

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: Standards Technical Panel for the Standard for Safety for Seasonal and Holiday Decorative Products, STP/TC 588

DATE OF MEETING(S): Thursday, February 16, 2023 (8:00 – 10:00 am EST)

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Arthur Lee, Division of Electrical Engineering and Fire Sciences (ESEF)

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: February 21, 2023

PHYSICAL LOCATION: Conference call

CPSC ATTENDEE: Arthur Lee, ESEF

NON CPSC ATTENDEES: Please Contact STP 588 Chair for list of attendees

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

There were two topics of discussion.

1. Overcurrent Protection Requirements for String Lights for All-Year Use

The TC discussed a proposal to not require integral overcurrent protection for year-round use 18 AWG lighting strings. The proposal had been balloted and passed but with negative comments. Opposition to the proposal includes the fact that for temporary-use lighting strings that use 18 AWG, UL 588 requires integral overcurrent protection.

. After considering the safety risks, the consensus of the TC was that this proposal should be withdrawn. The STP chair reminded the members that the process to withdraw a proposal is to recirculate it.

2. Series-connected Temporary-Use Lighting Strings Employing Shrink Tubing

The discussion was to allow the use of shrink tubing for the lampholders in non-replaceable lamps as an alternative to molded lampholders. The TC decided that to allow this alternative construction it will require a minimum of two layers, one thick layer, or one layer with a protective plastic cover.

For further details, contact the 588 Chair for the UL 588 TC Meeting Report issued on February 17, 2023.
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Action Items:

Topic 1 - A task group will be formed to submit a new proposal to modify Supplement SD employing string lights with 20 AWG.

Topic 2 - The proposed text will move to balloting.