

## LOG OF MEETING

### DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

**SUBJECT:** Open Flame Ignition Test Development for Mattresses

**DATE OF MEETING:** August 30, 2000

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** September 12, 2000

**SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY:** Margaret Neily, ESME

**LOCATION:** National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST), Polymers Building, Room B-245, Gaithersburg, MD

**CPSC ATTENDEES:** See attached attendees list.

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEES:** See attached attendees list.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:** Members of the Sleep Products Safety Council, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff, and NIST researchers met to discuss the next phase of work to support a standard addressing open flame ignition of mattresses/bedding. The industry supports the level playing field among manufacturers that would be achieved with a federal standard. The characterizations of burning bedding and measurement of mattress response to the bedding and surrogate gas burners have all been conducted in full scale. While these are considered the definitive performance tests, because of the complex interactions of bedding/mattress/foundation, few laboratories in the United States are capable of conducting them. These tests are expensive and time consuming, and neither CPSC nor mattress manufacturers have the necessary facilities.

The next phase of research will evaluate the effects of scale (up to king size; down to 2'x2' mini-mattresses) as well as measure the risk of a burning mattress igniting other furnishings in close proximity that would add to the threat of flashover. The mini-mattress tests will be done later this year using Omega Point in Texas; the others will be done at NIST when their facility is completed. These tests will help establish a reasonable peak rate of heat release limit (measure of fire intensity) for mattresses and suggest the viability of smaller scale tests (specifically the mini-mattress) that could be used by the industry for evaluating new mattress designs.

CPSC staff is looking for a smaller scale test for screening mattress samples, as well, since the mini-mattress is not a production item that could be used reliably for compliance tests. This might include a test for flame spread or mass loss rate, for example. A small task force has been formed to lay out the work statement for

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developing these bench-scale/screening test measurements and addressing related issues.

## ATTENDANCE

SPSC/NIST Test Development— Open Flame Resistance of Mattresses  
August 30, 2000

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