

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Log of Meeting**

**SUBJECT:** Multi-Purpose Lighters

**DATE OF MEETING:** September 29, 1999

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Barbara J. Jacobson

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** October 19, 1999

**LOCATION:**

Williamsburg Marriott, 50 Kingsmill Road, Williamsburg, VA 23185

**CPSC ATTENDEES:**

Barbara Jacobson, Directorate for Health Sciences  
Michael Bogumill, Office of Compliance  
Harleigh Ewell, Office of the General Counsel

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEES:**

See attached list of attendees

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

This was the 50<sup>th</sup> meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F 15.02 (Safety Specification for Lighters). Reports of international activities regarding lighters were given by representatives from Canada and Europe. They have found that a number of disposable lighters imported from countries like China, Hong Kong, Macao, and Taiwan do not meet the Canadian or ISO requirements for function (flame height, flame extinction, spitting, flaring, etc.) or for structural integrity. In Europe, the lighter industry actively participated in developing a working document for child-resistance requirements that is almost identical to the U.S. Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters. This document is being sent to CEN to be published as an EN standard by June 2002.

CPSC staff reported that the rulemaking proceeding on multi-purpose lighters is in the final stages. If the Commission votes to proceed, a final standard should be published by the end of 1999 with a one-year effective date. The staff provided the latest data on incidents involving a child under age 5 (215 fires, 31 deaths, 85 injuries.) The CPSC staff summarized the types of comments received in response to publication of the proposed standard and reviewed the provisions in the draft final standard. Subcommittee members were reminded

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*D. J. Jacobson*  
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that all provisions were subject to change until published in the Federal Register as a final standard. The definition of multi-purpose lighter in the draft final standard includes refillable and non-refillable utility lighters and micro-torches that use any type of fuel. The draft definition excludes matches, devices that contain more than 10 oz of fuel, and any type of cigarette, cigar, or pipe lighter whether or not they are subject to the requirements of the cigarette lighter standard.

The CPSC staff reported on the strong industry opposition to the proposed requirement that multi-purpose lighters must allow multiple operation attempts before the child-resistant mechanism resets. After considerable work to investigate this issue further, the staff revised this requirement in the draft final standard to allow a child-resistant feature to reset after one or more operations of the ignition mechanism.

The CPSC staff summarized the anti-stockpiling provisions of the draft final standard and explained that there are reporting requirements to assure compliance.

The staff reported that the reports "1997 Fire Loss Estimates" and "Lighter Child Play fires: Evaluation of the CPSC Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters, September 1999" were in clearance and should be available by the end of October.

The ASTM Subcommittee members discussed changes to the U.S. voluntary lighter standard (F400-97) including definitions for pre-mixing and post-mixing burner lighters and instructions and warnings for pre-mixing burner type lighters. The members voted to lower the maximum flame height for adjustable gas lighters including pre-mixing burner type lighters.

The ASTM Subcommittee members discussed the draft voluntary safety specification for utility lighters. The draft definition of utility lighters includes flame-producing devices that are four inches or greater in length when in the fully extended position. Micro-torch lighters would not be covered under this definition. The members discussed publishing this new standard as a provisional standard as soon as possible.

The next meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.02 will be held April 13 & 14, 2000.

9/29/99 ASIM - F 15.02 - 50<sup>th</sup> Mtg.

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