U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) Safety Standards Activities Update

DATE OF MEETING: January 4, 2018

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Joel Recht, Directorate for Engineering Sciences (ES)

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: January 5, 2018

LOCATION: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission National Product Testing and Evaluation Center, Rockville, MD

CPSC ATTENDEE(S):
Joel Recht, ES
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Einstein Miller, LS
Scott Ayers, ES, by phone
Randy Butturini, RMG, by phone

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):
Randy Cooper, AHAM
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Jennifer Cleary, AHAM, by phone
Masud Chowdhury, AHAM, by phone
Stephen Rood, Legrand, Pass & Seymour

SUMMARY OF MEETING:
AHAM staff met with CPSC staff to present the status of their efforts on proposals that they have submitted to Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and other standards developing organizations to improve the safety of large and small appliances. AHAM initiated this effort in earnest starting in 2013 and have been updating CPSC staff periodically.

AHAM gave an update on the status of their member activities on Portable Appliances: key recent updates including UL 982 preventing damaged product returning to market, as well as recent update for the UL 1082 to include requirements for pressurized brewing systems using pods, including a hydrostatic pressure test, fault tests and abnormal operations tests. Another item was room heaters which now require V0 enclosures and new labeling. They also discussed work on robotic vacuums where they have collaborated with Doug Lee at CPSC on battery safety and have investigated hazard mapping and are considering new requirements.

AHAM updated on Major Appliances, where there have been 9 new standard submissions since our last regular meeting with AHAM, including UL 858 for electric ranges: smart-enabled controls and oven racks which added a hot test and new loading requirements in consideration of some recalls. They reported that a change was submitted for lower surface temperatures for ovens, and a change to the measurement probe to an IEC probe which is smaller and can access more places. This ballot reached consensus and is in the process of adjudication of comments. AHAM also discussed the update to UL 858 for cooktop fire/oil ignition resistance, with a change to the testing requiring a cast iron pan, which was published in September. For cooktop fires, they are now focused on induction cooktops for oil ignition and are working on technical details which they will share in the future once it is completed in a public meeting with UL and CPSC. They also mentioned ongoing work at NIST looking at fire detection in vent hoods. CPSC staff shared that we see a large number of reports of cooktop/range controls being "too easily" turned on.

Other Major Appliance areas AHAM briefed on were clothes dryers, where they have just submitted proposals to UL to reduce fire propagation including an update to the nichrome wire test to include a cheese cloth added in the test (which cannot be ignited by the test), and adding to the containment test that the drum load cannot be charred or ignited, as well as ongoing work on heating elements and surrogate lint. On the topic of washer stability, AHAM reported on the ongoing work, which will include another meeting next week and promising results from their industry task group on the development of a reliable forced failure test for high speed spin cycles. For Microwave Ovens, AHAM is close to submitting a new proposal on requirements for dual-action operations to restrict access to children, which they collaborated with CPSC Human Factors staff in the development of. On the topic of Flammable/alternative refrigerants, AHAM mentioned that EPA has issued a DFR to the SNAP rule to allow higher refrigerant capacity limts to match the recent change in the UL standard, and they have developed and published servicing guidelines for professional servicers of refrigeration equipment.

Finally AHAM discussed their continued work together with NEMA on AFCI/GFCI compatibility with appliances, as they seek to ensure appliances do not cause nuisance tripping that would lead individuals to remove AFCI/GFCI protections. They are developing industry guidelines and principles for connected appliances (Internet of Things), dealing with safety, security, privacy, and remote download.

CPSC staff discussed our shared interest in all of these topics, and asked to work together with AHAM as for example, new ideas are developed for connected products, and that we would seek their input as we are developing a draft human factors practices document, as well as continuing to collaborate on the other issues discussed, and on the upcoming ICPHSO joint presentation/panel that we are serving on together.