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1988 JUN 15 A 10:15

SUBJECT: Kerosene

DATE OF CALL: June 12, 1998

CALLER: Harold Smith, National Kerosene Heater Association (NKHA)

PERSON CALLED: James F. Hoebel, CPSC Engineering Sciences



SUMMARY OF CALL: Dr. Smith returned Mr. Hoebel's call of June 10, 1998. Mr. Hoebel had been informed by Ken Giles, EXPA, that dyed 1-K kerosene was being marketed, and that this practice may not be consistent with some CPSC publications that advised consumers to seek "water-clear" kerosene. Dr. Smith provided the background for this situation.

Dr. Smith said that there is a new law that becomes effective July 1, 1998, that imposes an additional tax of 24 cents per gallon on certain petroleum distillates used for heating. However, red dyed kerosene is essentially exempt from this tax. It is possible that both red dyed and clear 1-K kerosene may be available to consumers.

This new practice affects both the current UL standard for kerosene heaters and the ASTM D3699 kerosene standard that has a color specification. NKHA is working with UL, who plans to begin testing on July 1 comparing performance of dyed kerosene with undyed kerosene using existing heaters. They will be looking at fuel consumption rates and emissions. The tests should be completed by the end of August. NKHA plans to conduct additional long term tests looking at wick effects and fuel consumption.

The dye being used is an aromatic azo dye, containing some nitrogen molecules, and is a solid dispersed in a solution. Suppliers are using concentrations of dye of 23 ppm.

NKHA is also concerned over the print materials available to consumers. They have developed a one-page insert to their standard brochure explaining the issue, but is planning no other changes at this time. After the emissions testing is completed, they may develop a more detailed addendum, if appropriate. If EXPA is interested in the current material, Dr. Smith said they can call him, and he'd be glad to FAX the material.

- cc: Ken Giles, EXPA
- Marilyn Wind, EHHS
- Linda Smith, EHHA
- Lori Saltzman, CCA
- Eleanor Perry, ESME

