

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
LOG OF MEETING**

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**SUBJECT: Table saws**

**DATE OF MEETING: May 8, 2007**

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Pamela L. Weller**

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY: May 17, 2007**

**LOCATION: Room 714, CPSC Headquarters**

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Commissioner Thomas H. Moore; Pamela Weller and Michael Gougisha, Counselors to Commissioner Moore; Hugh McLauren, Engineering Sciences; Arlene Flecha, Information and Public Affairs; Mark Kumagai and Caroleene Paul, Mechanical Engineering;**

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Richard Sullivan, Sullivan, Sullivan,LLP; David Fanning and Stephen Gass, Saw Stop, LLC; Scot Segal, Ed Krenik, Bracewell & Giuliani; Bob Bugos, Techtronic Industries; James Wilson, Webster, Chamberlain & Bean; Daniel Rhodes, Makita U.S.A., Inc; Trent Duffy, Duffy Communications/Power Tool Institute; John Schiech, Black & Decker; Susan Young, Robert Stoll, Thomas Associates, Inc./Power Tool Institute; Dan Lanier, Miles Stockbridge, P.C.; Jason Felcher, Peter Domeny, Bosch Tool Corp.; Sean Oberle, Product Safety Letter**

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:** Ms. Young gave a brief summary of the safety initiatives that the industry has already undertaken with regard to table saw operation including an I&E campaign and the production of a safety video. Commissioner Moore asked whether the safety video was provided to purchasers at no cost when they bought their table saw, to which Ms. Young replied that it was not provided at time of sale, but was available at no cost on the association's website. Ms. Young then noted that various members of the industry were working together through joint ventures to address certain safety issues, but that since this was an open meeting it may be difficult to discuss those issues in this forum.

Mr. Stoll explained what the industry was doing in the voluntary standards area, through the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), related to the use of a riving knife to help prevent kickbacks, making installation and removal of the blade guard easier, and the use of push sticks. He noted that the blade guard was in use in only 15% of table saw injuries. He indicated that several proposals were out for comment through the ANSI process and that comments were due in mid May. He also said that all newly designed table saws would have to meet the new ANSI requirements by January 31, 2008.

Mr. Schiech said that one of their goals had been to find out why people weren't using the guard. He said that the new guard would allow people to see the cut they were making and that it was easy to remove and put back on. They have shown the design of the new guard to Underwriters Laboratories. They are also investigating the use of electronic sensors and had built prototypes, but there was still a lot of innovation to be done in that area.

Commissioner Moore asked how many table saws were sold each year and it was estimated that somewhere between 700,000 and 800,000 were sold. Mr. Domeny said that 89% of those were lower cost saws. When asked by Mr. Gougisha what they considered a lower cost saw, they indicated that it was a saw that was priced at less than \$150.00.

Mr. McLaurin asked if all PTI members would be introducing saws with the new guard design by next January and was told yes. It was clarified that existing saw models could be sold in the market with the current guard system until 2010, when all saws, whether new or existing designs, would have the new guard system.

Mr. Schiech indicated that if the Commission issued a mandatory rule it would be extremely difficult for the industry to comply because of patent restrictions on sensor technology. Ms. Weller pointed out that the Commission does not mandate design requirements and, if it did anything, the Commission would issue a performance requirement and companies would be free to meet it in any way possible, including using sensors, or with a new guard or any of the other improvements the industry was currently considering.

**Ms. Young stated that the industry hoped the Commission would defer to the voluntary standards process.**

**Commissioner Moore thanked everyone for their presentation.**