U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: UL/CPSC Standards Activities

DATE OF MEETING: August 26, 2003

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Erlinda Edwards

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: August 29, 2003

LOCATION OF MEETING: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL), Northbrook, IL

ATTENDEES:

CPSC	Non-CPSC
Hugh McLaurin	John Drengenberg, UL
Ed Krawiec	Jim Beyreis, UL
Erlinda Edwards	Greg Monty, UL
	Joe Musso, UL
	Dave Dini, UL
	Peter Boden, UL
	Wayne Morris, AHAM
	Larry Wethje, AHAM

SUMMARY: CPSC and UL staff met to provide updates/status reports of some voluntary standards activities of mutual interest. In addition to the specific topics discussed below, UL indicated that it has reoriented its structure to put additional emphasis on Research and Development (R&D). The new director of R&D, Greg Monty, emphasized that part of the budget will be used for public safety initiatives, and he sees potential synergy in cooperative research efforts conducted between UL and CPSC.

Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupters (AFCIs). UL reported that a ballot package including supplemental requirements on AFCIs is expected be sent to the STP during the fourth quarter of 2003. The supplemental/environmental provisions would be similar to those now required for Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters (GFCIs). In addition, Mr. Dini indicated that he would be speaking at the September 23, 2003 forum on AFCIs to be hosted by CPSC.

Portable Electric Fans. The Working Group (WG) to develop new requirements for enhanced power cords is not active. AHAM indicated that CPSC may have information that would be helpful to the WG; they will provide CPSC with that list of items.

With regard to a *National Electrical Code* proposal to require plug-type AFCIs or LCDIs on portable fans and portable electric heaters, UL is reviewing In-Depth Investigation (IDI) reports for fans and heaters in which the power cord was reportedly involved. The

information provided in the IDIs was found to be generally inadequate to determine whether the cord was the cause of the incident. About 20 of 450 IDIs were identified in which it could be concluded that the incident was caused by a fan cord. AHAM indicated that they encourage AFCI use to protect the home's distribution system and feel that this is the best application of the technology.

Sensors. UL indicated that they would like to discuss strategies for collaborative efforts with CPSC. CPSC staff stated that the CPSC Chairman would be hosting a roundtable discussion of sensors on November 7, 2003.

CPSC staff indicated that they are completing an investigation of sensors in a clothes dryer application, and a report of this activity should be available before the end of 2003. AHAM stated that how sensors work long-term and in the real world are very important issues to be considered.

Hair Dryers. AHAM indicated that the WG has completed work on 2 of 3 issues: cord flexing (increasing the number of cycles from 3000 to 6000 and making applicable to all cord types) and switches (better arc tracking characteristics). Work on abnormal operation (a CSA requirement for 45-degree, nose down, blocked-inlet test) is not yet complete.

Range Fires. UL stated that they hired an undergraduate student, who conducted tests to investigate technologies to prevent range fires. They modified and tested a control unit (taken from a Japanese cooktop) on both an electric range and a gas range. In tests conducted using cooking oil, the unit was effective in averting fires over 90% of the time.

AHAM stated that they agreed that pan-contact sensors were most effective, but they are concerned with practicality and reliability in the field. In addition, for some ranges, the cost of the range could double.

UL staff stated that they felt this is a high-priority issue. A roundtable, including all stakeholders, is needed to develop a strategic and executable plan to solve this problem. CPSC supported the idea that UL would host such a roundtable, and UL committed to develop a plan within the next month to move this forward.

Clothes Dryers. UL STP currently has a WG to develop requirements for fire containment (within the drum and within the appliance). The STP Chair stated that he would also like to form a WG to look at fire prevention. A meeting to discuss the CPSC staff report on clothes dryer testing was scheduled for August 28, 2003 at AHAM headquarters.

Heaters. At the STP meeting, two WGs were set up to discuss flux density and surface temperatures.

Relocatable Power Taps/TVSS. CPSC staff recommendations for improvements – barrier to prevent ignition of the enclosure (or melting sufficient to present potential shock hazard) – were restated. UL staff is currently reviewing numerous IDIs submitted by CPSC staff, and UL indicated that they would respond shortly.

Smoke Alarms. The Fire Protection Research Foundation steering committee is scheduled to meet in October and is expected to include a discussion of smoke alarms and the issue of children not waking. UL is interested in CPSC plans to address this issue. CPSC staff indicated that they have reviewed existing literature relevant to children waking and are developing recommendations for potential research. CPSC staff recommendations will also consider the issue of audibility for the elderly. A report of the literature search will be available soon. UL indicated a strong interest in working with CPSC on this issue.

Table Saws. UL indicated that they had offered to review and develop standard requirements for the Saw-Stop technology; however, they are not conducting any research in this area. It was reported that the comment period for the CPSC petition had been extended to November 7, 2003.