

LOG OF MEETING

*2/23/97*  
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**SUBJECT:** Discussion of various electrical and fire topics with the staff of Underwriters Laboratories Inc.

**DATE:** February 6, 1997                      **PLACE:** Room 410A  
East West Towers

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** February 7, 1997

**SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY:** William H. King, Jr., ESEE *WHK*

**CPSC PARTICIPANTS:**

- William H. King, Jr., ESEE
- James Hoebel, ES
- Chuck Smith, ECPA
- Rikki Khanna, ESME
- Colin Church, EXHR
- Anna Luo, ESEE
- Douglas Lee, ESEE
- Andrew Trotta, ESEE
- Aaron Banerjee, ESEE
- Hammad Malik, ESEE
- Alan Schoem, CAL
- Edward Krawiec, LSEL
- Linda Edwards, ESEE
- Marc Schoem, CCA

**NON-CPSC PARTICIPANTS:**

- James Beyreis, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL)
- John Drengenberg, UL
- David Haataja, UL
- Steve Wasserman, UL
- Tom Mock, Consumer Electronics Manufacturers Association,  
Electronic Industries Association
- Ben Botros, Matsushita
- Milton Bush, Entela
- Joan Sterling, Inchcape Testing Services
- Sara Yerkes, National Fire Protection Association
- Wayne Morris, Assoc. of Home Appliance Mfrs.
- Larry Lauck, American Lighting Association
- Bernie Mezger, American Lighting Association
- Debi Q. Richardson, Society of the Plastics Industry, Inc.
- Saul Rosenbaum, Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.
- Bruce Navarro, Navarro Legislative & Regulatory Affairs

**SUMMARY:** ---

This meeting between the CPSC staff and staff members of Underwriters Laboratories was for the purpose of reviewing the overall status of product safety topics of mutual interest, and



not for the purpose of in-depth technical discussions of each topic. Fourteen topics were covered at the meeting. A meeting agenda is attached.

A brief synopsis of the outcome of each topic is noted below:

**Polymeric Enclosure Materials** - In a letter to CPSC dated December 20, 1996, UL effectively tabled a proposal submitted by the CPSC staff to make appliance housings more flame retardant. Notwithstanding this setback, CPSC staff will develop additional material in support of its position.

**Tubular Halogen Bulbs in Portable Lamps** - In conjunction with input from the CPSC staff, UL will consider refinement of its new safety requirements that went into effect on 2/5/97 for torchiere style floor lamps based on reviewing new designs entering the marketplace.

**Twist-on Connectors for Aluminum Wire** - UL has not to date announced the effective date for the proposed, revised test requirement recommended by the CPSC staff for this product. CPSC staff provided written comments last August urging quick adoption. The written response by UL to the CPSC letter was faxed to CPSC staff on January 22, 1997. In this letter, UL now proposes a 6 month effective date and rejected most of the other recommendations submitted by the CPSC staff. UL reported for the first time at the February 6, 1997 meeting that the testing of the only UL listed twist-on connector for aluminum wiring has resulted in the connector passing the proposed, revised test requirement. CPSC staff noted data indicating contrary test results. UL offered to make available its research department to work toward consideration of the need for additional revisions to its connector safety standards. No further resolution of the technical points at issue was proposed.

**Grounding Connections in Cord-Connected Appliances** - CPSC staff alerted UL to field incidents of electric shock from appliances that appeared to be at variance with requirements in the applicable UL standard. Several letters were exchanged between the CPSC staff and UL regarding this matter in 1996. The most recent letter was from UL last August indicating that it will keep the CPSC staff informed of its formulation of additional safety requirements for grounding appliances. Since no further information has been received by CPSC staff to date, UL staff at the meeting indicated that they will look into this matter and respond accordingly.

**Countertop Cooking Appliances** - CPSC staff briefed UL on the current project activities related to these appliances. UL indicated that it was considering a food fire containment requirement for toaster-ovens but that no proposed new requirement has been issued yet. UL invited CPSC staff to visit their Melville, NY facility to learn more about the evaluation of countertop cooking appliances.

**1999 National Electrical Code** - CPSC staff informed UL of three proposals submitted by the CPSC staff for the new 1999 edition currently under consideration. The proposals involve the maximum rating of appliances, grounding, and aluminum splicing connectors. CPSC staff indicated that it will provide comments

in support of these proposals to the National Electrical Code Committee. The CPSC staff further indicated that it considers the maximum rating of appliances for use on general branch circuits in homes to be an important issue related to potential wiring-related fires. No action item resulted at the meeting.

**Batteries** - CPSC staff briefed UL on the present technical assessment underway of fire incidents related to the application of batteries, primarily in childrens' toys. The work is a modest effort to determine a possible future course of staff action. UL invited CPSC staff to visit their Northbrook, IL facility to view how batteries are evaluated by UL.

**Fire Safety Devices** - CPSC staff briefed UL on the new project activity related to studying several fire safety devices including fire blankets, residential fire extinguishers, escape ladders, and smoke masks. UL offered its staff expertise as a resource in this work.

**Electric Blankets** - CPSC staff indicated its interest in finding out the technical requirements applied by UL for electric blankets that use the positive temperature coefficient technology, since they are not presently included in the published standard covering this product category. UL indicated that they will provide this information to the CPSC staff.

**Electrical Reinspection** - CPSC staff briefed UL on the successes of the recently completed project, including the distribution of several thousand "Home Wiring Kits", the introduction of new technologies such as the arc detection circuit breakers, and the electrical reinspection code. There was agreement to continue to support the new reinspection code, improve receptacle blade retention requirements, and continue outreach efforts to inspect and correct wiring hazards.

**Indoor Air Quality** - CPSC staff inquired as to the background and basis of the UL 2117 standard for indoor air quality emissions. UL staff provided some general information and indicated other individuals within their organization to contact for additional material. CPSC staff expressed interest in being involved in the process.

**Spa Equipment** - CPSC staff briefly reviewed its efforts in connection with providing electric shock protection with ground-fault circuit-interrupters for spas and hot tubs. UL indicated that it stands ready to provide testing and certification services for drain covers and other safety-related components of spa and hot tubs, including the components used in larger systems at public places and private club facilities.

**Christmas Tree Lighting/Decorations** - CPSC staff indicated its strong support for the new edition of the applicable UL standard, UL 588. UL indicated that the new standard, which went into effect in January, 1997, will need continued support from the Commission so that the manufacturers and importers of the products, most of which are manufactured in China, recognize the new edition of UL 588 as the nationally recognized standard for this country.

**Other Topics** - CPSC staff noted the value of past training sessions provided by staff members of the UL Research Department. In particular, the presentation a number of years ago on electric

shock criteria was cited as extremely valuable. It was suggested that conducting a new session on electric shock criteria would benefit many of the newer engineers on the CPSC staff. In addition, a more-detailed presentation on hazard-based safety engineering was also suggested as a follow-up to the brief presentation by UL last May. UL staff indicated that they will consider the possibility of providing such training services.

**Adjournment** - Both the CPSC and the UL staffs acknowledged the benefit of the exchange of information that took place at the meeting. While it was recognized that CPSC and UL staffs interact on numerous occasions during the course of any given year, it was agreed by both parties that a similar meeting next year is appropriate in order to review the status of new and on-going safety topics of mutual interest.

## UL/CPSC MEETING AGENDA

Date: February 6, 1997

Place: EW Towers, Room 410A

- 10:00 **Introductions** (Medford, Stadnik, King)
- 10:15 **Polymeric Enclosure Materials in Portable Appliances.**  
(King, Malik)  
UL response to CPSC staff proposal presented at IAC.
- 10:30 **Tubular Halogen Bulbs in Portable Lamps.**  
(King, Luo, Rauchschtalbe)  
Recertification status to new requirements.
- 10:45 **Twist-on Connectors for Aluminum Wire.**  
(King, Banerjee)  
UL response to CPSC comments of last Aug; recertification status and testing at UL to new test requirement UL 486C, para 6.7A.
- 11:00 **Grounding Connections in Three-Wire, Cord-Connected Appliances.**  
(King, Trotta)  
UL response to CPSC letters; status of UL review of application of requirements.
- 11:15 **Countertop Cooking Appliances.**  
(Trotta, Luo)  
FY 97 CPSC project.
- 11:45 **1999 National Electrical Code.**  
(King)  
Proposals by CPSC staff (max. rating of appliances, grounding, aluminum splicing connectors).
- 12:00 **Batteries.**  
(Banerjee)  
Standards activities by UL.
- 12:15 **Lunch Break**
- 1:15 **Fire Safety Devices.**  
(Hoebel, Khanna)  
New FY 97 CPSC project.
- 1:30 **Range Fires.**  
(L. Smith)  
Status of NIST Phase II and CPSC testing.
- 2:00 **Indoor Air Quality**  
(Saltzman)  
UL 2117 standard for IAQ emissions (Geo. Kupfer @ 847-272-8800, ext. 43946).

- 2:15 **Break**
- 2:30 **Spa Equipment**  
(King)  
UL agenda item.
- 2:45 **Christmas Tree Lighting/Decorations**  
(King, Luo)  
New UL requirements/listing marks.
- 3:00 **Electrical Reinspection**  
(King)  
CPSC home wiring outreach efforts.
- 3:15 **Electric Blankets**  
(Cave, Banerjee)  
UL requirements for positive temp. coefficient designs.
- 3:30 **Wrap Up/Actions Items Review**
- 3:45 **Adjourn**