

Log of Meeting

SUBJECT: Multi-Purpose Lighters
DATE OF MEETING: April 13, 2000
LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Barbara J. Jacobson
DATE OF LOG ENTRY: April 24, 2000

LOCATION:

Crowne Plaza, 130 Shipyard Drive, Hilton Head, S.C.

CPSC ATTENDEE: Barbara Jacobson, Directorate for Health Sciences

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attached list

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared
No Mkts/Prvt Ltrs or
Products Identified
Excepted by
CPSC/OFFICE OF
THE GENERAL ATTORNEY

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**SUMMARY OF MEETING: ASTM Subcommittee F 15.02
(Safety Standards for Lighters).**

Report of International Activities on Lighters:

Health Canada is considering mandatory standards for multi-purpose lighters, including micro-torch multi-purpose lighters. The standards for child-resistance are based on the U.S. Safety Standard for Multi-Purpose Lighters and may be completed by April 2001. Health Canada has received 450 letters in support of their published notice of intention to develop the standards. Health Canada is actively working with the Chinese government, manufacturers, and testing laboratories to assure that quality lighters are exported from China. Health Canada has held training seminars, hosted visits from Chinese manufacturers, and conducted audits of test facilities in China.

In Europe, CEN published a standard (EN 13869) for child-resistant cigarette lighters for comment. The standard is similar to the U.S. Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters. One exception is that the manufacture of novelty lighters is prohibited. (Lighters with decorative features in the form of decals are not considered novelty lighters.) The EN standard will be voluntary and may be published before the end of 2002.

CPSC REPORT:

The CPSC representative reviewed five CPSC compliance actions regarding lighters since the previous ASTM meeting in September 1999. CPSC's Operation SOS was launched in December 1999 to monitor web sites for recalled, illegal, and potentially hazardous consumer products.

The Safety Standard for Multi-Purpose Lighters was published on December 22, 1999, and will become effective on December 22, 2000. The definition of multi-purpose lighter includes refillable and non-refillable utility lighters and micro-torches that use any type of fuel. The definition excludes matches, devices that contain more than 10 oz of fuel, and all types of cigarette, cigar, or pipe lighters.

Differences between the Safety Standard for Multi-Purpose Lighters and the Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters include:

- o Allowing the child-resistant feature to automatically reset after multiple operation attempts.

- o Requiring an additional feature to be operated to maintain a flame during hands-free operation.
- o Requiring any "on/off" switch to be given to the children in the "on" or unlocked position at the beginning of the test period.
- o Requiring reporting of both baseline data and monthly import data to assure that the anti-stockpiling provisions are complied with.

Based on national fire loss estimates for 1996, there has been a 32 percent reduction in child-play lighter fires since the effective date of the standard for cigarette lighters. The 1997 fire loss estimates and the results of the evaluation of the CPSC Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters are still in clearance and will be provided to the Subcommittee Chairman as soon as the reports are available.

Discussion of Proposed Changes to the Cigarette Lighter Voluntary Standard (ASTM F 400-97):

The Subcommittee voted to submit the draft proposed changes to ASTM for a concurrent ballot of the full 15.02 Subcommittee and the F15 Committee. The draft includes new definitions for flame, pre-mixing and post-mixing burner lighters, and new instructions and warnings for pre-mixing burner type lighters. Changes are also proposed for both the "General Requirements" and the "Structural Integrity Requirements" and test methods that would accommodate the unique flame characteristics of premixing burner lighters. (A pre-mixing burner lighter produces a hotter and almost invisible flame as a result of mixing fuel and air before being supplied for combustion.) One proposed change in the "General Requirements" is a reduction of maximum flame height for adjustable post-mixing burner lighters from 6 inches to 4.75 inches.

Discussion of Draft Utility Lighter Voluntary Standard:

The Technical Task Group (TTG2) of ASTM F15.02 reviewed the draft provisions of the voluntary safety specification for utility lighters. The draft definition of utility lighter is - "a hand-held, flame-producing device with a manually-operated ignition mechanism, four inches or greater in length when in the fully extended position, employing a fuel as defined in 2.1.9, used primarily to ignite items such as candles, fuel for fireplaces, charcoal or gas-fired grills, camp stoves, lanterns, fuel-fired appliances or devices, and/or pilot lights." Micro-torch lighters would not be covered under this definition. There was considerable discussion about the appropriate maximum flame height for adjustable post-mixing burner utility lighters. The subcommittee voted to include both 4.75 inches and 6 inches for discussion purposes. The CPSC representative pointed out that some of the draft provisions in the section on "Instructions and Warnings" were in direct conflict with the mandatory labeling requirements under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. The members said that the draft warnings were consistent with the voluntary labeling for cigarette lighters and also the ISO guidance. They decided to contact the CPSC Office of Compliance to resolve this issue.

Future Meetings:

There will be an ISO meeting in Paris in the fall of 2000. The Lighter Association, Inc. may meet in Bethesda in the fall of 2000. The next meeting of ASTM Subcommittee F15.02 will be held in the spring of 2001.

ASTM/SC/F15.02
ATTENDANCE LIST

DATE 13 April 2000
PLACE Hilton Head, SC

No.	PLEASE PRINT Last Name-----First Name	Country	Member Observer	Representing
1	Lewiecki, Edward	US	M	Consultant
2	TELSZEWSKY, ANDY	CANADA	M	HEALTH CANADA
3	ADAMS, PAUL	US	M	BIC CORP.
4	KELLEHER, THOMAS	US	M	BIC
5	FRIGIERE, RENE	FRANCE	O	BIC
6	NG, JACK	CANADA	M	UNI-APER
7	CHUNG AMAN	THAILAND		THAI MERRY
8	Hon, Felix	USA	M	Calico Brands Inc
9	JIM WILSON	USA	O	CALICO BRANDS, INC.
10	DIXHARME, ROGER	USA	M	COLIBRI GROUP
11	MATT McLOUGHLIN	USA	M	SWEDISH MATCH
12	Joop KLEYN	NL	O	SWEDISH MATCH.
13	ALFIE HAMILTON	USA	O	THE LIGHTER CO., INC.
14	FRED Assley	USA	M	SCRIPTO
15	ADAM GRABICKI	USA	M	RONSON CORP.
16	GERARD QUINNAN	USA	M	RONSON CORP
17	David Baker	USA	O	Lighter Association, Inc.
18	Thomas E Munkelt	USA	M	ZEMO MFG. CO.
19	MICHAEL A. SCHULER	USA	M	ZIPPO MFG CO
20	MICHAEL REYNOLDS	U.S.A.	M	COLIBRI
21	Pete Ketcham	USA	M	Zippo Mfg Co
22	Barbara Jacobson	USA	O	US Consumer Product Safety Comm
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