

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Meeting of Task Group to Address Issues Related to Circuit Interrupters with Fire Extinguishing Agent (CIFEAs) Employed in Coffee Makers

DATE OF MEETING: December 14, 2020

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Andrew Trotta,
Directorate for Engineering Sciences (ES)

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: January 27, 2021

LOCATION: By teleconference

CPSC ATTENDEE(S):
Andrew Trotta, ES

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):
Please contact TG Chair, Markus Fiebig, Markus.Fiebig@job-group.com for a list of attendees.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

This was the second meeting of the task group (TG) to develop proposals to permit the use of circuit interrupters with fire extinguishing agent (CIFEAs) in coffee makers; CPSC staff was unable to attend the first meeting. A CIFEAs is a heat-sensitive glass bulb filled with a non-conductive, non-corrosive and clean/green fire extinguishing agent. The interior of the bulb has a conductive coating to carry current. Upon reaching its activation temperature, the bulb ruptures, interrupting the current and expelling the extinguishing agent. Mr. Fiebig requested the Chair of Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standards Technical Panel (STP) 1026 on Electric Household Cooking Appliances form the TG after his proposal for UL 1082 - *Standard for Household Electric Coffee Makers and Brewing-Type Appliances* to allow for the use of a CIFEAs in addition to a thermal cutoff in coffee makers did not achieve consensus. A significant number of comments were received on the proposal, illustrating a need for further discussion. Consequently, Mr. Fiebig was appointed to chair the TG to review the comments received, to address each concern to the extent possible, and to adjust the proposal as necessary or develop new proposal based on those discussions.

During the December 14, 2020 meeting, TG chair led the discussion, providing a brief overview of the history of CIFEAs use in appliances dating back to 2014 and the issues raised by STP 1026 members during balloting, including CIFEAs replacement, maintenance requirements and reliability. The TG discussed the requirements for a thermal cutoff (TCO) to be able to be accessible for replacement as currently specified in UL 1082 Section 18. Staff provided input on experience with non-user replaceable

TCO use typically found in coffee makers. To get a clearer understanding of Section 18 requirement, Mr. Fiebig agreed to contact UL staff in advance of the next meeting. The group also discussed how UL 1082 does not prohibit a CIFEA from being installed in a coffee maker so it was unnecessary to add new requirements. Staff added that explicitly permitting a new technology typically improves its acceptability. The group also discussed whether a CIFEA was necessary since coffee makers incorporate TCOs to mitigate overheating to fire.

The group agreed to meet again in January 2021, as schedules warranted.