

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: ASTM Subcommittee E05.15 on Fire Tests of Contents and Furnishings

DATE: September 28-29, 1995

PLACE: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

James F. Hoebel, Engineering Sciences
Roy Deppa, Engineering Sciences
Rikki Khanna, Engineering Sciences

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Approximately 30 subcommittee and task group members plus visitors from the tobacco industry, ASTM, and the Department of Justice.

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: James F. Hoebel

SUMMARY: Scheduled were deliberations of the following task groups: fire and school buses, wall coverings, cone calorimeter applications, floor coverings, fire and rail transportation, small scale upholstered furniture, terminology on scale of testing, large scale furniture, mattresses, stacking chairs, and vandalism & wear and tear. The following reports on those subjects covered during the time that one or another of the CPSC representatives attended.

Cigarette standard. A draft standard covering ignition propensity of cigarettes, based on the NIST work under the Fire Safe Cigarette Act of 1990, had been distributed to small scale upholstered furniture task group for comment and approval. Since several negative comments were received, the task group decided to form a small working group to redraft the standard for further consideration. The original submission was tabled. A five-person working group was formed consisting of two tobacco representatives, NIST (R. Gann), Tom Fritz, and Marcelo Hirshler.

Upholstered Furniture. The task group is attempting to prepare a precision and bias statement for the two existing upholstered furniture ASTM standards (cigarette ignition). They have received about a 95 percent affirmative task group vote. Negative votes were discussed. A tobacco representative stated that a CPSC statistician told him that the statistical approach was not appropriate. The subcommittee chairman agreed to add language describing the relative precision for pass/fail testing in addition to char length measurement. This satisfied two of the negatives.

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