

MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Introductory Meeting Between the Gas Appliance
Manufacturers Association and Commissioner Moore

PLACE: East West Towers, Room 725 Bethesda, MD 20814

MEETING DATE: July 13, 1995

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Donald W. Switzer *DWS*

ENTRY DATE: July 17, 1995

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Commissioner Thomas H. Moore	
Pamela L. Weller	COTM
Micheal Gougisha	COTM
Donald W. Switzer	ESEE

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

C. Reubin Autery, President	GAMA
Joseph Mattingly	GAMA

MEETING SUMMARY

C. Reubin Autery, President of the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA), requested this meeting with Commissioner Moore to introduce GAMA and to present information about ongoing activities where GAMA and CPSC staff are working together.

Mr. Autery described GAMA's organization and its role in improving the safety of gas-fired appliances. Mr. Autrey explained that GAMA is not a standards writing organization, but provides a mechanism for manufacturers to input into the standards system. He explained that "voluntary" standards for gas-fired appliances are "voluntary" only in the sense that they are not mandated by government. He explained that the local building codes require that only gas-fired appliances that have been design certified to the applicable standard can be installed in homes. Essentially all gas-fired appliances sold in the U.S. are certified.

Mr. Autrey described the GAMA Water Heater Division Consumer Safety Awareness Campaign to warn consumers of the risk of hot water scalds, and the risk associated with storing or using flammable liquids in the home. The campaign is now in its third year. It uses television commercials, print media, public

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 Products Identified

service announcements, and a campaign to educate children in their schools. The campaign has been reviewed by the CPSC staff and portions of it have official Commission endorsement. The National Fire Protection Association and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign strongly support this program. The GAMA program will continue.

GAMA and the vented heater manufacturers have initiated a campaign to warn consumers of the hazard posed by vented space heaters that do not incorporate a vent safety shutoff system (VSSS). The VSSS is designed to turn off the appliance if it is not properly vented. In 1989 the standard for vented heaters was amended to require the VSSS on all vented heaters. The situation at this time is that some pre-1989 heaters are being sold in the used-appliance market without installation and operating instructions, resulting in some appliances being installed without vents. This poses a carbon monoxide hazard.

Mr. Autery explained that GAMA is not directly involved in the efforts of the water heater manufacturers to develop water heaters that are resistant to flammable vapor ignition. He did provide some history of industry's efforts to quantify the ignition hazard. Mr. Autery emphasized that GAMA and CPSC staff have a good working relationship and are working well together.