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Log of Meeting

Subject: Visit to Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL)
Author: Andrew G. Stadnik, P.E.
Date: June 7, 1995
Place: UL Offices, Northbrook, Illinois

CPSC Participant: Andrew G. Stadnik, P.E., Engineering Sciences

Non-CPSC Participants: James Beyreis, UL
Lee Dosedlo, UL
John Drengenberg, UL
Robert Williams, UL
Isaac Papier, UL
Paul Duks, UL

Meeting Notes: The agenda for this meeting is attached. The following notes address the various agenda items:

1. Mr. Drengenberg provided an overview of UL and discussed past interactions with the CPSC. There had been a fairly extensive series of meetings and interactions with the CPSC in the past. There was an interest on the part of both UL and CPSC to establish a routine, periodic dialogue on UL Bulletins and other standards program activities. (The UL Bulletins contain proposed changes or revisions to various UL standards, many of which are of interest to the CPSC.) Mr. Stadnik suggested a monthly or quarterly telephone conference to discuss CPSC staff concerns and questions on proposed changes. This would provide a forum for the CPSC staff reviewing particular standards to discuss any issues/questions and obtain supplementary data before formally commenting on the proposed changes to UL's standards. UL indicated that they would also be interested in obtaining incident data during these discussions on topics that they would propose for the agenda.

It was agreed that the CPSC staff would develop the initial agenda and set up the first telephone conference for the last week in June or early July. This would be used as a pilot session to determine their usefulness. Mr. Beyreis agreed and indicated that senior management would be asked to attend to hear the CPSC issues firsthand.

2. Mr. Williams provided an overview of the UL standards development process and described current changes being planned, including the establishment of technical advisory panels (TAPs). He indicated that the TAPs would become part of the process earlier in the standards development/revision cycle and be composed of non-industry representatives, such as CPSC staff. He indicated that the details of the process have not been finalized, but for a particular standard the individual TAP would determine its own structure and agenda. The UL staff person that heads the current industry committee would also chair the TAP. UL feels the TAPs will provide for earlier involvement in the standards development process of non-industry groups like the CPSC that are interested in UL's standards. He also indicated a



TAP may consist only of the UL chair and the lead CPSC staff for the standard. TAP meetings could be held by telephone or several other means. He also indicated that the TAP members may end up meeting with the industry committee if desired to discuss issues on particular standards.

Mr. Williams asked if the CPSC would like to have TAPs set up for any standards. Mr. Stadnik stated that a list of standards of interest to the CPSC for establishing TAPs would be provided by Mr. Colin Church of the CPSC staff in the near future after further information was developed on the resource commitment the TAPs would entail for the CPSC staff.

3. Mr. Papier discussed the very useful interactions that UL and industry has had with the CPSC staff in the areas of smoke detector and carbon monoxide detector standards. He understood one of the outstanding staff issues with smoke detectors is alarm horn contact corrosion. He noted that additional data would be required to be able to draw any conclusion regarding pressure mounted contact reliability.

4. Mr. Duks discussed areas for improvement of interactions between UL and the CPSC. Mr. Stadnik indicated that one area to start with would be the periodic telephone conference on UL standards revisions discussed above. Also, Mr. Stadnik indicated that perhaps a quarterly or semi-annual visit between selected staff may be worthwhile to discuss generic issues the CPSC or UL is looking into, such as thermoplastics or holiday lighting. It was agreed to see how the pilot with the telephone conference worked out before establishing any additional fora for exchange of information, and to further coordinate these activities with Mr. David Haataja in UL's Washington, D.C. office.

5. Mr. Stadnik also discussed the progress on the Home Electrical Rewiring Project the CPSC is sponsoring. UL is a participant in this activity. Mr. Stadnik noted the importance of making the inspection and code development groups throughout the country aware of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standard NFPA-73. This standard contains requirements for electrical inspections for existing homes. Messrs. Duks and Drengenberg indicated that they would inform the UL personnel participating in various electrical inspector association groups to discuss and encourage use of NFPA-73.

6. Mr. Drengenberg provided an extensive tour of the Northbrook facility covering the various testing areas and test capabilities. Mr. Drengenberg noted UL's extensive capabilities may be useful for standards performance testing should this become desirable in the future.

**ANDREW STADNIK
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 7, 1995
EXECUTIVE CONFERENCE ROOM - THIRD FLOOR, BUILDING 8**

- 9:30 AM* Arrive at UL - Introduction (J. Beyreis/L. Dosedlo/J. Drengenberg)
- 10:00 AM* Overview of UL (J. Drengenberg)
- 10:45 AM* Standards Program (R. Williams)
Technical Advisory Panels (R. Williams)
- 11:30 AM* Home Sensors [Fire/Smoke/CO] (I. Papier)
- 12:15 PM* Lunch
- 1:30 PM* Tour of UL (J. Drengenberg)
- 3:30 PM* Status/Areas for Improvement (P. Duks)
Communications/Data Exchange (P. Duks)
Home Electrical Wiring Project (P. Duks)
- 4:30 PM* Wrap-up Discussions (J. Beyreis/L. Dosedlo/J. Drengenberg)
- 5:00 PM* Depart