



July 12, 2024

Tek Lentine
Standards TC Chair
UL Standards & Engagement
1603 Orrington Ave # 2000
Evanston, IL 60201

Milos Coric
UL Standards & Engagement
333 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, IL 60062

Dear Mr. Lentine and Mr. Coric,

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff (“staff”) requests that UL 141¹ and UL 499² be revised to address water ejection burn hazards involving handheld steamers used for removing wrinkles from garments.³ Staff has identified at least 200 incidents over the past year where consumers were injured due to hot water ejections. Earlier this year, CPSC announced a recall after becoming aware of at least 122 reports of hot water being ejected from steam nozzles—including 23 reports of burn injuries.⁴ Furthermore, in reviewing the current UL 141 and UL 499 performance requirements applicable to handheld clothing steamers (e.g., UL 141 § 55; UL 499 §§ 58.3, 58.4), staff found that there are no requirements that adequately prevent hot water ejections as observed in the incident data.

¹ UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES INC., UL 141: STANDARD FOR GARMENT FINISHING APPLIANCES (July 30, 2020, 9th ed.) (“UL 141”).

² UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES INC., UL 499: STANDARD FOR ELECTRIC HEATING APPLIANCES (May 31, 2023, 14th ed.) (“UL 499”).

³ The views expressed in this letter are those of CPSC technical staff and have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.

⁴ *Vornado Recalls Two Million Handheld Garment Steamers Due to Serious Burn Hazard*, Recall 24-109 (Feb. 8, 2024), available at <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2024/Vornado-Recalls-Two-Million-Handheld-Garment-Steamers-Due-to-Serious-Burn-Hazard>.



United States
Consumer Product Safety Commission

CPSC staff recommends the formation of one or more task groups composed of relevant stakeholders to review incident data and develop performance requirements for UL 141 and UL 499 to address water ejection burn hazards. Should any such task group be established, CPSC staff plans to participate and assist in developing safety requirements.

Sincerely,

Brad Gordon
Mechanical Engineer
Directorate for Engineering Sciences
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Cc: Jacqueline Campbell, CPSC Voluntary Standards Coordinator
Han Lim, CPSC Program Manager for Mechanical Hazards