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LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

CPSC/OFFICE OF
SECRETARY

2000 FEB -2 A 10:34

SUBJECT: 29th International Conference on Fire Safety

DATE OF MEETING: January 10, 2000

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: January 31, 2000

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Margaret Neily, ESME

LOCATION: Clarion Hotel, San Francisco International Airport, California

CPSC ATTENDEES: Margaret Neily, ESME

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: Conference attendees

SUMMARY OF MEETING: The session on Fire Safety of Buildings and contents was chaired by Gordon Damant of Inter-City Testing and Consulting Corporation of California. Mr. Damant reviewed trends in residential fires, deaths, and injuries with some emphasis on heating equipment, cooking, appliance, electrical distribution, and air conditioner fires.

Margaret Neily, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, reported on operability problems of residential smoke alarms identified in earlier studies and various product changes developed to address them. She described the planning of new full scale fire tests being coordinated by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to evaluate the effectiveness of smoke alarm technologies in responding to serious residential fire scenarios. Resistance to nuisance alarms is highly desirable and would be measured in the planned tests. Results of such tests would be used to clarify reasonable consumer expectations and to support additional standards and technology improvements. Funding sources for this research are being explored.

Leslie Richardson, Forintek Canada Corporation, presented results of timber decking (boards between floors of a building) fire tests. Board thickness, joint spacing, and the type of joint were important factors in determining burn through times. The best performance was obtained when plywood covered the top surface of the decking, preventing the flow of gases through the structure.

Joseph Wanna, Brown & Williamson Tobacco, evaluated the properties, treatment and cigarette ignition results of sailcloth compared to several duck fabrics and commercial upholstery fabrics. This sailcloth has been added to others in the draft ASTM test method for the ignition propensity of cigarettes to better represent the lighter cellulosic

upholstery fabrics. "Ignition resistant" cigarettes ignite them; "ignition prone" cigarettes do not ignite them.

Peter Orizondo, Great Lakes Chemical Corporation, reported on the performance of Fire Master BZ-54, a flame retardant for low density polyether foam for automotive end uses. Formulated with medium density polyether foam for upholstered furniture, the product performed well under California TB 117. Results were not as promising at lower densities where there is demand for both upholstered furniture and futons.