

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

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
4/30/03
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Products Identified
Excepted by _____
Firms Identified _____
Comments Processed _____

SUBJECT: Electrical Safety Foundation International (ESFI) board meeting for discussion of electrical safety programs in general

DATE OF MEETING: April 25, 2003

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: William H. King, Jr., ES *W.H.K.*

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: April 25, 2003

LOCATION: 1300 N. 17th Street, Suite 1847, Rosslyn, VA

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): William H. King, Jr., ES

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Michael Clendenin, ESFI

James Shannon, National Fire Protection Association

Barbara Guthrie, Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (by phone)

and other members of the ESFI board (see attached list).

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Mr. King attended the board meeting and provided a brief overview of the Residential Electrical System Aging Research Project being organized by the Fire Protection Research Foundation. A copy of the concept paper for the research is attached.

[Handwritten mark]

Nominating Committee Members:	
Bill Boehm	Dr. Malcolm O'Hagan
Lanny Floyd	Dr. Joyce Rasdall

**ESFI BOD Terms
2003**

Terms expire November 2003:

Edwin D. Hill	President	Int'l Brotherhood of Electrical Workers
Richard P. Owen	Board of Directors for IAEI	Int'l Association of Electrical Inspectors
Chris C. Richardson	CEO	Square D Company
Harold Leviton	President & CEO	Leviton Manufacturing Company
Joseph M. McGuire	President	Assoc. of Home Appliance Manufacturers
Ralph E. Jackson	Executive V.P. Operations	Cooper Industries
Dr. Malcolm E. O'Hagan	President	National Electrical Manufacturers Assoc.

Terms expire November 2004:

William J. Boehm	President & CEO	Connector Manufacturing Company
John M. Grau	EVP & CEO	National Electrical Contractors Assoc.
Loring W. Knoblauch	President & CEO	Underwriters Laboratories
Anne M. Cooney	V.P. Operations Excellence & Supply Change Management	Siemens
Chuck R. Udell	Sr. V.P. Business Management	Graybar
David M. Tallman	V.P. & General Manager RPD	Eaton Corporation
Dennis Roth	President	Intertek Testing Services
Rob D. McDonald	V.P. Government Affairs	Emerson

Terms expire November 2005:

H. Landis Floyd	Senior Consultant	E.I. DuPont Company
Dr. Joyce J. Rasdall	Professor	Southeast Missouri State University
Grant J. Carter,	V.P. Marketing & Comm.	CSA International
Carl D. Behnke,	V.P. Human Resources & Corp. Resources	Edison Electric Institute
J. Michael Andrews	Senior V.P. & General manager Utility Cables	General Cable
Bobby J. Jackson	V.P. National Programs	National Safety Council
		Open for Utility or Insurance Rep.
		Open for National Fire Protection Assoc.

Ex-Officio and Board Guest:

Michael G. Clendenin	ESFI Executive Director	Electrical Safety Foundation International
William H. King, Jr.	Chief Engineer Elec. Fire & Safety	Consumer Product Safety Commission

Residential Electrical System Aging Research Project

Tentative Concept

Background

Concern has been expressed in the electrical community regarding the aging of electrical systems in residential occupancies, possibly resulting in fires.

A question not yet fully answered is: "Why is there a residential electrical fire problem in the United States, even though we have such a good code?" Among the potential answers may be that electrical components, like any product, age over time. Coupled with this, residential electrical systems are seldom inspected after original installation. This project hopes to address this issue in two ways: It intends to survey the condition of representative samples of systems installed in different eras. And it intends to work with one or more Authorities Having Jurisdiction to more extensively document components and systems involved at the point of origin of harmful fires. This project will provide critical information to code writers – especially for NFPA 73 and the NEC® – as well as AHJs, electrical equipment manufacturers, installers, property owners, and insurers.

Goal

Characterize the condition of various age cohorts of residential electrical systems by surveying a representative sample of actual installed systems; and document how aging may relate to residential electrical fire experience.

Scope and *M.O.*

The survey: Actual installed residential electrical system components from the service point to the outlet. Residences of various ages will be selected, tentatively organized into 10-year age cohorts, and their conditions documented in a database. Alterations and the date of alteration also will be documented. Selected representative samples may be laboratory tested and analyzed.

The investigations: More detailed investigation information than is commonly collected today; e.g., a report that includes the actual or estimated age of components/system believed to be involved at a residential fire's point of origin. This will be obtained from a brief questionnaire completed by the fire investigator, or by the fire investigator and an electrical inspector together. The Foundation will collaborate with an AHJ, such as a local government or federal agency, to develop and implement the program. A database will be developed.

There will be a literature review of previous related studies. Data collected in this project will be analyzed, and technical reports published.

03/02