

LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

CPSC Form 101-1
Product Number: _____
Developed by: _____
Date: 4/10/96
Comments: _____

SUBJECT: Meeting with Dean McGuffee and Dean Fisher, Bell Sports

DATE OF MEETING: April 9, 1996

PLACE: CPSC Engineering
Laboratory, Gaithersburg,
MD

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Scott Heh, ESME/A

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Scott Heh-ESME, George Sushinsky-LSEL, Han Lim-LSEL, Robert Hundemer-LSEL

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Dean Fisher- Bell Sports, Dean McGuffee-
Bell Sports

SUMMARY OF MEETINGS

The Bell Sports representatives stated their concerns regarding impact test provisions in the proposed CPSC bicycle helmet standard. Specifically, their concerns were with how the curbstone anvil impacts are specified in the impact schedule portion of the proposed standard. They believed that allowing a single test helmet to be hit multiple times and with at least one impact against a curbstone anvil allows for unrealistically severe test conditions. They stated that this is especially true when testing on a wet-conditioned helmet. Mr. McGuffee and Mr. Fisher asserted that to meet the impact conditions in the proposed CPSC standard would require costly design changes that would result in no "real world" practical safety benefit.

Another curbstone testing issue raised by the Bell representatives is that for many smaller helmets, allowing two curbstone hits on a single helmet may be impossible, or, severely limit flexibility in choosing impact locations. This is due to the 120-mm center-to-center impact distance required by the standard. The dimensions of the curbstone anvil and its impact "footprint" would make it difficult to maintain the 120-mm distance.

CPSC staff said that we will evaluate the curbstone impact issues raised by Bell Sports and we will examine whether curbstone impacts should be revised in the proposed CPSC standard.

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