



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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CHAIR ALEXANDER D. HOEHN-SARIC

Statement of Chair Alex Hoehn-Saric Regarding Votes to Deny Extensions of Two Public Comment Periods

March 1, 2022

When conducting a rulemaking, the CPSC must always balance the need to provide sufficient time for public participation with the obligation to protect consumers from an unreasonable product safety hazard or to meet a congressional mandate. Regardless, expeditious action should be a priority when it comes to addressing the hazard before the Commission via a mandatory federal safety standard.

Today, the Commission voted to deny two requests for extension of the comment period on two separate Notices of Proposed Rulemaking establishing safety standards for consumer products. In both cases, the Commission has provided adequate opportunity for stakeholders to develop and provide comment on the proposal. CPSC's statute requires that the Commission provide for at least 30 days for public comment when issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; for these two proposals, the Commission provided for 75 days for comment. An extension of the comment period on either proposed rule would likely delay the delivery of a final rule, postponing the safety benefits of the rule.

With respect to the proposed rulemaking to establish a safety standard for Clothing Storage Units, the Commission provided for a 75-day comment period that began on February 3, 2022, more than six months after the draft proposed rule was made public. Two industry associations requested an extension of the comment period until 90 days after the CPSC provides a full response to information that one of the two had requested through the Freedom of Information Act. That response was completed in mid-February and the trade associations will have more than 60 days after receipt of the data to complete their comments.

The Commission also provided for a 75-day comment period on the proposed rulemaking for operating cords on custom window coverings. The Window Covering Manufacturing Association requested a 75-day extension of the comment period so that it can review additional information, nearly all of which it has long been able to access. This proposed rule would require custom window coverings to meet the same requirements as stock window coverings, as laid out in WCMA's own voluntary standard. WCMA has the data it needs to provide a thorough comment on the rule.