

LOG OF MEETING
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECTS: Garage door openers, Table saws, Electric heaters, Clothes dryers, Cooktops

DATE OF MEETING: August 11, 2004

PLACE OF MEETING: Bethesda Towers, Bethesda, MD

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Erlinda M. Edwards

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: John Murphy, Caroleene Paul, Randy Butturini, Arthur Lee, Andrew Trotta, Mark Kumagai, Erlinda Edwards

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Joe Musso, UL; Rick Rynkiewicz, UL; Sean Oberle, Product Safety Letter

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Garage Door Operators. The hazards of partially open garage doors and devices that cause unattended motion of garage door operators were discussed. Consensus has not been achieved on recent UL bulletins that address partially open garage doors. UL is planning to start the proposal over in an attempt to look at the issue from a fresh angle; CPSC staff agreed to actively participate in the effort. UL indicated that the STP does not favor unattended motion of garage door operators, and UL indicated that they will not list any of the devices.

Table Saws. UL provided the current status of a ballot for UL 987 *Stationary and Fixed Electric Tools* for a riving knife (an anti-kickback device located behind the blade to prevent the sides of a cut piece of wood from closing and pinching the blade). Comments to the matrix of modified changes (per first round comments) were due by July 30, 2004. Some negative votes were changed to positives, but consensus still has not been achieved. UL is corresponding with those remaining who submitted negative votes; UL feels confident that the ballot will go through.

Mr. Musso will send the current STP member voting status to CPSC. Future matrices will include the commentor's voting record and will indicate whether or not consensus has been achieved.

Electric Heaters. Discussion included an upcoming ballot for revisions to UL 1042 *Electric Baseboard Heating Equipment* and 2021 *Fixed Electric Heaters*. The ballot is expected to include a requirement for a manual-reset temperature-limiting control (TLC) in most applications and better grounding requirements.

CPSC staff stated that the two working groups in the STP (Surface Temperature and Radiant Heat Flux Measurement) have not taken any actions in a number of months. UL indicated that the Surface Temperature Working Group, which was looking at harmonizing surface temperature requirements for both fixed-in-place heaters and portable heaters, was likely to be disbanded due to a lack of consensus that there is a safety issue.

CPSC staff indicated that we had not yet received a response from UL regarding information that was sent to the Radiant Heat Flux Measurement Working Group in March 2004. The information included results of staff testing that could be useful in developing new requirements to replace or supplement current fire indicator tests with quantifiable heat flux measurements to prevent ignition of nearby combustibles. UL will check on the status of that group.

Regarding a new initiative on Arc-Fault Circuit Interrupter/Leakage Current Detection Interrupters (AFCI/LCDI) in fans and cord-connected heaters, UL indicated that Ms C. White of UL will probably arrange a conference call in advance of a meeting at Research Triangle Park, NC to kick off the effort. September-October is the timeframe for the meeting.

Clothes Dryers. UL research testing was discussed. UL has conducted some preliminary analysis of ignition of load contents vs. dryer drum temperatures. They will also be conducting fire containment testing when sufficient samples have been assembled and the testing can be scheduled. There was also discussion regarding spontaneous combustion; CPSC staff tests indicate that the correct combinations required to cause spontaneous combustion can be difficult to achieve. The CPSC staff report on methods to detect abnormal operating conditions in electric clothes dryers is still in the clearance process. The CPSC staff report regarding testing of combustibles on the heater housing and the response of the one-shot thermostat (a safety device designed to prevent thermal runaway) is still in the clearance process.

Cooking Appliances. UL stated that a new working group in Canada, to include the Electric Safety Authority, will be meeting in August to discuss ways to address the fire hazard associated with cooktop fires. UL has already provided some background information regarding CPSC staff tests.

UL indicated that the following standard revisions were planned:

- UL 1082 *Household Electric Coffeemakers and Brewing Type Appliances* – pressure test to include the frothing nozzle
- UL 1026 *Electric Household Cooking and Food Serving Appliances* – handle strength requirements for slow cookers (long-term property evaluations; material specifications)

UL also indicated that, as there are a number of cross-over products (e.g. skillet used as a deep fryer), they will be forming a small discussion group to define types of products (for UL 1083 *Electric Skillets and Frying-Type Appliances*).

UL requested information regarding surface temperatures associated with toaster ovens and the thermal burn hazard. CPSC staff indicated that we had information regarding the potential fire hazard associated with surface temperatures under abnormal operating conditions. We provided some background information regarding the development of a proposal by an STP 1026 *Electric Household Cooking and Food Serving Appliances* working group to require controls to fail safe if the toast "on" activation method is actuated continuously for seven hours.