

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING**

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SUBJECT: Meeting with the CSA/Z21 Joint Technical Advisory Group (TAG) on Gas Refrigerators and Portable Camping Equipment

DATE OF MEETING: July 22, 2003

✓ **LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** David R. Tucholski

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: 7/23/03

LOCATION: Canadian Standards Association Office, Mississauga, Canada

CPSC ATTENDEE: David R. Tucholski

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached roster

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

During the discussion of the proposed draft standard for catalytic type camp heaters, staff presented its test results of a catalytic camp heater. Staff stated that any new standard for catalytic heaters should include the same requirements for carbon monoxide (CO) emissions (CO < 100 ppm) and oxygen (O₂) depletion (O₂ > 16 %) as that currently specified in the standard for radiant type camp heaters (ANSI Z21.63). In addition, staff stated that the new standard should limit the amount of unburnt hydrocarbons released from the heater. A Canadian catalytic heater manufacture had some concerns since it would most likely force them to use an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS) to meet these requirements. By adding an ODS, it would take away one of the main benefits of a catalytic heater, which is no open flame. The manufacturer also stated that on catalytic heaters with input rates greater than 3,000 Btu/hr, the heaters have a thermal shutoff device (i.e., thermocouple and solenoid gas valve). As the oxygen is depleted, the catalytic pad will cool, which will result in the thermal shutoff system shutting off the flow of gas to the burner. Since the catalytic heater standard will be similar to the radiant heater standard (ANSI Z21.63), the TAG has decided to defer the completion of the new catalytic heater standard until issues with the radiant heater standard have been resolved (i.e., indoor use of gas-fired heaters in Canada).

A proposal to incorporate indoor heaters (i.e., heaters equipped with an oxygen depletion sensor) into the current standard for Portable Type Gas Camp Heaters (ANSI Z21.63) has been rejected by several members of the TAG from the US and Canada. US members were primarily concerned with a provision that allowed the heaters to be wall mounted during emergency heating situations. A motion was made to remove this provision from the standard. Canadian members were primarily concerned with allowing the heaters to be used indoors. Canadian officials do not believe that an oxygen depletion sensor is a sufficient safety-device to protect consumers from CO poisoning and therefore do not allow any type of unvented space heaters in Canada. A motion was made to make the indoor heater coverage specific to the US. Since ODS equipped heaters would be sold in Canada as an "outdoor" unit, they would have to comply with the 10 mph wind test currently specified in the standard. A problem with this is that

the pilot flame on the ODS extinguishes in winds greater than approximately 2 mph. Members of the TAG acknowledged that the ODS can be shielded to provide better protection against the wind. However, shielding also affects the performance of the ODS (e.g., O₂ cutoff point). Since ODS equipped heaters "fail safe" when the pilot flame extinguishes, a provision would be in standard to accept this fail-safe condition as meeting the requirements of the wind test.

During the meeting, members of the TAG expressed their frustration that the US does not require mandatory certification of gas-fired products, as is required in Canada. Some members feel that mandatory certification is the only way to ensure that safe heaters are sold to the public. I suggested that they contact Alan Shakin in the Office of the General Counsel and discuss this idea further with him. Although attending TAG members would consider the possibility of mandatory certification, there was some question as to whether all US heater manufacturers would agree to this proposal.

**Attendee List of the Meeting of the Joint TAG for Gas Refrigerators and Portable Camping
Equipment Held on July 22, 2003 at CSA Offices, Mississauga, Canada**

Members Present

W.J. Young
C. Gibbs
D. Beach
J. Andres
C. Parrish
B. Vandrak
P.N. McConnell
S. Krsikapa (*Administrator*)

Affiliation

Plant Systems/NPGA
Consumers' Association of Canada
National Propane Gas Association
Northstar Flameless Ltd.
Brinkmann Corporation
Enerco/Mr. Heater
The Dometic Corporation
Canadian Standards Association

Guests

M. Hamilton
M. Ligrano
S. McCarthy
J. Gorman
R. Sumabart
D. Tucholski

Affiliation

Danby Products Ltd.
Mountain Safety Research
CSA International, Cleveland
CSA International, Cleveland
Technical Standards and Safety Authority (Canada)
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission