



**Log of Meeting
CPSC and NOCSAE
November 29, 1994, 1:30 - 3:00 p.m.
Room 702, East West Towers**

Date of Log Entry: November 30, 1994

Source of Log Entry: Susan Kyle, Ph.D., Management and Program Analyst
Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction (EXHR)
CPSC

CPSC Attendees: Barbara Rosenfeld, Senior Advisor to the Chairman
Ron Medford, AED, EXHR
Susan Kyle, EXHR

NOCSAE Attendees: Ben Ansley, Executive Director and General Counsel
JJ (Trey) Crisco, Ph.D., Director of Research

Others: Nick Wakeman, Product Safety Letter

Summary of Meeting

The meeting was held at the request of the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE). The purpose was to describe NOCSAE's standards-setting processes and to discuss an upcoming NOCSAE standard for baseball face guards.

NOCSAE's current standards-setting process is research-based in that if research indicates the a particular type of equipment is in fact protective, then a standard based on that research is developed, either by Dr. Crisco, or by a research scientist or some other expert under contract to NOCSAE or a volunteer. Dr. Crisco then proposes the standard to NOCSAE's Board of Directors. If the Board accepts the recommendation, the standard becomes a "Proposed Standard" for one year, during which time comments on the standard are solicited from the scientific and manufacturing communities, among others. At the end of the year the comments are considered by the Board and the standard is either dropped, remains a proposed standard, or becomes a full standard.

NOCSAE's budget is approximately \$400,000 per year. Mr. Ansley and Dr. Crisco are the only paid administrators. The Board receives only travel expenses. The major portion of NOCSAE's budget is spent on reviewing and maintaining NOCSAE standards, which is done under contract. The remainder of the budget is spent on research grants. There are currently seven research projects funded by NOCSAE. The grants focus on the mechanism and prevention of sports injuries. Current subject areas include skiers helmets, eyewear for women's lacrosse, second impact phenomenon in head injury, effectiveness of chest protectors in reducing the risk of baseball impact injury in children, and the impact behavior of balls. NOCSAE generally ranks the need for development of a standard based on reducing catastrophic injury, then serious injury, then medical expenses. In addition, its standards setting efforts have been limited to organized team sports equipment.

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

No Mfrs/PrvtLblrs or
Products Identified
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Differences between ASTM standards and standards development processes and NOCSAE standards and processes were discussed. For headgear, NOCSAE uses its own humanoid headform which is designed to model human tissues response better than the solid metal headforms used by ASTM. NOCSAE standards are based primarily on protective mechanisms shown to be effective in the lab. No manufacturer input is solicited until the final stages of the process when feasibility issues are considered.

Data currently available on the effectiveness of "soft" baseballs and baseball chest protectors was discussed. Dr. Crisco stated that NOCSAE has concerns about the repeatability of some of the current data and the interpretation given for some of the chest impact data. In reviewing the currently available data, NOCSAE concluded that more research needed to be done and is currently funding research in both these areas.

The position of the various amateur baseball leagues in regard to protective equipment was also discussed. In the past NOCSAE has developed standards in response to requests from the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) and the National Federation of State High School Associations (NFSHA). NCAA has bylaw provisions stating that they will request standards to protect against catastrophic injury only.

Copies of NOCSAE Standard BB/SB - 4 "A Standard Method of Impact Test and Performance Requirements for Masks for Baseball/Softball Batters Helmets" were distributed. In addition to requiring that the mask protect the face from contact with the ball or the mask, the standard requires that the mask meet the same limits of allowable head acceleration as specified by the NOCSAE helmet standard. It also requires that the mask permit airway access either "inherent by its design or by a rapid (< 1 second) procedure".

CPSC participation in the NOCSAE process was encouraged and NOCSAE scientific resources were offered in support of CPSC's efforts.