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LOG OF MEETING

DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: "New Approaches to Flammability Enforcement"

DATE OF MEETING: March 16, 1998

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: April 6, 1998

SOURCE OF LOG ENTRY: Margaret Neily, ESME

LOCATION: Jacob Javits Center, New York City, NY, Room 1A03

CPSC ATTENDEES: Alan Schoem, Director, Office of Compliance
Margaret Neily, ESME, and Marilyn Borsari, CRM

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: Robert Waller, Jr., Childrenswear Manufacturers Association, Frederick Locker, Locker Greenberg & Brainin, manufacturers, retailers and others attending the International Kid's Fashion Show.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: This forum was sponsored by the Childrenswear Manufacturers Association. Alan Schoem reviewed the recent reorganization of the Office of Compliance and briefly described the activities of the Retailers' Task Force. This group is working with CPSC to develop a voluntary program to help retailers ensure compliance of their clothing products with the Standard for the Flammability for Clothing Textiles. He also introduced Marilyn Borsari who is taking over responsibilities related to the enforcement of the Children's Sleepwear Flammability Standards. He addressed some of the most frequently asked questions and described actions that manufacturers and retailers can take to answer the question "Is it sleepwear?"

Margaret Neily described recent staff evaluations of snug-fitting (tight-fitting) sleepwear and the development of "technical" amendments of the snug-fitting exemptions to be recommended for Commission consideration. These amendments involve revisions of the regulations that clarify the measurement points for the upper arm, seat, and thigh. The amendments do not increase the dimensions specified in the standards. She mentioned the importance of a consistent consumer message on the labels of garments that are being sold under the snug-fitting provisions. This reinforces the fact that the garment must be worn snug-fitting for safety. The staff expects to give the Commission a briefing package for a decision on the technical amendments in mid April. Commissioners plan to make a decision about publishing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in approximately one week after they receive the briefing package.

Frederick Locker discussed the role of the Childrenswear Manufacturers Association in assisting members in their efforts to comply with CPSC regulations. He indicated that the Association might work on a way to get garment assessments more efficiently.

CPSC/OFC OF THE SECRETARY
REGULATORY DIVISION
MARGARET NEILY
MRS. NEILY - 8 P 2:43