LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Toy Industry Conference on Safety Testing, Quality Assurance and Fire Protection

DATE OF MEETING: March 20-27, 1996   PLACE: Guangzhou & Shanghai, China

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Celestine Trainor, ESHF

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COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Celestine Trainor, ESHF and David Schmeltzer, AED Compliance

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: David Miller, TMA; Elizabeth Borrelli, TMA; Ava Slepickoff, TMA; Malcolm Denniss, Hasbro; Craig Bennett, Hasbro; Robert Lee, Hasbro; Karl Wojahn, Mattel; James Walter, Mattel; Diane Bove, Tyco Toys; Rachel Murray, Lewis Galoob Toys; and 500 Chinese toy manufacturers and government officials

SUMMARY OF MEETING

The first day of both seminars focused on toy safety testing. Ms. Trainor and Mr. Schmeltzer participated in two three-day seminars on toy safety in China. The seminars were sponsored by Toy Manufacturers of America (TMA), the State Administration of Commodity Inspection of the People's Republic of China (SACI), and the China National Council of Light Industry, with participation from CPSC. The Shanghai Import & Export Commodity & Inspection Bureau, the Guangdong Import & Export Toys Inspection Centre of China and the Hong Kong Toys Council also helped organize the events.

Mr. Schmeltzer provided an overview of U.S. mandatory toy safety standards. Ms. Trainor presented information about age determinations. Ms. Trainor and Mr. Karl Wojahn, Mattel, also, conducted a demonstration of use and abuse testing for small parts.

The other speakers and demonstration participants dealt with U.S. voluntary standard ASTM F963, sharp points, sharp edges, accessibility, heavy metals, and general testing issues. The seminar ended with questions and answers with all speakers participating.

The speakers for the second day dealt with quality assurance. Specifically, the topics were: the relationship between toy safety standards and quality assurance; building safety into the production cycle; manufacturing and quality control; the science of sampling; management systems: ISO 9000; and what contractors should know about the needs of U.S. importers.

The speakers for third day dealt with fire protection. They spoke of fire safety and industry, avoiding unnecessary losses by applying basic fire protection and control principles, overview of the
toy industry fire protection manual and survey guide, and suggestions on implementation, and the reality of putting principles into practice.

Between the seminars the speakers visited some of the sponsoring government facilities, testing laboratories and toy manufacturing plants.