

CPSC 6 (b)(1) Cleared  
No. / Mfrs. / Products or  
Products Identified  
Excepted by  
Firms Notified  
Comments Processed

## CPSC MEETING LOG: UPHOLSTERED FURNITURE

**Meeting Between:** CPSC staff and members of the American Textile Manufacturers Institute

**Date of Meeting:** April 8, 2002

**Meeting Site:** ATMI Headquarters, 1130 Connecticut Ave., NW, Washington, DC

**Log Entry By:** Dale R. Ray, Project Mgr., EC, (301) 504-0962 x1323 *DRay*

**Participants:** Hardy Poole, ATMI  
Patty Adair, ATMI  
Hank Truslow, Jr., Sunbury Textile Mills  
Roger Berkley, Weave Corp.  
Salmon Chaudry, Weave Corp.  
David Edgerton, Glen Raven, Inc.  
Irwin Gasner, Wearbest Sil-Tex Mills.  
Larry Liebenow, Quaker Fabric Corp.  
Walter Martindale, Guilford Mills  
Henry Neisler, Dicey Mills, Inc.  
Mike Shelton, Valdese Weavers  
John M. Sullivan, Jr., American Silk Mills Corp.  
David Ryan, Craftex Mills  
Joanne Mattiace, consultant, Leggett and Platt  
Russ Batson, AFMA  
Peter Mayberry, INDA  
Dale Ray, CPSC

### **Summary:**

This meeting was requested by ATMI to discuss CPSC's activities on upholstered furniture flammability. Mr. Ray presented a summary of these activities; a copy of his presentation slides is attached. Mr. Ray also invited the ATMI members to consider submitting a statement or technical information at the June 2002 CPSC public meeting on upholstered furniture; the ATMI representatives said they would plan to submit comments.

The meeting participants discussed several aspects of the CPSC staff's draft standard, including the alternate seating barrier test, and how testing and recordkeeping requirements might be applied, particularly in relation to the sampling plan for establishing compliance. The ATMI members also asked several questions about CPSC's fire hazard data, and questioned the general need for a mandatory performance standard. Mr. Ray agreed that voluntary action would be preferable, and emphasized that the CPSC staff was interested in hearing about reasonable voluntary alternatives to a possible CPSC standard. The ATMI representatives said they were continuing to develop possible alternatives, but said they have not yet found a feasible approach.

Attachment

**U.S. Consumer Product  
Safety Commission**



**Staff Activity Update on  
Upholstered Furniture Flammability\***

ATMI Upholstery Fabrics Subcommittee  
April 8, 2002

**CPSC Staff Briefing Package**

October 2001

- Presents CPSC technical information
- Revised draft small open flame standard
- **Staff recommendation:** publicize data, get public feedback before considering regulatory options
- **Staff recommendation:** deny NASFM polyurethane foam petition

See web files at <http://www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia02/brief/briefing.html>

**The Continuing  
Furniture Fire Hazard**

- Leading cause of fire deaths associated with any consumer product
- 1998 addressable fire losses: 420 deaths, 1,080 injuries, \$120 mil. property damage
- 1998 estimated societal costs = \$2.4 billion
- Still no national standard addressing open flame risk

**CPSC Staff Draft Small Open  
Flame Standard - Highlights**

- Objective: evaluate and reduce ignitability & flame spread; limit fire growth
- 2 flame exposure locations: seating areas & dust covers
- 2 seating test options:
  - Small open flame test (e.g., FR cover fabrics)
  - Seating barrier test (e.g., fire-blocking interliners instead of FR fabrics)
- Sampling plan to establish compliance
- Recordkeeping to identify material sources

**CPSC Staff Draft Standard:  
Small Open Flame  
Performance Requirements**

Test	Ignition Source	Minimum Flaming	Minimum Smoldering/Glowing
Seating Area	35 mm butane flame, 20 sec.	2 min.*	15 min.
Alternate Seating Barrier	U.K. (BS 5852) Crib #5	10 min.	60 min.**
Dust Cover	35 mm butane flame, 20 sec.	2 min.*	15 min.

\*with no burning to any edge of the test specimen  
\*\*with limited spread of combustion of foam filling material, no dripping, and no uncontrolled flaming

**CPSC Staff Draft Standard:  
Fabric / Barrier  
Sampling Requirements**

Sampling Level	# Samples (@ 4 specimens each)	Production Unit (max. # lin. yds.)*
Initial	3	1,000
Normal	2	5,000
Reduced	2	10,000

\*Multiple smaller runs may be tested together; short runs < 30 lin. yds. exempt.

Initial Sampling: products for which compliance is undetermined  
Normal Sampling: products consistently passing initial sampling tests  
Reduced Sampling: products consistently passing normal sampling tests

## Flame Retardant Chemicals

- CPSC Public Hearing - 1998
- CPSC staff toxicity reviews
- NAS study - 2000
  - 8 compounds: minimal health risk
  - 8 compounds: further study recommended
- NIOSH worker study
- EPA significant new use rule
- EU Risk Assessment
- PDBEs in urethane foam

## CPSC Staff Risk Assessment

- Toxicity reviews of 16 chemicals
- Evaluated risk for 8 most likely/greatest concern
  - 4 compounds: no hazard (DBDPO, HBCD, CPE, PA)
  - 1 compound: probably no hazard (EHDP)
  - 1 compound: probable chronic hazard (TDCP)
  - 2 compounds: incomplete data
    - AT (inhalation route only)
    - THPC (identity / toxicity of migration products)

## Next Steps

- Solicit public input before staff makes recommendations to the Commission on regulatory options
  - **Public meeting June 18 - 19, 2002** to discuss technical information
  - See web file at <http://cpsc.gov/businfo/fmotices/fr02/furn.pdf>
- Review draft revision of Cal. TB-117
- Continue working with industry & voluntary standards groups to develop possible alternatives to CPSC regulation

## CPSC Public Meeting

- Outside input on briefing package technical information & draft standard;
- Public discussion & participation
- *Federal Register*, CPSC Public Calendar, direct notification to representatives of:
  - Industry
  - Fire safety organizations
  - Government agencies
  - Consumer groups

## CPSC Public Meeting Topics

- Technical data issues
- Industry efforts to develop safer materials and products
- Voluntary action status
- Recommendations to CPSC re: regulatory alternatives

## CPSC Public Meeting Technical Information Topics

- Fire data & analysis
- Standards development / laboratory testing
- Draft small open flame standard provisions
- FR chemical risk assessment
- Economic analysis
- California, ASTM/SOFTC actions
- New product R & D
- Cooperative efforts

**For Further Information:**



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\*Mr. Ray's views are not necessarily those of the Commission. Because Mr. Ray prepared this presentation as a part of his official duties as a CPSC employee, the information herein is in the public domain, and may be freely reprinted.