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**LOG OF MEETING  
DIRECTORATE FOR LABORATORY SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT:** MEETING WITH JOHN MICHENER, ASTM/AATCC REPRESENTATIVE

**DATE:** November 7, 1996

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** Linda Fansler, Directorate for Laboratory Sciences

**COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES:**

Marilyn Borsari, Office of Compliance  
Allen Brauninger, Office of the General Counsel  
Patricia Fairall, Office of Compliance  
Linda Fansler, Directorate for Laboratory Sciences  
James Hoebel, Directorate for Engineering Sciences  
Margaret Neily, Office of the Executive Director

**NON-COMMISSION REPRESENTATIVES:**

Dr. John W. Michener, Milliken Research Corporation  
Ms. Kay M. Villa, American Textile Manufacturers Institute

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

The CPSC staff working on the Apparel Flammability Standard Update Project invited Dr. Michener to meet with staff and discuss ASTM's and AATCC's revisions to the refurbishing methods in ASTM D1230, Standard Test Method for Flammability of Apparel Textiles. This ASTM standard is similar to 16 CFR Part 1610 Standard for the Flammability of Clothing Textiles, which currently specifies outdated dry cleaning and hand washing methods of refurbishment. The current project will address that issue and make changes to the laundering procedures specified in other Flammable Fabrics Act standards by approving the change from the AATCC standard 124 detergent to the new AATCC 1993 standard detergent.

Margaret Neily, the Project Manager, started the meeting by providing background on the Apparel Flammability Update Project explaining with input from A. Brauninger, Office of the General Counsel, the legal process CPSC must go through to amend Part 1610.

Dr. Michener stated the ideal from his perspective would be to make Part 1610 and ASTM D1230 be identical and annex the Laboratory Test Manual. He stated that Part 1610 does not provide a clear test procedure and proposed setting up a working group made up of CPSC staff and outside, interested parties to revise the documents. He also stated that changes to the Laboratory Test Manual are needed; although it offers a clearer description of the test procedure than does Part 1610. Dr. Michener and Ms. Villa stated that the textile and apparel industries support updating Part 1610.

Staff asked Dr. Michener about technical rationale for the change to the AATCC standard 124 detergent, the use of commercial dry cleaners, and the change from the current AATCC test method for laundering to the new AATCC Standard Laboratory Practice for Home Laundering. Dr. Michener indicated that there was no documentation or test data on the effects of any of these changes on flammability, but they were all made from a practical view. The following are the responses:

\* Detergent - the "old" standard detergent was high phosphorous based and did not represent those detergents available to consumers. The "new" standard detergent is non-phosphorus based detergent, as are most currently available detergents on the market.

\* Dry cleaning - the open vessel perchlorethylene method in Part 1610 and coin operated dry cleaning methods are now illegal; and therefore, an update is necessary. There is no uniformity in the dry cleaning industry as to the choice of solvents or the frequency of cleaning the solvent. This may be a problem when staff prepares to update Part 1610.

\* Laundering Method - the new laboratory practice for laundering is a more rigorous procedure.

Dr. Michener again offered his assistance to staff working on this project and offered to get a working group together. Ms. Neily stated that his offer of assistance and his proposal for a working group will be discussed by staff.

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