

US Consumer Product Safety Commission Log of Meeting

Subject: CANENA (UL) 60335-2-24 Working Group on Flammable Refrigerants in Refrigerators

Date: July 17 and 18, 2019

Location: Teleconference and AHAM Headquarters, Washington DC

Prepared By: Scott Ayers (sayers@cpsc.gov, 301-987-2030),

CPSC Attendees: Scott Ayers (teleconference on July 17th and in person on July 18th), Lara Tapy (in person July 18th only), and Kristen Talcott (teleconference on July 18th only).

Non-CPSC Attendees: Contact Masud Chowdhury of Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) ([REDACTED]) for a list of attendees

Summary of Meeting:

Contact Masud Chowdhury of AHAM ([REDACTED]) for more details of this meeting.

July 17th (via teleconference)

This was the initial face-to-face meeting for developing proposals to revise the standard. Several teleconferences preceded this meeting.

The actions of the working group will be recommendations. The UL and CSA standards committees will decide whether or not to approve the changes. The working group decided on procedural rules. It will take a 2/3 majority vote during the meeting to move forward with a proposal for a change to a requirement, but only a simple majority vote to accept the details of that change.

The group agrees to focus first on the changes needed for implementation that will be rolled into a revision of the current standard before focusing on changes that will be part of the next edition.

There was a discussion on a proposal by UL on pinch points and “scissoring” type hinges.

Scott left the meeting prior to the meeting concluding for the day.

July 18th (Washington, DC):

The group wanted CPSC input on four proposals and waited until this day to discuss these issues. Three issues were related to flammable refrigerants and one related to child entrapment. The flammable refrigerant proposals were:

- A proposal to remove a requirement, originally requested by the EPA, that the refrigerant tubing be colored red. Scott Ayers agreed with the proposal to remove the coloring requirement since the color of the tubing would not take away for the safety of the appliance. The group decided to waive the requirement if appropriate safety labeling was visible when accessing the tubing. Additionally, the required specific shade of red was removed, instead requiring just “red.”

- A proposal to reduce the required lettering height from ¼ inch, originally requested by the EPA, to 1/8 inch. CPSC staff engineering psychologist, Kristen Talcott, called in to help the group; she suggested the group follow ASTM Ad Hoc recommendations of 0.2 inch lettering height for signal words and 1/8 inch lettering height for all others. The group decided to follow Kristen's recommendation.
- The final flammable refrigerant proposal was adding language to the labeling requiring that only manufacturer-specified components be used to repair the appliance. This change was accepted by all.

The group also proposed changing the signal word for child entrapment from “danger” to “warning” since if one were not to follow the instructions, injury *could* occur, not necessarily *would* occur. Scott consulted CPSC Human Factors staff prior to this meeting and did not object to the proposal.

All the other proposals were discussed. The group accepted 19 proposals for a second revision to the current edition; the group drafted language for the revision and will distribute within a week for review before forwarding to UL and CSA for ballot. If Scott identifies any issues during the review, he will alert AHAM, and AHAM will decide if future meetings will be necessary. The group accepted 9 proposals to be included in the next edition; the group expects to start meeting on the next edition in the spring of 2020. The group rejected 2 proposals with feedback and would open reconsidering those proposals in the future.

The group will next meet by teleconference on August 1st at 9am to discuss the final draft; CPSC staff will not participate.