

LOG OF MEETING

SUBJECT: ASTM E5.15 Subcommittee on Furnishings and Contents

DATE OF MEETING: September 29-30, 1997

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: October 8, 1997

PERSON SUBMITTING LOG: James F. Hoebel

LOCATION: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, MD

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): James F. Hoebel, Engineering Sciences
 Dale Ray, Economic Analysis
 Linda Fansler, Laboratory Sciences

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Gordon Damant, Thomas Fritz, Kay Villa, Russell Kidder, Sam Christy, Hugh Talley, Joseph Ziolkowski, John Bunch, Phil Strickland, Handley Fincher, Marcelo Hirshler, Frank McGarry, Fred Clarke, Henry Roux, John Hall, Arthus Ihrig, Gerry Whidby, Dallas Pinion, Robert Strength, Robert Barker, Kurt Reimann, John Michener, Randy Lawson, Bode Buckley

SUMMARY OF MEETING: The report on Mattress Round Robin Testing was provided by Gordon Damant. The testing in support of ASTM E1590 standard (based on California bulletin 129) was designed for six labs testing four mattresses in triplicate. The results showed wide variability, due to several causes. Some labs used a flame source in which the burners were improperly oriented. In addition, several laboratories observed two distinct fires with polyurethane-based mattresses: the primary burning of the mattress itself, followed by a secondary burning of drips and fragments melting from the mattress during the primary burn that landed on whatever surface was below the test mattress. The size of the secondary burn was highly variable, and depended greatly upon the surface below the mattress. Sometimes the secondary burn was quite large and contributed significantly to the test data. The Subcommittee will likely specify a uniform drip pan for all future test methods that could involve this phenomenon.

Marcelo Hirshler presented a review of a draft standard on Fire Hazard Assessment of Upholstered Furniture in Health Care Occupancies. There was considerable discussion of whether this assessment was ready for ballot, and whether such examples of fire hazard assessment should be issued by ASTM at all. Dr. Hirshler plans to issue a new ballot, which expected in about two weeks.

John Michener reviewed the draft standard on Ignition Propensity of Cigarettes. The fourth draft was distributed, which will be sent out for ballot. One member objected since the task group was not involved in the preparation of the fourth draft. The Subcommittee Chairman noted that the task group had been previously disbanded.



Kurt Reimann reviewed the subject of Open Flame Ignition of Upholstered Furniture. The task group on this subject has taken no action since the last meeting (they had surveyed the availability of existing standards to address this situation), awaiting the CPSC briefing package and the attendant field incident analysis. Dale Ray discussed the current status, explaining that the briefing package was to be released shortly. Members suggested that CPSC have a public meeting with the industry shortly after the package was released.

cc: Andrew Stadnik
Dale Ray
Linda Fansler