



MEETING LOG

MEETING TITLE/SUBJECT: Independent/Joint Gas and Electric Range Knob Working Group Meeting

OP PLAN ENTRY: Ranges

DATE OF MEETING: 9/30/2025

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Scott Ayers

Filing Date: 11/19/2025

CPSC STAFF ATTENDEE(S): Scott Ayers (ESEF)

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Attendance was not recorded

Summary of Meeting:

CPSC is aware of incidents where property damages and/or fatalities from house fires started by range knobs accidentally turning on, whether from people or pets bumping into the knobs and activating the range. This independent and joint working group was formed to discuss the issue and potentially recommend changes to the electric (UL 858) and gas (CSA/ANSI Z21.1) range standards.

The group first reviewed the unofficial project charter agreed to at the last meeting, which included a problem statement, a scope, and a path forward outline (see Annex section below).

AHAM next shared information on a proposal they are developing. The proposal would focus on front-mounted controls on rotary switches on electric ranges; AHAM would later make proposals to CSA/ANSI Z21.1 after acceptance by UL 858. The proposal identifies certain products that would be exempt from the performance test being developed, including induction ranges, pull-and-turn controls, and rotary switches with one distinct operation. The proposal would also include updated and/or revised requirements for component standards that may increase force requirements or other measurable attributes.

After reviewing the AHAM proposal, some members suggested developing a performance test before identifying products that would be exempt. They opined that it could take a couple of years to complete the work needed to develop a performance test. The group also discussed whether this group was the appropriate venue for developing the actual performance test. The working group decided to form a sub-working group to develop a performance test



Staff volunteered to participate in the sub-working group. Several manufacturers, a few special experts, a testing laboratory, and another government agency also volunteered to participate in the sub-working group. Sub-working group members should expect a doodle poll later this week to schedule the first meeting. Main group participants should expect the next meeting after the sub-working group has had a chance to meet, estimated to be around January or February 2026.

Next Steps:

The sub-working group will schedule a meeting sometime in the next four to five weeks. The main group will meet sometime after the sub-working group has met; estimated to be around January or February 2026.

Annex:

Problem statement: kitchen ranges that may be easy to accidentally activate pose a potential fire (and gas leak) risk in homes.

Scope: consider relevant information on consumers accidentally activating kitchen ranges, technical solutions that reduce the likely hood of accidental activation, and other factors that affect the ease of accidental activation and develop a proposed performance test method to the gas and electric range standards to provide a basic level of protection that reduces the risks of accidental kitchen range activation.

Path forward

- Develop a performance test method
 - Focus on incorporating the performance test methods in the electric and gas range appliance standards (UL 858 and ANSI Z21.1)
 - Necessary changes to range-components should be driven by the appliance standards
 - Changes to standards affecting aftermarket products should be developed after incorporation into the appliance standards
- Consideration of the technologies used in ranges
 - Current technologies (as of this moment)
 - Understand the most common failure modes of current designs and technologies
 - Leaning against the range (for instance to access a microwave above)
 - Bumping into the range (including brushing into the range when passing by)
 - Pet interactions with the range



- Understand the designs and technologies that impact (positively or negatively) on those failure modes
- New technologies
 - A performance standard should consider technical solutions that manufacturers may incorporate to address the most common failure modes that make ranges safer
 - Increased forces
 - Added action(s)
 - Change motions (such as pull-turn rather than push-turn)
 - After market solutions
 - Front-mounted controls v. rear-mounted
- Balance possible changes by trying to understand any possible unintended consequences
 - What is reasonably foreseeable?
 - Can adjustments be made that reduce the reasonably foreseeable consequences without affecting safety?
- Constraints
 - What level of reduced risk can we agree on?
 - Completely eliminating the risk may be unachievable considering other factors involved in kitchen/cooking fires that are outside the control of the standard
 - Compliance with Americans with Disabilities Act is a desired feature for some products (but not all)