

## LOG OF TELEPHONE CALL

27 MAY 1994

**SUBJECT:** Thermoplastic Materials in Electrical Applications

**DATE:** May 26, 1994

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

**CPSC PARTICIPANT:** William H. King, Jr., ES

**NON-CPSC PARTICIPANT:** John Gardner, Plastic News

**SUMMARY:**

Mr. Gardner contacted CPSC staff after hearing concerns expressed by CPSC regarding the use of thermoplastic materials in electric appliances at a recent press conference.

Mr. Gardner inquired about what specific problems have been identified. He further asked: How did it come about? How does it contribute to a fire? What standards are we looking into?

Mr. King responded that as director of electrical engineering on the CPSC staff, he had some knowledge of specific instances where the application of a thermoplastic material resulted in an electrical failure propagating into conflagration because of the flammability and other properties of the thermoplastic material. Mr. King further indicated that specific recall and other corrective actions were taken on a number of these instances with particular end-product manufacturers. Mr. King also indicated that notices of these actions were public information and available from CPSC's Corrective Actions Division.

When asked about further CPSC plans, Mr. King indicated that he was not knowledgeable about what the future will hold in this regard, but that the CPSC staff routinely brings matters of this type to the developer of the appropriate voluntary safety standards that the involved industry supports. In this case, the standards are Underwriters Laboratories (UL) Standards UL 746 series and UL 94. Mr. King said that CPSC seeks timely responses to issues such as this.