



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

MINUTES OF COMMISSION MEETING

February 9, 1983

Third Floor Hearing Room
1111-18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C.

The February 9, 1983, meeting of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission was convened in open session by Chairman Nancy Harvey Steorts. Commissioners Edith Barksdale Sloan, Stuart Statler, and Sam Zagoria were present.

Agenda Matters. The Commission considered the following matters:

1. Toy Chests

On April 14, 1982, the Commission published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) to address a strangulation risk presented by certain toy chests with hinged lids. While the notice commenced a proceeding to issue a mandatory rule, the Commission requested comments on alternative ways to address the risk, including by a voluntary standard, and specifically invited the submission of a voluntary standard or a statement of intent to develop one. At the time, the Commission noted that the American Society for Testing and Materials in cooperation with the Toy Manufacturers of American had initiated a voluntary standard effort addressing the toy chest strangulation risk, an effort the Commission believed could be successful if there were substantial compliance of toy chest manufacturers with a final voluntary standard.

In November, 1982, after a briefing by staff on its analysis of the comments received in response to the ANPR and the status of the voluntary effort, the Commission directed the staff to prepare a draft proposed rule for toy chests. Prior to the February 9 meeting to consider the draft proposed rule, the Commission met with representatives of the toy chest industry to discuss provisions of the proposed rule and likely compliance of toy chest manufacturers with the voluntary standard being developed.

Following discussion, the Commission voted unanimously (4-0) to propose a toy chest rule to address the risk of strangulation to young children from falling toy chest lids and directed the staff to redraft the Federal Register document to apply the proposal to all toy chests sold by anyone in the chain of distribution after the effective date. The Commission also directed that the redrafted proposed rule

specifically request comments on the test requirement concerning the measured distance of the drop of the lid.

The Commission also directed that outreach efforts be undertaken now to inform consumers of the risk of injury from toy chests with hinged lids which do not have adequate safety support devices for the lid

2. Space Heaters

The staff then continued its briefing of the Commission which was begun Friday, February 4, on applications SH 82-1 through SH 82-23, from state/local jurisdictions, requesting exemptions from the preemptive effect of the safety standard for unvented gas-fired space heaters. The Commission reached no decision on this matter, and will consider it at a future meeting.

There being no further business on the agenda, Chairman Steorts adjourned the meeting.

For the Commission:

February 23, 1983
Date

Sadye E. Dunn
Sadye E. Dunn
Secretary