

CPSC 7 (11/88) (REV. 11/88)  
No. 3/1/99  
Product Safety  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

**LOG OF MEETING**

**SUBJECT:** Meeting of National Electrical Safety Foundation (NESF) Board of Directors  
**DATE:** February 25, 1999  
**PLACE:** NESF at NEMA Headquarters  
Rosslyn, VA

CPSC/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1999 MAR -2 A 11:00

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** March 1, 1999  
**SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY:** Andrew Trotta, ESEE

**CPSC PARTICIPANTS:**  
Andrew Trotta, Directorate for Engineering Sciences

- NON-CPSC PARTICIPANTS:**  
Dora Carter, NESF  
Claire Simons, NESF  
Don Mader, Underwriters Laboratories  
Anthony O'Neill, National Fire Protection Association  
Landis Floyd, Dupont  
John Grau, National Electrical Contractors Association  
Wayne Morris, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers  
William Boehm, Connector Manufacturing  
Sally Browne, Consumer Partnership  
Steve Wasserman, UL  
Philip Cox, International Association of Electrical Inspectors  
Neil Parker, Thomas & Betts  
Marty Hanna, Square D  
And others

**SUMMARY:**  
The CPSC staff representative presented CPSC electrical projects that could be supported by NESF information and education efforts. The topics were extension cords, arc fault circuit interruption devices (AFCIs), the inspection code for existing dwellings (NFPA 73) and countertop cooking appliances. The discussion on extension cords related primarily to the CPSC press release of February 24, 1999 warning consumers of a growing number of uncertified, underrated extension cords and power strips that are being imported. AFCIs, a smart circuit protection device that recognizes the signature of an arcing fault, were discussed as a new technology that holds promise in reducing fires caused by the electrical distribution system. As with any new safety device, informing the electrical contractors, inspectors and consumers of its applications and benefits is imperative. CPSC staff reaffirmed the use of NFPA 73 as a tool for reducing electrical hazards in older homes. Also, CPSC staff reported that proposals to the industry voluntary standards to improve the safety of countertop appliances, such as toasters and toaster ovens, were made in 1997 and 1998. The effectiveness of these safety performance improvements could be enhanced by consumer awareness of the potential hazards and promoting behaviors to help mitigate the risks (e.g., unplug when not in use and keeping the area around heat-producing appliances clear of combustible items).

