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U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission Log of Meeting

SUBJECT: Firepot and Gel Fuel ANPR

DATE OF MEETING: February 21, 2012

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Rik Khanna

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: March 7, 2012

LOCATION: CPSC National Product Testing and Evaluation Center, Rockville, MD

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Rik Khanna, Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction
Sandy Inkster, Directorate for Health Sciences
Patty Pollitzer, Office of General Counsel
Chuck Smith, Directorate for Economic Analysis
Joseph Williams, Office of Compliance
Scott Ayers, Directorate for Engineering Sciences
Matthew Roemer, Directorate for Laboratory Sciences
Rana Balci-Sinha, Directorate for Engineering Sciences
Jonathan Kent, Directorate for Laboratory Sciences

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Christine King, CEO, Bird Brain
Courtney King, President, Bird Brain
Rob Harrington, Director of Regulatory and Safety, Blyth/Sterno
Jennifer Karmonick, Associate, Arnold and Porter
Ron White, Manager of Engineering, Lamp Light
Eduardo Meza-Etienne, Law Office of David Schmeltzer
Ryan Carroll, Government Affairs Manager, Hearth, Patio & Barbecue Association (HPBA)

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Rik Khanna, who welcomed the participants. Self-introductions were made. Representatives of Bird Brain (Mr. and Mrs. King) and Sterno (Mr. Harrington) presented information to CPSC staff in the following areas:

Demonstration of new firepots and single use canned gel fuels

- Representatives of Bird Brain and Sterno showed examples of and demonstrated a new firepot/gel fuel system using a single use can of ethanol gel fuel. The single use can is secured to the firepot using an adaptor ring can holder. Existing Bird Brain firepots or any firepot with an opening of 2-1/2-inch can be retrofitted with the adaptor ring. The single use can produces a flame for about 1 and half hours which is equivalent to the burn time of previous Bird Brain metal burn cups that held pourable alcohol gel fuel. Firepot use is recommended for outdoor use only.

Firepot Safety Testing

- Firepot Flammability
- Stability and Tipping
- Performance – Use Tests
- Surface Temperatures
- Temperature Extremes
- Corrosion Test

Gel Fuel Safety Testing

- Flash Point Determination
- Ignition/Flashback Testing
- Stability/Spill Testing
- Performance – Use Test

Labeling Requirements for Firepots and Gel Fuel

- Retail packaging, the insert, and the solid gel have instructions.

After the presentation, representative from Bird Brain and Sterno stated they would provide written comments to the ANPR. CPSC thanked all the meeting participants and stated all information submitted relevant to this ANPR will be considered in developing a possible safety rule for firepots and gel fuels.

Attachment: Safety Testing For Fire Pots and Single Use Ethanol Canned Fuels

Safety Testing For Fire Pots and Single Use Ethanol Canned Fuels

Christine King, CEO, Bird Brain

Courtney King, President, Bird Brain

Rob Harrington, Ph.D.
Director of Regulatory and Safety, Sterno

February 21, 2012

Discussion Topics

- Demonstration of fire pots and fuels
- Safety testing for fire pots
- Safety testing for single use canned gel fuels
- Labeling proposals for fire pots and gel fuels

Demonstration of Fire Pots and Single Use Canned Gel Fuels

Fire Pot Safety Testing- Flammability of the Fire Pot

- Direct flame impingement to all potentially combustible areas of fire pot
- Butane flame impingement for 2 minutes
- No visible sustained burning during flame impingement or upon removal of the test flame
- Any observed flame must extinguish within 3 seconds
- Non-combustible areas exempt from testing (metal, ceramic, stone, etc.)

Fire Pot Safety Testing- Stability and Tipping

- Fire pot subjected to a 15° tilt
- With and without fuel in place
- Must test in all orientations unless symmetrical

Fire Pot Safety Testing-

Performance: Use Test

- Test should consist of 4 individual samples
- Each sample tested for four cycles (each cycle would be composed of one fuel refill)
- Light fuel and burn to completion; minimum one hour between burns
- Record observations of fire pot failure (pot cracks, structural changes, melting or ignition of pot materials) or other indication of damage

Fire Pot Safety Testing - Surface Temperatures

- Establish maximum surface temperatures
- Maximum temperatures should vary depending on the material and the location
- Graspable surfaces only
- Measure 1 hour into the burn cycle

Fire Pot Safety Testing- Temperatures extremes

- 3 hours @ 0 F then 2 hours at room temperature then 3 hours at 150 F
- 4 cycles
- Visual observations for failure or damage
- Fire pots should undergo freeze thaw testing prior to use test

Fire Pot Safety Testing- Corrosion Test

- 24 hours in 1% salt spray
- 1 cycle
- Visual observations for failure
- Pots should undergo corrosion testing prior to use test

Gel Safety Testing - Fire Safety

- Flash point determination
- Ignition/flashback testing

Gel Safety Testing - Stability/Spill Testing

- 15 tilt for 24 hours - no spillage
- 90 tilt for 30 Seconds - no spillage

Gel Safety Testing – Performance: Use Test

- 24 replicates - single use cans
- No flaming material ejections or other unsafe events

Labeling Requirements - Fire Pots

- Instructions for use
 - clear and concise
 - appropriate specific to the item
- Warning statements (consistent with ASTM 2058)
 - /! WARNING: POTENTIAL RISK OF FIRE AND BURNS
 - Burn within sight.
 - Keep away from things that catch fire.
 - Keep away from children.
 - (others as needed)
- Emergency warnings
 - in case of a fire
 - extinguishing media

Labeling Requirements – Gel Fuels

- Warnings consistent with 16 CFR 1500 and FHSA
- Instructions for use
 - clear and concise
 - appropriate specific to the application

QUESTIONS?