U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Phthalates

DATE: July 16, 2009

TIME: 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: CPSC Headquarters

ENTRY SOURCE: Michael A. Babich, HSHS

COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES: Carol Afflerbach, Michael Babich, Patricia Bittner, John Boja, Kent Carlson, Mary Ann Danello, David DiMatteo, Matt Dreyfus, Harleigh Ewell, Jay Howell, Cheryl Osterhout, Joel Recht, Lori Saltzman, Dominique Williams, William Zamula.

EXXON-MOBIL REPRESENTATIVES: Robert Barter, ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences; Carl Bentzel, DCI Group, LLC; Matthew Cohen, Mintz Levin; Quin Dodd, Mintz Levin; Worth Jennings, ExxonMobil; Laura Keller, ExxonMobil; Laura Winks, ExxonMobil Chemical

OTHER NON FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES: Janell Mayo Duncan, Consumers Union; Jewel Edwards, BNA; Liz Hitchcock, U.S. PIRG; Alisa Karlsons, Keller & Heckman; Daniel Penchina, The Raben Group; Jennifer Sass, National Resources Defense Council

SUMMARY:

The meeting was requested by ExxonMobil. Worth Jennings, ExxonMobil began by saying that ExxonMobil is the world's larger plasticizers producer and that their products have been well tested. ExxonMobil manufactures DIDP and DINP. Laura Winks, ExxonMobil said that 90% of all plasticizers are used in PVC and that 90% of all plasticizers produced are phthalates. In response to a question from the CPSC, they said that ExxonMobil and BASF are the largest plasticizer producers. However, many of the toys manufactured in Asia contain phthalates made by Asian chemical companies. Overall, more than half of phthalate production goes into building materials, roofing, automobiles, wire and cable, and flooring. Less than 1% of phthalate production is used in toys. More DINP than DEHP is produced in the U.S., although more DEHP is still produced globally. They also said that DPHP production is expected to increase.

Dr. Barter discussed recent research on the health effects of phthalates. He said that ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences conducted a cumulative risk assessment for total phthalate exposure. He also said that ExxonMobil was sponsoring research on the metabolism of phthalates in humans.

The CPSC staff asked questions about the chemical identification of DINP and DIDP, which are complex substances (mixtures of isomers). Specifically, the staff asked

whether di(2-propylheptyl) phthalate (DPHP) could be considered a form or isomer of DIDP, because both contain 10 carbon atom branched-chain ester groups. Mr. Jennings said that he did not know, but that DPHP is very similar to DIDP.