

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

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**SUBJECT:** UL/CPSC Standards Activities

**DATE OF MEETING:** December 14, 2006

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Doug Lee, ESEE *DL*

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** January 4, 2007

**LOCATION:** Underwriters Laboratories (UL), Northbrook, IL

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Hugh McLaurin  
Doug Lee

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** Don Talka, UL  
John Stimitz, UL  
David Dubiel, UL  
Don Ackerman, UL  
Dave Dini, UL  
Joe Musso, UL  
Chante` Maurio, UL  
Chuck Williams, UL  
John Thompson, UL  
Lenore Berman, UL  
Tom Blewitt, UL  
John Drengenberg, UL  
Larry Wethje, AHAM  
Vince Baclawski, NEMA  
Joel Saltzman, NEMA  
Claire Kammer, UL  
Paul Patty, UL  
Barbara Guthrie, UL  
Jim Beyreis, UL  
Robert Simmons, UL  
Kent Whitfield, UL

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:** CPSC staff met with UL staff to discuss updates and status reports of some voluntary standards activities of mutual interest. The following are the topics discussed with a summary of the topic discussion:

STP Member Process UL staff discussed the expansion of the STP member categories from three to eight. The conversion is scheduled to be completed in 2007 and will more accurately reflect representation on the STP with better

defined member categories. A copy of the provided *STP MEMBER INTEREST CATEGORIES* is appended to the meeting log.

Range Fires UL staff discussed that a task group was set up to develop a proposal to address range fires in 2001. The task group could not find a suitable technology and was disbanded last year. CPSC staff discussed some work that is being performed with NIST on aftermarket fire suppression systems and that a report is expected from NIST in the spring. CPSC will reevaluate priorities in the fire area and may revisit the issue of preventing stovetop fires in the future as resources allow.

Clothes Dryers UL staff discussed that there is support for fire containment performance requirements in the standard. A ballot is due on January 8 and a revision to the standard could be added in 2-3 months with an effective date of about 4 years from publication. AHAM would not weigh in on ballot because members are not in unanimous support of the requirements.

Power Cords Data was just received from UL that CPSC staff hopes to use to estimate the number of samples for a statistically significant experimental study on extension cords. CPSC Human Factors staff is examining in-depth investigations involving fires and extension cords to characterize how extension cords are being used by consumers. This may help define requirements for abrasion, flexing, pinching and crushing tests. UL would be interested in a collaborative test program.

Portable Electric Heaters CPSC staff discussed a limited-resources effort to map the heat flux from various radiant electric heaters. CPSC staff also discussed a proposal to amend UL 1278 that is being considered by CPSC staff. The proposal was written as a result of a divided Temperature Limiting Control Task Group.

Gas Ranges and Hoods A previous CPSC report on Gas Range Delayed Ignition was discussed. The report included testing related to the interaction between down-draft ("air curtain") type range exhaust hood constructions and the combustion of gas ranges. Previous efforts to form a joint meeting of the Z21 Task Group and the 507 STP Task Group were not successful. Task Groups will look to address this issue in September 2007. CPSC staff indicated that this is not currently an active project at CPSC.

Large Fans for Inflators CPSC staff discussed the increased use of inflatables and injuries associated with these products. CPSC staff also discussed that home-use inflatables need to have properly listed electric fans and proposes that UL 507 be modified to add specific requirements for electric fans used for home-use inflatables. The requirements include adding GFCI protection for the fan and power cord and a 25 foot minimum length to prevent the use of extension cords.

Additionally, CPSC staff discussed that these products are subject to the Electric Toy regulations of 16 CFR Part 1505.

Portable Generators CPSC staff discussed that the Commission voted on 12/5/06 to publish an ANPR for portable generators. The ANPR proposes and seeks comments on various regulatory options to address the CO poisoning hazard associated with portable generators. A proposed rule on mandatory labeling was also discussed. CPSC staff also discussed exploratory work on development of low-CO emissions generators.

UL staff discussed that there is presently no ANSI or UL safety standard for portable generators. A draft of a safety standard exists as an Outline of Investigation for Portable Generators. UL may consider adopting this as a UL standard.

Mattress and Upholstered Furniture Flammability CPSC staff discussed that the Upholstered Furniture Project is considering an interlaboratory study to evaluate the repeatability of the test methods and the standard materials of the draft furniture flammability standard. CPSC staff would be contacting UL to determine their interest in participating in the study.

CO (Carbon Monoxide) Alarms UL staff discussed proposals that are presently in the UL Collaborative Standards Development System (CSDS). UL also discussed working groups to address end-of-life signaling, package markings, electrical supervision, failure indicators, and Hemoglobin tests.

Smoke Alarms UL staff gave a comprehensive presentation on the smoke alarm characterization project that is funded by the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF). The presentation included progress to date and some of the initial results. UL staff plan to present a paper on the completed work at the FPRF Suppression and Detection Symposium in March.

Portable Lighting CPSC staff discussed project work on the evaluation of fixed lighting and portable lighting field samples. UL staff discussed evaluating end-of-life issues with some compact fluorescent lighting products. Both UL and CPSC staff have seen some reported melting incidents and smoke at end-of-life.

UL staff also discussed LED lighting and creating an STP for LED technology lighting. Junction temperatures in large arrays of LEDs can be extremely high.

Table Saws UL staff discussed standards proposals for a revision to table saw guarding requirements, riving knife requirements, and anti-kickback device requirements. The proposals were distributed for preliminary comment and ballots are expected out around February 2007. CPSC staff submitted editorial comments to the preliminary review. UL staff showed a newly designed blade

guard with independently hinged side elements that replace the conventional plastic hood guard. CPSC staff also provided an update on the table saw petition.

Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupters (AFCIs). CPSC staff summarized the recent *NEC* code-making panel meeting (2008 *NEC* Report on Comments) actions regarding AFCIs. The panel expanded AFCI requirements to living areas and allowed AFCI receptacles at the first outlet provided that metal conduit or armored cable is used to the first receptacle.

CPSC staff discussed that requiring AFCIs when upgrading service and changing the overcurrent protection would be most effective in addressing aging wiring systems. This proposal was not accepted for the *NEC* but CPSC staff believes that this would be good for the FPRF Aging Wiring Project recommendations.

Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupters (GFCIs). CPSC staff discussed the August 2005 CPSC staff meeting with NEMA members. The meeting was to encourage the industry to further improve GFCIs by making them less dependent on consumer monthly testing and to provide an indicator to the consumer if the device is no longer functioning and providing shock protection. NEMA members have met during the past year to develop an industry position and may consider proposals to change the voluntary standard in the future.

High Energy Battery Packs. CPSC staff discussed that industry has been looking for ways to address the recent string of recalls associated with lithium-ion batteries. CPSC staff met with UL staff on November 16 to discuss updates on UL activities and the UL Lithium-Ion Battery Forum held on November 1-2. Discussions were held on UL battery standards, IEEE 1625 (Standard for Rechargeable Batteries for Portable Computing), IEEE 1725 (Standard for Rechargeable Batteries for Cellular Telephones) and IPC standards activities to improve the manufacturing and certification of lithium-ion batteries.

CPSC staff discussed long term solutions of changing battery technologies to one with a non-flammable electrolyte or a system that would contain any hazards. A news release from a major lithium-ion battery manufacturer who is considering lithium polymers for the next generation of notebook batteries was discussed.

# STP MEMBER INTEREST CATEGORIES

UL is expanding the balance of interests from three categories (General Interest, Producer, User) to eight categories, which are outlined below. The new STP interest categories are better defined and more accurately reflect representation on the STP. Conversion of all STPs is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2007.

## ORIGINAL STP INTEREST CATEGORIES:

**General Interest:** This category typically includes trade associations, professional and lay people employed by academic and scientific institutions, experts, government agencies in a non-regulatory capacity, insurance companies, utilities, etc.

**Producer:** Those who are predominantly involved with the production (manufacturing goods) of products, materials, or services directly covered under the Scope of the Standard.

**User:** Those who are predominantly interested in the use of the product, materials, or services. This category typically includes consumers, regulatory agencies, authorities having jurisdiction, suppliers, distributors, retailers, safety associations, certification organizations, and producers of components of end-products covered by the Standard or producers of end products of product covered by a component standard. A UL technical staff person is considered a user for the purpose of membership on an STP.

## NEW STP INTEREST CATEGORIES:

The expanded interest categories are defined as follows:

**AHJ:** Those involved in the regulation or enforcement of the requirements of codes and standards at the state and local level. Where public safety is primary, the authority having jurisdiction may be a state, local, or other regional department or individual such as a fire chief; fire marshal; chief of a fire prevention bureau, labor department, or health department; building official; electrical inspector; or others having statutory authority. For insurance purposes, an insurance inspection department, rating bureau, or other insurance company representative may be the authority having jurisdiction.

**Commercial/Industrial User:** Organizations that use the product in a commercial or industrial setting. Examples include a restaurant owner/operator serving on an STP for commercial cooking equipment, or a gas station owner/operator serving on an STP for flammable liquid storage tanks. Representatives of organizations that manufacture products covered by the standard, whose organization also use the product, are not eligible for STP membership under this category.

**Consumer:** Consumer organizations, consumer departments at universities, home economic departments at universities, professional consumers, individuals who use the product as part of their livelihood and are not eligible for STP membership under another interest category.

**General Interest:** Consultants, academia, scientists, etc., who are not covered by the other participation categories, such as professional societies, attorneys, and safety experts and trade associations. Companies that only private-brand label products (made by another manufacturer) covered by the STP.

**Government:** Representatives from federal agencies. These may include CPSC, FDA, EPA, DOT, DOE, DOD, NIST, etc. Also, representatives of state, local, or regional government bodies who do not fall under the category of AHJ.

**Producers:** A representative of a company that is engaged in the manufacture of products covered by the STP. A company which contracts out operation such as fabrication and/or assembly, but still retains some control of the overall production process, including for example, performance of such major functions as research and development, design, ownership of tools and dies, production scheduling, quality control and wholesale distribution is also considered to be a producer. A consultant or agent who represents a manufacturer is considered a producer.

**Supply Chain:** Component producers for an end-product STP or end-product producers for a component STP; installers; distributors; and retailers. Manufacturers with no manufacturing facilities for the products covered by the STP, but solely use contract manufacturers to make the products. Wholesale or retail purchase-resellers for products made by other companies are also considered as part of the supply chain category.

**Testing and Standards Organization:** Organizations that test and/or certify products covered by the standard, or that develop standards/codes related to the products covered by the Standard.