

MEETING LOG
CAMPING EQUIPMENT

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WHEN: November 30, 1994
WHERE: CPSC Headquarters *Engineering Lab*
ATTENDEES:

- CPSC : Ann Brown, Chairman CPSC
- Lori E. Saltzman, CPSC
- Sharon White, CPSC
- Tim Johnson, CPSC
- Larry Mulligan, CPSC
- Other: Susan McCarthy, AGA Labs
- John Mullet, Nelson-Weather-Rite
- Randy May, Coleman Co.
- Frank Schmidt, Coleman Co.
- Rex Weigand, Coleman Co.
- Ken Bell, Coleman Co.
- Ralph Hoekstra, Century Tool
- Jim Fife, Mountain Safety Research
- R. Michael Ligrano, Mountain Safety Research

The meeting began in the Chairman's conference room with a brief overview of CPSC's concerns and interests by CPSC's Chairman, Ann Brown. The Chairman indicated that CPSC is concerned about the estimated 30 deaths and at least 450 injuries that occur each year from the use of camping heaters, lanterns, and stoves inside tents, campers, and other enclosures. The Chairman suggested that while the solution to the problem may be technically challenging, she believes that there is always room for product improvement. Chairman Ann Brown indicated that product improvement can occur through voluntary cooperation, which is how she prefers to conduct business, or through mandatory regulations. The Chairman wants the manufacturers to commit to working with the CPSC staff in a timely fashion to develop requirements that limit carbon monoxide emissions from these appliances. She indicated that she would be interested in meeting with the company CEOs if the engineers who were present needed to get support from their management. The Chairman also suggested that each year that goes by means another 30 people die while using the appliances. Chairman Ann Brown also suggested that revising the wording on the product labels to improve the safety message was an appropriate interim step at this time although she did not view labeling as a fix for the problem. She indicated that she knew the group had been involved in the voluntary standards process currently underway to harmonize the American and Canadian standards for these appliances, and while the process is slow, the manufacturers should commit to independently developing requirements that all would adhere to and then let the standards process catch up. In closing, the Chairman expressed her feelings that voluntary standards were only as good as compliance to them. She stated that there is no sense in working on a voluntary standard to protect the public if no one is going to follow it.

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At this time, the group (minus the Chairman and Ken Bell) went to the CPSC Engineering Laboratory to continue discussions concerning technical feasibility of developing requirements to limit carbon monoxide emissions, and warning labels. Lori Saltzman began the discussion with CPSC's view on the topic and Sharon White briefly described how one might apply ANSI Z353.4, American National Standard for Product Safety Signs and Labels (1991), to develop a warning label. The group had decided previously to focus on heaters, then lanterns, and the stoves since that was the hierarchy of associated deaths and injuries from CPSC's indepth investigation of cases between 1988 and May, 1994. Discussions then focused on the provisions in both the ANSI and Canadian heater standards for carbon monoxide emissions, the effect of differing altitudes on product performance, associated health effects from carbon monoxide, chamber testing, and test data presented by Coleman. The group also looked at CPSC's chamber testing facilities. CPSC staff will look at using computer exposure modeling to develop appropriate provisions to limit emissions, and provide information to the group. Coleman and AGA Labs representatives will provide information on the effects of high altitude.

The group will continue to interact in a timely fashion until appropriate requirements are developed.