

US Consumer Product Safety Commission Log of Meeting

Subject: ULSE Technical Committee 2157 - Electric Clothes Washing Machines, Extractors, And Dryers Working Group meeting on Washer Stability

FY 23 OP Plan Entry: Washing Machines

Date of Meeting: May 25, 2023, 2:00 PM ET

Location: Teleconference

Prepared By: Yeon Kim (ykim@cpsc.gov)

Date of Log Entry: June 1, 2023

CPSC Attendees: Yeon Kim and Andrew Trotta

Non-CPSC Attendees: Contact UL for a list of attendees

Summary of Meeting:

This was a Working Group (WG) meeting to consider top-load washer stability and possible revisions to UL 2157 due to an instantaneous out-of-balance condition during high-speed spin. This activity started in response to a CPSC staff letter requesting ULSE establish a working group to address clothes washer stability during high-speed spin operations subsequent to the November 2016 Samsung Washer recall. Consequently, Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) convened a working group of their members to develop possible test requirements to propose for inclusion in UL 2157/CSA C22.

The WG walked through several proposed requirements to assess an instantaneous out of balance condition during high-speed spin as drafted by the AHAM working group based on their testing. Manufacturers indicated that they are evaluating two different test methods for introducing an instantaneous out of balance condition. Key decisions include selecting a test method and defining acceptable passing criteria. The WG also discussed the scope of the proposed requirements, and CPSC staff agreed that only applying the testing requirements for high speed to washers with 3 ft³ and above was sufficient because there have been no incidents reported for smaller washer. The WG also discussed the testing criteria and a warning statement requirement in the user manual. Staff indicated that movement of the unit was an original concern noted in the incident data and movement should be included as a pass/fail criterion, and that warnings about the potential hazard of washing water-resistant items should be included in the user manual. Please contact ULSE staff for the minutes from the meeting.

The next meeting was not scheduled. Once the AHAM WG completes their testing of the proposed test methods, the next meeting will be arranged accordingly.