



*Received via
regular mail
8/2/07*

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

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July 26, 2007

dm
Mr. Joseph Musso
STP Chair – UL Subject 858
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.
333 Pfingsten Road
Northbrook, IL 60062-2996

Subject: Range Stability

Dear Mr. Musso:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff is writing to request that the UL 858 Standards Technical Panel (STP) for Household Electric Ranges meet to discuss free standing range stability.

As of March 13, 2007, CPSC staff was aware of 107 incidents associated with range tipovers occurring between 1980 through 2006. Attached is a report that further summarizes our data. We recognize that anti-tip brackets have been required since approximately 1988; however, concerns have been raised that, despite the brackets being made available, they require special installation procedures which homeowners and/or non-certified installers may disregard.

CPSC staff encourages UL to meet with interested parties to determine if the current range stability requirements are adequate or if additional or modified requirements need to be considered. CPSC staff would be interested in participating in such a meeting. As the CPSC staff point of contact for range stability, please contact me if you would like to discuss this matter further or if you have any questions. I may be reached at (301) 504-7576 or mkaren@cpsc.gov. Thank you for considering this matter.

Sincerely,

Mike Karen

Attachment

* These comments are those of CPSC staff, have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

Memorandum

Date: March 28, 2007

TO : Jacqueline Elder
Assistant Executive Director, Hazard Identification and Reduction

THROUGH: Russell Roegner, PhD *TR. For B.R.*
Associate Executive Director, Directorate for Epidemiology

FROM : Kathleen Stralka *KS*
Director, Hazard Analysis Division
John Topping *JCT*
Division of Hazard Analysis

SUBJECT : Incident reports involving free standing kitchen range tipovers

This memorandum presents summary statistics of incidents associated with tipovers of free standing kitchen ranges, also referred to as stoves or ovens. These summary statistics characterize the number of reports received by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff from January 1, 1980 through December 31, 2006. Incident reports were extracted on March 13, 2007 from across all four CPSC epidemiology databases. These databases include: the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS); In-depth Investigations (INDP); Injury and Potential Injury Incidents (IPII), which includes consumer letters, CPSC Hotline complaints, newspaper clippings, and medical examiner reports; and Death Certificates (DTHS). It should be noted that fatalities reporting is not considered complete for 2003 through 2006. Therefore, the number of fatalities may change.

This analysis was prepared by the CPSC staff, has not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.

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Summary of Reported Incidents Associated with Range Tipovers*

As of March 13, 2007, CPSC staff was aware of 143 reports of incidents associated with range tipovers occurring between January 1, 1980 and December 31, 2006. Contained in the 143 reports are accounts of 107 incidents. Also included in the 143 reports are in-depth field investigation reports that CPSC staff produced for 21 incidents and 15 records that report an incident in two of our epidemiology data sets.

Table 1 records the number of fatalities and age of decedents as determined from the reports. Across the 27 years being reviewed, CPSC staff has reports of 33 fatalities associated with range tipovers. There are no reported fatalities for 10 of the 27 years. The highest frequency of reports was received in 1993 when five fatalities were reported.

Table 1: Number of Reported Fatalities and Age of Decedents Associated with Range Tipovers

| Year | Reported Fatalities | Cumulative Total | Age of Decedents |
|------|---------------------|------------------|--|
| 1980 | 2 | 2 | 18 months; 49 yrs |
| 1981 | 2 | 4 | 3 yrs; 3 yrs |
| 1982 | 1 | 5 | 71 yrs |
| 1983 | 1 | 6 | 2 yrs |
| 1984 | 3 | 9 | 51 yrs; 38 yrs; 39 yrs |
| 1985 | 2 | 11 | 39 yrs; adult male |
| 1986 | 0 | 11 | - |
| 1987 | 0 | 11 | - |
| 1988 | 1 | 12 | 15 months |
| 1989 | 0 | 12 | - |
| 1990 | 3 | 15 | 60 yrs; 65 yrs; 79 yrs |
| 1991 | 2 | 17 | 15 months; 18 months |
| 1992 | 1 | 18 | 2 yrs |
| 1993 | 5 | 23 | 20 months; 2 yrs; 2yrs; 60 yrs; 60 yrs |
| 1994 | 0 | 23 | - |
| 1995 | 0 | 23 | - |
| 1996 | 0 | 23 | - |
| 1997 | 2 | 25 | 3 yrs; adult male |
| 1998 | 0 | 25 | - |
| 1999 | 0 | 25 | - |
| 2000 | 0 | 25 | - |
| 2001 | 2 | 27 | 23 months; 5 yrs |
| 2002 | 1 | 28 | 3 yrs |
| 2003 | 2 | 30 | 2yrs; elderly woman |
| 2004 | 0 | 30 | - |
| 2005 | 1 | 31 | 22 months |
| 2006 | 2 | 33 | 18 months; 18 months |

Source: CPSC Epidemiological Databases.

Italicized table entries denote the period for which reporting is incomplete.

All 33 fatalities were caused by the victim being trapped under the range that fell on them.

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Nineteen of the 33 reported fatalities (58 percent) were children. Fourteen decedents (42 percent) were adults. Forty-seven percent of the children whose deaths were associated with range tipovers were younger than 2 years of age. The age of 11 of the adult decedents was reported. Of these 11, six or 55 percent were aged 60 years or more. Due to lags in reporting deaths, fatality frequencies are not considered complete for the period from 2003 through 2006.

Although Table 1 lists 10 years with no reported fatalities, there is only one year, 1995, from which CPSC staff has neither a reported fatality nor a reported injury. Table 2 presents the number of injuries reported, by year, along with the number of fatalities. In addition to the total number of incidents reported by year, Table 2 also indicates those years that CPSC staff received reports from consumers regarding the potential of injury being caused by unsecured ranges.

More than one individual suffered injuries in 15 of the 107 reported incidents. The majority of these incidents involved burns or scalding suffered by several children when the contents of pots on top of the ranges spilled onto them when the range tipped. The majority of injuries, regardless of age, were burns suffered from hot liquids spilled from the pots or pans that tipped when the range tilted.

Table 3 characterizes the frequency of reported incidents, fatalities, and reported injuries that occurred prior to 1991 and 1991 and after. Voluntary standards were revised in 1991.

Only 12 of the 107 reports across the 27 evaluated years indicate either the date the range was manufactured or purchased. Two of the 12 reported incidents occurred prior to 1991 and the remaining 10 occurred during the period from 1991 to 2006. Eight of the reported incidents were associated with ranges that were purchased or manufactured prior to 1991. All four of the reports associated with tipped over ranges that were manufactured or purchased after 1991 indicate that the range was not secured with brackets.

Table 2: The Frequency of Reported Fatalities, Injuries and Incidents By Year
Associated with Range Tipovers

| Year | Reported Fatalities | Reported Injuries | Reports of Potential Injury | Total Reported Incidents |
|-------|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1980 | 2 | 1 | - | 3 |
| 1981 | 2 | 5 | - | 7 |
| 1982 | 1 | 6 | - | 6 |
| 1983 | 1 | 2 | - | 2 |
| 1984 | 3 | 5 | - | 7 |
| 1985 | 2 | 8 | - | 9 |
| 1986 | 0 | 3 | - | 2 |
| 1987 | 0 | 2 | - | 2 |
| 1988 | 1 | 1 | - | 2 |
| 1989 | 0 | 5 | - | 3 |
| 1990 | 3 | 0 | - | 3 |
| 1991 | 2 | 3 | - | 5 |
| 1992 | 1 | 2 | - | 3 |
| 1993 | 5 | 3 | - | 8 |
| 1994 | 0 | 3 | - | 3 |
| 1995 | 0 | 0 | - | 0 |
| 1996 | 0 | 3 | - | 2 |
| 1997 | 2 | 4 | 1 | 6 |
| 1998 | 0 | 1 | - | 1 |
| 1999 | 0 | 1 | - | 1 |
| 2000 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 |
| 2001 | 2 | 3 | - | 5 |
| 2002 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| 2003 | 2 | 2 | - | 4 |
| 2004 | 0 | 3 | 2 | 4 |
| 2005 | 1 | 5 | - | 5 |
| 2006 | 2 | 9 | 1 | 9 |
| Total | 33 | 84 | 6 | 107 |

Source: CPSC Epidemiological Databases.

Italicized table entries denote the period for which reporting is incomplete.

Table 3: The Frequency of Reported Fatalities, Injuries and Incidents Before and After Revision of the Voluntary Standards

| Years | Reported Fatalities | Reported Injuries | Reported Incidents |
|-----------|---------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| 1980-1990 | 15 | 38 | 46 |
| 1991-2006 | 18 | 46 | 61 |
| Total | 33 | 84 | 107 |

Source: CPSC Epidemiological Databases. Fatality reporting is not complete for 2003-2006.

During the 11 year period from 1991 through 2001, CPSC staff is aware of 36 incidents that resulted in 12 fatalities and 24 reported injuries. Summary statistics are provided for this 11 year period because summary statistics are provided for an 11 year period (1980 through 1990) preceding the revision to the voluntary standards.