

LOG OF MEETING

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RULEMAKING ADMIN. PRCDG

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DATE: January 9, 2012

LOCATION: CPSC, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda MD 20814

SUBJECT: Real Flame Inc. and pourable gel fuel

ATTENDEES: Geeta Jensen, President Jensen Company; Seth Jensen, VP Real Flame; John Ridgeway, VP Sales and Marketing Real Flame; Brock Ryan, Life Safety Solutions; David Schmeltzer, Consumer Product Safety Consultant; Eduardo Ettiene, assistant to Mr. Schmeltzer

OBSERVERS: Sean Oberle, Product Safety Letter

CPSC ATTENDEES: Robert Adler, Commissioner; Jason Levine, Legal Counsel to Commissioner Adler; Matt Howsare, Chief of Staff to the Chairman; Jennifer Feinberg, Legal Counsel to the Chairman

MEETING SUMMARY: The Real Flame representatives detailed the history of their business, which began as a metals shop focusing on building fireplaces. Real Flame has been manufacturing and selling gel fuel for its own ventless fireplaces for twenty seven years. The representatives noted that their products are sold in national and local retailers and online and over their history they have sold hundreds of thousands of fireplaces and over one million containers of gel fuel. They stated they had never had an incident with their refillable gel fuels, like the ones described this past summer by the CPSC, leading to the category-wide recall.

As a result of working with CPSC staff, and undertaking their own research Real Flame told the CPSC the company was in favor of a voluntary standard to improve gel fuel safety:

1. Refillable gel fuel bottles should be required to have an arrestor cap to help prevent both explosions and flashback;
2. The formulation for gel fuel should be examined to avoid excessive ethanol being used;

- 3. Labeling on the gel fuel bottles should contain pictures in addition to written warnings and be simpler;**
- 4. If no solution can be found to eliminate the risk of injury from using gel fuel with fire pots, then open flame gel pots should be banned.**

The representatives then asked for the meeting to be closed in order to share proprietary data with the Commissioner and the other CPSC personnel.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Commissioner Adler thanked the Real Flame representatives for their time and presentation. He reminded them there was an ongoing rulemaking and strongly encouraged them to submit formal comments for the record for inclusion in the administrative record of the advance notice of proposed rulemaking.

LOG AUTHOR: Jason Levine

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