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LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting of ISO/TC 181/WG 1 Committee to Discuss Safety Requirements for the Mechanical and Physical Properties of Toys.

DATE OF MEETING: Nov. 13-14, 1996

PLACE: Hotel Inter-Continental
Miami, FL

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: John Preston, ES 

DATE OF ENTRY: November 18, 1996

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Preston, ES


NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: See attachment.

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The purpose of the meeting was to seek an agreement on the provisions in a draft Global standard containing safety requirements for the mechanical and physical properties of toys. The global standard had been drafted by the Toy Manufacturers of America (TMA) and had been submitted to the International Standards Organization (ISO) by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) for acceptance as an international (ISO) standard for toy safety.

Prior to the meeting, a detailed comparison of the provisions in the draft ANSI Global Standard and a draft European standard (prEN 71-1) US : 1996 E) had been distributed to members of the ISO/TC 181/WG 1 working group. In addition to listing all the provisions in the draft global and European standards, the comparison highlighted significant differences in the two standards. The chairman of the working group, Gunnar Castegren, stated that he would like to resolve these differences first.

The first significant difference was in the age grading for use and abuse tests. Whereas the global standard contained the U.S. Federal regulation requirements (0-18 months, over 18 months-36 months and over 36 months-96 months) the European standard contained only two age grades (less than 36 months and 36 months- 14 years). The committee was unable to reach an agreement on which age grading should be adopted and the chairman established a small task force to resolve this issue.

Another issue that could not be resolved was the limit on the length of strings/cords/elastics on toys for young children. The global standard proposes a length of 300 mm maximum on toys intended for children less than 18 months of age and the European standard proposes a 220 mm length for toys intended for children less than 36 months of age. Again, the chairman established a task force to resolve this issue with Mr. Mike Twist as the chairman and members from Australia, Brazil, Denmark, the Netherlands and the United States 

Stability of ride-on toys and the evaluation of seam test results of stuffed toys was resolved by accepting the global standard's requirements.

In a discussion of the global standard's requirements for dynamic strength of ride-on toys, a decision was tabled until such time as the EN 71-1 committee develops a recommendation for such toys.

Requirements addressing the choking hazards presented by small balls, pre-school play figures and pom-poms in the global standard were accepted.

The requirements for toy chests in the global standard were challenged on the basis that these are not toys. However, with a modification of the definition of a toy chest (specifically intended for use by children to store toys) the global standard's proposal was accepted. One country remained in disagreement with this vote.

Requirements for noise emitted by toys drew mixed opinions. Whereas the global standard only addresses the noise emitted by toy percussion caps, the European standard addresses percussion caps and continuous noise emitted from toy telephones and toys equipped with headphones. The United Kingdom is about to undertake a research program on toys that emit noise so the chairman deferred a decision on this issue until the next committee meeting.

Requirements for functional sharp points and edges in the European standard (over 36 months of age) were accepted but with the requirement in the global standard for a label so stating that the toy contains functional sharp points or edges.

A soak (in water) test in the draft European standard for wooden toys with glued-on components was rejected. That decision completed the resolution of major differences in the proposed Global standard and draft European standard for the mechanical and physical safety properties of toys.

Other issues discussed were as follows.

Toxicity - delete since it doesn't fall within the scope of this standard for mechanical and physical properties of toys.

Small Parts - Accept the Global standard's requirement but add a definition for paper that is exempt from the draft standard.

Mouth Actuated Toys - Accept European draft standard's requirement.

Projections - Accept Global standard's requirement.

Wires and Rods - Accept European standard's requirement.

Packaging and Shrink Wrap Film - Accept Global standard's exemption for such film.

Balloons - Define that this requirement applies only to latex balloons. No history of asphyxiation on mylar balloons.

Wheels/Tires/Axles - Delete since this is covered elsewhere.

Folding Mechanisms and Hinges - Accept Global standard's requirements.

Circular Holes - Accept Global standard's requirement.

Backyard Play Sets - Develop requirements in a separate standard or have specific requirements for such products in a separate section of the ISO standard for toy safety.

Winding Keys - Accept Global requirement.

Inaccessibility of Mechanisms - Accept European requirement.

Overload of Ride-On Toys - Accept Global proposal but reduce the safety factor from three times the weight of the child to two times.

Toys that enclose the head - Accept the Global proposal.

Simulated Protective Devices - Accept the Global proposal.

Projectile Toys - Australia has a test in which a projectile is fired into a sheet of aluminum foil. A task force with representatives from Australia, USA, UK, and Denmark was established to examine the appropriateness of this test.

Protrusions on Crib Toys - Accepted per the Appendix in the Global standard.

The meeting continued after this recorder left. The final outcome will be available upon receiving the official minutes of the meeting at a later date.

Attachment

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Chairman:	Mr Kjeld SØBERG	
Secretary:	Ms Birgit BRUUN	
Australia (P):	Mr Ian ANDERSON Mr Brian MALONE Mr Aleksander SZANN	(head of delegation)
Brazil (P):	Mr Síndeo BATISTA de COSTA Mr Mariano de ARAUJO BACELLAR NETTO	(head of delegation)
Denmark (P):	Ms Helen AMUNDSEN Ms Annelise BUNCH Mr Michael MØLLER Mr Steen SELBACH	(head of delegation)
France (P):	Ms Monique ANSALDI Mr Robert ARNAUD Mr Jean-Marie LUCAS	(head of delegation)
Italy (P):	Mr Luigi BORRIGLIONE Mr Natale CONSONNI	(head of delegation)
Japan (P):	Mr Takao FUJIMOTO Mr Hisato MATSUOKA	
Netherlands (P):	Mr M. TWIST	
New Zealand (P):	Mr Richard HAYMAN	
Spain (P):	M M	
Sweden (P):	Mr Gunnar CASTEGREN Ms Ursula KRISCHE	(head of delegation)
Thailand (P):	Ms Pranee EGORAMAIPHOL Mr Danilo QUINTANA	
UK (P):	Mr Lindsay HARRIS Mr David MORNINGTON Mr Ian SCOTT Mr Clive SHELTON	(head of delegation)
USA (P):	Ms Elaine BESSON Mr Malcolm DENNISS Mr Aaron LOCKER Mr James McCABE Mr David MILLER Mr John PRESTON Mr James WALTER	(host country rep.) (head of delegation)

Belgium (O): Mr Carl BERTHOLT

Ireland (O): Mr Bill BARKER

A-liaison: Mr David HAWTIN (TME)
Mr Poul MØLLER (TME)
Ms Elizabeth BORRELLI (ICTI)

Correspondent
member

Hong Kong:

Mr Warren KWOK
Mr Patrick TAM

(head of delegation)

No membership
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Canada:

Ms S. EDMONDSON
Ms H. PARADIS

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Mr Lars BROGAARD
Ms Robyn FLENSBORG
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