

LOG OF MEETING

MAY 2 1994

CPSC 3 (b)(1) Cleared

12/12/94
No Hazardous Products Identified
Exempted by _____
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Comments Processed _____

SUBJECT: Meeting of the Consumer Advisory Council (CAC),
Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

DATE OF MEETING: April 18-20, 1994

LOCATION: Wyndham Hamilton Hotel, Itasca, Illinois

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Colin B. Church, CPSC *CBC*

DATE OF ENTRY: April 29, 1994

CPSC ATTENDEE: Colin B. Church,
Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction

NON-CPSC ATTENDEES: See attachment.

HIGHLIGHTS

The UL-CAC was formed to: (1) advise UL in establishing levels of safety for consumer products, (2) provide UL with additional field experience and failure information in the field of product safety, and (3) aid in educating the general public in the limitations and safer use of specific consumer products. The meeting agenda and the Council membership list are attached. Seventy-four consumer product safety issues were discussed (as shown in the attached agenda.) Complete minutes of the meeting and details of discussions on the 74 product safety issues are being prepared by the UL staff and will be made a part of this log upon receipt.

Highlights of the meeting (with issue numbers from the agenda shown parenthetically) and of selected private conversations with attendees follow:

1. Proposed Standards Review and Comment - The UL-CAC members currently receive copies of all proposed UL consumer product standards and all proposed ANSI/UL standards for review and comment. These materials are voluminous. UL will explore ways to decrease the paper burden.
2. Proposed Revision to ANSI Bylaws - Bob Williams, UL's Corporate Manager of Standards, will call Mr. Church to discuss "due process" considerations.
3. NSC Consumer Product Injury Study - Ron Kozoil, National Safety Council, requests NEISS data on the number and severity of injuries by age group. Mr. Church will provide. NSC is finding that 14-25 year olds are most at risk.

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4. Changes in UL's Approach to Product Safety (#12) - The value of UL to manufacturers was implicit and now it has become explicit.
5. Russia - The Department of Commerce (NIST) will send a delegation to Russia in 5/94.
6. UL in Mexico (#22) - UL has opened a Mexico City office. There are 50 NOMs (regulations); NMX = voluntary standards.
7. Microwaves (#14) - Potatoes and popcorn catch fire.
8. Curling Irons (#25) - As of 3/1/95 a new labeling requirement will state "This product can burn eyes" and will warn of potential burns to children.
9. Products with High Injury Rates (#26) - UL unaware of any. Handheld hairdryers and drip type coffeemakers were previously problems.
10. Who Requires IDCI's (#29) - Only UL.
11. Warning Labels (Z535.4) (#30) - UL stated they do not need to use for existing standards, only new ones. [Mr. Church will confirm.] CPSC staff advocates improved consumer recognition of hazards through ubiquitous use of the ANSI Z535.4 standard.
12. Horizontal Standards - Mr. Pearse of Leviton, recommends horizontal standards for elderly, small children, hearing impaired etc.
13. New Products (#34) - Potato bakers, hair dryers over 1600 watts (i.e., 1800 watts), upright vacuum cleaner with attached wand, and shiatsu massager.
14. TV Injuries (#44) - Mr. Church will provide trend data for meeting minutes.
15. ASTM President's Meeting Request - Mr. Thomas is available for courtesy call on Chairman Brown on 4/27 am or 4/29 pm, when he will be visiting Washington, D.C. Mr. Church will check and advise Mr. Thomas.
16. Toddler Beds - President and Chairman of the Board ASTM advised of plans to use new fast track ASTM "provisional" standard process. They think it is a good idea and see no problem.
17. Blind Cords - Mr. Blair will chair new ASTM group if industry concurs. Industry recently advised they wanted to use ANSI process "because it is faster."

18. ASTM F-15 Executive Committee Meeting with Chairman - Ms. Anne Graham to arrange. Mr. Church will check on progress.
19. Electrical Safety Week - UL dinner with CPSC staff 5/3 and news conference 5/4. Mr. Castino will not attend.
20. Consumer Redress in North America - The Better Business Bureau wants to discuss with the CPSC staff and Chairman. Mr. Church will follow up.
21. ANSI/CPSC Regulatory Forum - tentatively scheduled for 7/94. Mr. Spivak continues as Chair.
22. Testing/Certification for Non-Electrical Toys (#49) - UL prepared but industry not interested. UL remains prepared to offer this service.
23. Air Conditioning and Refrigeration - In 1996 R11 and R12 phased out. No drop-in substitute. In UL's opinion, use of propane can be hazardous. R-134a appears to be best substitute. UL sees this as a major challenge.
24. Electromagnetic Fields (#60) - The risk of exposure is uncertain. Major research is taking place. This could be a significant problem in the future. It's too early to tell.
25. CO Detector NFPA Standard/Recommended Practice - NFPA will soon release a draft "Recommended Practice" for placement of CO detectors. If all goes well, this would be accepted at the 5/95 NFPA meeting. Recommended Practice documents are not adopted into model building codes as standards are; however, they may be shown as appendicies to standards and model building codes. This approach is being used due to the uncertainties as to where to put the CO detectors.
26. CO Detector False Alarms (#69) - UL has not been able to reproduce this problem. They are continuing their research.
27. CAC Subcommittees (#73) - The CAC can establish subcommittees but there is not time (per the CAC Chairman) to set one up to review the proposed ANSI Bylaws changes. Mr. Church suggested such a subcommittee be established.

Attachments

COUNCIL MEETING AGENDA

CONSUMER
ADVISORY
COUNCIL

1994
UL
ANNUAL
MEETING

April 18-20, 1994
Wyndham Hamilton Hotel
Itasca, Illinois



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SCOPE AND PURPOSE

of

CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) was formed to establish more meaningful communication with informed consumer interests in the product safety field.

The members of the CAC are drawn from representatives of organized consumer groups throughout the United States, from representatives of large mail-order and department stores who have knowledge of and reflect a close concern for consumers, from representatives of government who have responsibilities involving consumers, from the staff of consumer-oriented magazines, and from home economists, educators, retired individuals, and ultimate consumers of varied backgrounds.

The broad responsibilities of this Council are as follows:

To advise UL in establishing levels of safety for consumer products.

To provide UL with additional user field experience and failure information in the field of product safety.

To aid in educating the general public in the limitations and safer use of specific consumer products.

The CAC is one of the media through which UL disseminates information concerning the detection of new and unusual risks of injury associated with products, and the limitations and restrictions to be exercised in the use of a product to enhance its safety.

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1994

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THIRTEENTH CAC MEETING

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AGENDA

THIRTEENTH CAC MEETING

TUESDAY - APRIL 19, 1994

9:00-10:30 AM - CAC CONVENES - STANFORD ROOM

-----Opening of Meeting

-----Introductions

-----Review of "Schedule of Events"

The following items were submitted by CAC members:

- (1) What is the purpose of the CAC (or any Council)?
- (2) How can the contribution of the CAC be improved?
- (3) What influence does the CAC or any Council have on UL? What does the CAC really do?
- (4) Discuss methods used in obtaining comments and votes on UL Standards for safety.
- (5) There are rather big variations in effective dates for changes in requirements in some standards. A good example is in the recently proposed revisions of the Standard for Household Food Preparing Machines (UL 982). Some of the requirements were to become effective immediately (if review or additional testing of a product is not needed). Some were to be effective in about 18 months (to allow time for needed review and possible retest of currently Listed products). Other requirements were to become effective in about 3-1/2 years (to allow manufacturers to submit modified products for testing and for manufacturers to implement necessary changes in production). If a serious safety problem with a type of product is involved, does it really take so long to make the necessary changes? Do the manufacturers and UL run a risk of litigation from injured parties in the interim?
- (6) Product liability is an issue everywhere. How have standards or other policies been upgraded to help resolve this harbinger?
- (7) How does the American Disabilities Act legislation impact UL Standards?
- (8) Discuss UL's leadership toward metrication. How are the relevant industries moving?
- (9) Discuss the status/latest changes/movement toward metrication in U.S. and the World.

CAC AGENDA - PAGE 2

Tuesday - 9:00-10:30 AM

(10) Will we see mutual recognitions of consumer product safety certifications and UL Listings in the future? If so, between which bi-lateral organizations or countries? How might that affect UL's North American or global business?

(11) What is the status of UL and its standards in the European Community market?

(12) In this anniversary year, a brief review of changes in UL's approach to or role in public protection through standards for product safety and events, movements, government actions, etc. that may have been motivating factors might be useful/interesting. (The array of products for which UL develops standards has, of course, expanded greatly over the years.)

10:30-10:45 AM - COFFEE BREAK - FOYER

10:40 AM - CAC GROUP PHOTOGRAPH

10:45 AM-12:00 NOON - CAC RECONVENES - STANFORD ROOM

(13) With respect to product liability, have there been noticeable changes in the legal climate in recent years -- from UL's viewpoint?

(14) Discuss standardization of power levels of microwave ovens.

(15) Any movement to standardize microwave power wattages, at last?

(16) Update microwave clothes dryer developments.

(17) Are halogen cook tops tested by UL in the same way other cook tops are tested?

(18) Does UL test and approve glass ceramic cook tops?

(19) If a retailer/merchant is informed by the manufacturer about a recall/rework program for a private label product, is it the retailer's/merchant's responsibility to inform a UL office? If so, who?

(20) During our product evaluations, we often find that we cannot verify the UL Listing of a new product, even though that product bears the UL Mark. We have been told that it often takes 4 to 6 weeks to be able to verify a Listing by calling UL's offices. Is anything being done to speed up this process? Several years ago, we were told that UL was developing a computerized system for keeping its listings up-to-date and that it would be quickly accessible by calling. What is the status of that project?

CAC AGENDA - PAGE 3

Tuesday - 10:45 AM-12:00 NOON

(21) On a rare occasion, we fail an item that is UL Listed. Would UL be interested in receiving a copy of our test report? If so, to whom would we address it?

12:00 NOON - 1:30 PM LUNCHEON - ATRIUM

1:30-3:00 PM - CAC RECONVENES - STANFORD ROOM

(22) Now that NAFTA is being implemented, what changes are you seeing in the marketplace concerning product safety?

(23) How has NAFTA affected UL's North American business? Is UL expanding in Mexico?

(24) Provide a status report on the Green Seal eco-labeling program, in which UL is providing the technical support and testing.

(25) Discuss the status of injuries involving curling irons. Are the numbers going down?

(26) What other products involve relatively high injury rates?

(27) Are there indicators that consumer misuse of products is still a major factor causing the increase of product related accidents? Or, are there indicators of manufacturers non-compliance to standards?

(28) What is the status of UL recommendations for the inclusion of GFCIs for the many different types of appliances, tools and equipment?

(29) UL standards for items such as hair dryers, curling irons, etc., require an Immersion Detection Circuit Interrupter (IDCI). To UL's knowledge, which other standards organizations requires IDCIs?

(30) Are standards policies being modified to respond to the aging population trends? (print, fonts, etc. on labels, controls, and instructions; ease of turning controls, handles, etc.)

(31) Is there reason to consider the limitations of elderly and the disabled in designing UL tests? If so, how?

(32) Provide an update on the Canadian Certification Program.

CAC AGENDA - PAGE 4

Tuesday - 1:30-3:00 PM

(33) UL now has a new "Canadian Mark," different than CSA or UL-C. Also, isn't CSA now doing safety certifications and listing in the USA?

(34) Any new products under review now?

3:00-3:15 PM - COFFEE BREAK - FOYER

3:15-5:00 PM - CAC RECONVENES - STANFORD ROOM

(35) Can appliance repair sometimes lead to appliance conditions that would negate UL safety warranted by UL approval on the original design and assembly? Is this a concern?

(36) What changes or trends are there in treadmill and other exercise equipment safety?

(37) Do residential air cleaners really improve air quality?

(38) Please discuss safety standards (or optional safety accessories) for the visually handicapped. (For example - A beeper or annunciator to indicate when a stove [particularly electric] is on or a waffle iron, or any small appliance that heats up or a device to indicate if a space heater is tipped over, in addition to an automatic shut off.)

(39) Has UL considered developing guidelines for optimum or minimum performance temperatures of certain cooking appliances (e.g. minimum brew temperature for coffee, minimum temperature for meat dehydrating, etc.)? Right now only maximum allowed temperatures for the reduction of burn hazard are specified. In some cases an appliance may exhibit a temperature below an expected norm that delivers exceedingly poor performance or possibly even unsafe performance, as is the case with some food dehydrators.

(40) There are a large number of electric espresso/capuccino makers on the market today. We assume that these appliances are currently evaluated under the same standard as ordinary drip coffee makers. Since these products generate steam, has there been any consideration given to safety hazards of steam emissions?

(41) Has UL given consideration to developing noise measurement methods or acceptance standards for household appliances?

(42) Does UL have any plans to offer a telephone number that consumers can call for answers to questions concerning product safety issues?

CAC AGENDA - PAGE 5

Tuesday - 3:15-5:00 PM

- (43) Discuss video game hazards.
- (44) Has the CPSC indicated to UL that there has been a significant reduction of injuries and death caused by TV sets since the completion of the TV standard?
- (45) When the mandatory TV standard was completed, some areas were not covered by volunteer standards. Have these areas now been covered by volunteer standards?
- (46) The last time we went through the UL Labs, a water treatment device certification laboratory was nearing completion. What is its status and what types of products have been certified . . . and what parameters?
- (47) Discuss pressed wood products (formaldehyde).

5:00 PM - ADJOURNMENT

5:45 PM - RECEPTION - ATRIUM

6:30 PM - ANNUAL MEETING BANQUET - GRAND BALLROOM

9:30 PM - BIRTHDAY PARTY - ATRIUM

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 20, 1994

7:00-8:30 AM - BUFFET BREAKFAST - ATRIUM

8:30-10:15 AM - MEMBERS MEETING - GRAND BALLROOM

-----All Council and Corporate Members attend

10:15-10:30 AM - COFFEE BREAK - ATRIUM

10:30 AM-12:30 PM - CAC RECONVENES - STANFORD ROOM

CAC AGENDA - PAGE 6

Wednesday - 10:30 AM-12:00 PM

- (48) Please give an update on lawn mowers/chain saws.
- (49) During the last meeting, it was mentioned that at the request of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), UL developed a testing and certification program for non-electrical toys. Could you bring us up to date on this program?
- (50) Discuss sanitation and detergent dissolvability when dishwashers' thermostat/water temperatures are set at 130 deg. F.
- (51) Provide an update on the sanitation evaluation program for food service equipment.
- (52) Provide an update on CFC replacements.
- (53) Is UL involved in any way in the recovery of refrigerants from refrigerators and air conditioners during equipment repair? If so, how?
- (54) Please give an update on refrigerators (new refrigerant).
- (55) Discuss any involvement with aerosols equipped with hydrocarbon propellants.
- (56) The enclosed article from *Appliance Service News* tells of a problem of an electrical connection and switch which can overheat and possibly ignite. How might UL testing have helped avoid this situation?
- (57) Are there any hazards associated with halogen lamps? Consider high heat and type and level of radiation. Are there any precautions consumers should heed?
- (58) What is the illuminating efficiency of halogen lamps?
- (59) If a nursery lamp which is UL approved and has a clown, or a decorative item, does that mean that the decorative item meets appropriate safety standards or is only the lamp UL approved?

12:30-2:00 PM - RECEPTION/LUNCHEON - GRAND BALLROOM

2:00-4:00 PM - CAC RECONVENES - STANFORD ROOM

- (60) Update the status of research on EMF in consumer products.
- (61) May we have an update on UL's position on the controversy surrounding alleged hazards of EMFs? Is there any current evidence that steps should be taken to lower electromagnetic fields in the home?

Wednesday - 2:00-4:00 PM

- (62) Has UL test protocol changed at all regarding consumer concerns as related to EMFs . . . particularly with small appliances or is this subject too unclear to address?
- (63) What actions is UL carrying out to encourage appliance manufacturers to reduce electric and magnetic fields associated with their appliances?
- (64) Is there anything new since the 1992 meeting on the dangers of electromagnetic fields from electric blankets?
- (65) Discuss the health threat of radiation from cellular telephones.
- (66) Has UL developed a procedure to evaluate Radon detectors . . . or is this a category similar to EMFs?
- (67) Does UL certify carbon dioxide or radon detectors?
- (68) Please give an update on smoke detectors.
- (69) For the past month or so, I have heard some anecdotal discussion on the performance of in-house carbon monoxide detectors . . . either as false alarms or failures. Have you had any experience with the same and what, if anything, has UL done, if so?
- (70) If an item is UL Listed, or approved, does that mean:
- a) that both the item and the packaging must have the UL Mark?
 - b) that the packaging but not necessarily the item must have the UL Mark?
 - c) that the item but not necessarily the packaging must have the UL Mark?
- (71) What is the meaning of an "E" number? If an item has that number and does not have a UL Mark, is that acceptable evidence that the item is UL Listed?
- (72) Is UL working with any eastern European or former USSR states? If so, how is this looking?
- (73) Should the CAC have subcommittees to deal with special problems?
- (74) UL's CAC Chairperson has begun to collaborate more closely with ANSI's Consumer Interest Council; in addition to the stalwart support from UL's Washington & government representative. Can we hope to see that consumer cooperation continues [with the new appointments], and flourish?

4:00 PM - ADJOURNMENT

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Thirteenth Consumer Advisory Council (CAC) Meeting

MONDAY - APRIL 18, 1994

4:00 - 4:30 PM		BUSES LEAVE HOTEL FOR MUSEUM OF SCIENCE & INDUSTRY
5:00 - 10:00 PM	TOUR/RECEPTION/DINNER	
10:00 PM		BUSES DEPART - RETURN TO HOTEL

TUESDAY - APRIL 19, 1994

7:30 - 9:00 AM	PRESIDENT'S BREAKFAST	GRAND BALLROOM
9:00 - 12:00 PM †	CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL CONVENES	STANFORD ROOM
12:00 - 1:30 PM	LUNCH	ATRIUM
1:30 - 5:00 PM †	CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL RECONVENES	STANFORD ROOM
5:45 - 6:30 PM	RECEPTION	ATRIUM
6:30 - 9:30 PM	BANQUET	GRAND BALLROOM
9:30 - 11:00 PM	BIRTHDAY PARTY	ATRIUM

† - Coffee Breaks scheduled for 10:30 AM and 3:00 PM in the Foyer.

WEDNESDAY - APRIL 20, 1994

7:00 - 8:30 AM	BUFFET BREAKFAST	ATRIUM
8:30 - 10:15 AM	MEMBERS MEETING	GRAND BALLROOM
10:15 - 10:30 AM	COFFEE BREAK	ATRIUM
10:30 - 12:30 PM	CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING	STANFORD ROOM
12:30 - 2:00 PM	RECEPTION/LUNCH	GRAND BALLROOM
2:00 - 4:00 PM	CONSUMER ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING	STANFORD ROOM