

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING**

SUBJECT: Meeting with Cotton Batting Institute

CPSC/OFFICE OF
SECRETARY
SEP 30 P 2:08
1999
CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
No Mfrs./PrvtLbs or
Products Identified
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____ Comments Processed

DATE OF MEETING: September 28, 1999

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Walt Sanders, Counselor to the Chairman

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: September 29, 1999

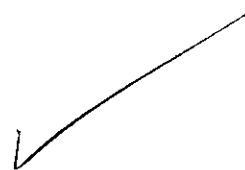
LOCATION: CPSC Headquarters, Bethesda, Md

CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

**Ann Brown, Chairman
Walt Sanders, Office of the Chairman
Margaret Neily, Engineering
Marilyn Borsari, Compliance
Dale Ray, Economics
Laura Noble, Compliance**

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

**Phil Wakelyn, National Cotton Council
Alan Vincent, Vincent Manufacturing
Kenneth Oliver, National Cotton Batting Institute
Randy Laymon, Underwriters Laboratories
Fred Middleton, National Cotton Batting Institute**



SUMMARY OF MEETING: Phil Wakelyn, National Cotton Council, and members of the National Cotton Batting Institute (NCBI) briefed Chairman Brown and CPSC staff on recent improvements in the quality assurance of applications of boric acid to make cotton batting fire- and smolder-resistant. NCBI indicated that boric acid treated cotton batting is used extensively in futons, but the material also is used as a filling material for mattresses and some upholstered furniture. Mattresses and futons are subject to CPSC's Standard for the Flammability of Mattresses and Mattress Pads which requires cigarette ignition resistance of the finished product.

NCBI said the centerpiece of their "quality assurance program" was its agreement with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to test and inspect each member's cotton batting to ensure it meets several performance standards. To remain a member of the NCBI, cotton batting producers must obtain UL certification that their product meets California Technical Bulletin 117 smoldering and open flame tests and the UFAC filling/padding test for cigarette ignition resistance. ASTM D5238 ("the sandwich test"), considered more severe than these tests and easier to conduct on a routine basis during production, will be used by the manufacturers on a regular basis as part of the certification process.

NCBI and UL representatives said the intent of the program was to give consumers a clear choice between certified flame-retardant cotton batting and untreated material. NCBI brought samples of cotton batting which had been tested under these procedures. Chairman Brown and other CPSC staff raised questions about: (1) market share attributed to cotton batting produced by NCBI members; (2) how and when UL certified products would be available at the retail level; (3) whether the products had been independently tested by CPSC; and (4) if NCBI intended to work with retailers to make sure consumers would know they were purchasing a product made with fire-retardant cotton batting. NCBI members said they would provide the requested information to CPSC staff and said they would work with retailers to increase consumer awareness of the cotton batting certification program.