of tree stands and trees stand safety equipment.

After introductions, Commissioner Moore opened the meeting by welcoming all in attendance. Mark Nelan, Bruce Navarro and Jeffery DeRegnaucourt then provided background information about the association. They indicated that the TMA is a trade association that started in 1995 with 6 members and now consists of 24 members that provide 90% of treestands on sale today. They provided that the trade association endeavors to improve treestand safety by education in the proper use of treestands, the development of treestand manufacturing voluntary standards, product testing and certification, and by promoting quality control and the mandatory use of a Fall Arrest System; specifically, a Full Body Harness.



Nelan indicated that the TMA has a certification program they use to certify that a manufacturer meets TMA design and quality assurance standards. Once certified, the manufacturer can apply a TMA certification label on their product. Additionally, Nelan indicated TMA would require the use of a Fall Arrest System that includes a full body harness for certified treestands, effective January 1, 2004.

Commissioner Moore raised questions about how long the product has been on the market, where was the market concentrated, did the association receive information on incidents and injuries, the likely accident scenario, and State requirements for hunters to wear safety belts.

After viewing a video tape that demonstrated how users of full body harnesses can get back on their tree stands, Commissioner Moore was provided with other materials on tree stands and tree stand equipment including fixed position tree stands, tree snakes, climber stands, ladder stands, and buddy stands. Mr. Johanson and Mr. Pierce indicated that TMA was doing a good job with its work in the voluntary standard process.