

CPSC/OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting with International Code Council (ICC) Representatives
Discuss Bleacher Safety and Other Building Code Related Issues

DATE OF MEETING: October 19, 1999

PLACE: CPSC Headquarters,
Bethesda MD, Rm. 714

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Scott Heh-ESME *SH*

LOG ENTRY DATE: 11/01/99

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Andy Stadnik-ES, Scott Heh-ESME, Don Switzer-ES, Elizabeth Leland-EC, Shawn Cerruti-CE, Tim Smith-ESHF, Signe Hiser-EPHA, Sue Kyle-EPHA, John Murphy-ESME, Arthur Lee-ES, Hammad Malik-ES, Janet Buyer-ES, Margaret Neily-ES, Jason Goldsmith-HS, Mary Donaldson-EC

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Bill Tangye - SBCCI, Paul K. Heilstedt - BOCA/ICC, Jon S. Traw - ICBO/ICC, Soy L. Williams - ICC, Mel Cosgrove - SBCCI, Jen Levine - PSL, Bruce Navarro - Navarro Legislative Regulatory Affairs, Sara Yerkes - NFPA

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

The meeting began with the ICC and then the CPSC presenting an overview of their organizations.

Bleachers were the next item for discussion. The CPSC staff presented background information on the petition that requested the CPSC to establish mandatory safety standards for bleachers. We discussed the process for handling petitions. The ICC asked how the CPSC decides to issue regulations and asked about regulatory process. We explained that when we consider whether a rule is needed, we look to see if there are voluntary standards (or perhaps building codes) that adequately address the hazard. We also examine whether there is substantial compliance with the voluntary standard (or code). From the ICC perspective, they feel that the codes for bleachers address the hazard. The challenge is that the adoption of codes and/or the enforcement of codes are very different from state to state, county to county, etc. The ICC expressed a willingness to work together with the CPSC to develop strategies to increase enforcement of the most current codes for bleachers.

We told the ICC that we are planning a Chairman's Roundtable for early December that will focus on the issue of retrofitting older bleachers to reduce the hazard of falling



through gaps and openings in bleacher structures. The ICC agreed that retrofit is probably the more difficult problem to solve and that they plan to attend the meeting. The ICC will give us contacts for some other people who can offer expertise in discussing bleacher safety issues at the roundtable.

The CPSC staff also briefed the ICC about our work on CO alarms, smoke alarms, and gate operators.

The meeting concluded by establishing several points of contacts between the ICC and CPSC staff on items of mutual interest. The ICC stated that there may be an opportunity to publish CPSC staff papers on safety issues in ICC publications. The ICC extended invitations for the CPSC staff to participate in the code setting process by submitting proposals for upcoming code revisions and by speaking with subcommittees who are developing specific sections of code.