

icphso update

News and information for members of the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

Second Issue 2004

President's Message

Dear Colleagues,

I am honored to be serving as ICPHSO's president through February 2005. Despite my absence at the 2004 Symposium in Orlando due to family obligations, I am committed to this organization and look forward to a year in which we continue to work towards our common goal.

Feedback from the March Symposium was excellent and I must thank Jeanne Bank who graciously filled in for me as Chair onsite and was a valuable co-chair in the planning; the members of the Planning Committee and ICPHSO Board, plus ICPHSO staff Ross Koeser, Virginia Spitler and Jane Chapman who made it all "happen".

While you were gathered in Orlando considering pool safety and other issues, I was at home, I am proud to report, with newborn twins, Henry and Lucy. And even through the fog of sleep deprivation in those early days, the gravity of my parental responsibility to protect these little ones (and their older sister Nellie) from harm was enough to make me lose whatever-little-sleep-I-might-have-gotten. And, as you might imagine, with "three under three" the challenge of keeping them safe is no small task.

2004-05 promises to be an exciting and busy year for ICPHSO! Details of some of the upcoming activity planned are described in this newsletter. With ICPHSO's committed and strong Board of Directors, the support of ICPHSO staff and the involvement of ICPHSO's growing membership (numbering 343 at the 2004 Symposium!) we have a lot ahead of us. And in a year when life has become considerably more complicated for me – it can seem like a lot to take on.

But oddly enough, the little miracle in my family life, has re-confirmed for me the importance of our work - to ensure safe products and safe environments; sharing safety information and seeking cooperative engagements with others to further that goal. For me, it only takes looking into those little faces to realize the importance of what we are doing. And should I forget, every night I am reminded. Perhaps there are images that inspire you similarly – be it people or places or moments. It may sound trite, but it is why we do what we do.

On behalf of ICPHSO, I look forward to another year of your support (and inspiration!) for this organization – and of our common goal.

Joan Lawrence
2004-05 ICPHSO President
and Vice President, Standards and Regulatory Affairs,
Toy Industry Association, Inc. (TIA)

ICPHSO 2004 - THE BEAT GOES ON

ICPHSO's 11th Annual Meeting and Training Symposium was again, a huge success. For the first time, the symposium evaluation was done through an online survey following the meeting. Some of the comments concerning the symposium follow:

- "Keynotes were great; ranging from strategy (CPSC Chairman Stratton) to Association focus (Mary Ellen Fise) to entertaining (Jack Walsh) to inspiring (Dr. Smith) Great Balance!"
- "Great to have consumer perspective included- this is what makes ICPHSO unique."
- "Enjoyed the comparisons between product safety issues between US, Canada, and Europe throughout the Symposium."
- "Going great - stay the course."

Three hundred forty-three (343) people attended the three and a half day meeting. This number includes the 71 people who only attended the Tuesday Pool and Spa Conference only.

The 2004 Symposium was attended by 29 international members. Eighteen of the international attendees were from non-government agencies; a continuing trend.

Almost 90% of the evaluation respondents rated the quality of the facilities as good to excellent. In addition the timing of the meeting (last week in February - first week in March was also rated good to excellent by almost 90% of the respondents.

The ratio of ICPHSO attendees from the for-profit world 85% and the government/not-for-profit 15% continues to grow. During ICPHSO's formative years the ratio was approximately 60%/40%. Last year the ratio was 75%/25%. Part of this differential can be explained by the lack of state attendees at the 2004 meeting. CPSC, who sponsors the attendance of the state officials, organized regional state training meetings.

Congratulations to Joan Lawrence (TIA), head of the Symposium Planning Committee with much support from Jeanne Bank (CSA) who filled in admirably during Joan's pregnancy, for organizing a highly successful conference.

A huge thank you goes to Past President Bob Waller (JPMA) for his steady hand and management guidance which will pay dividends to ICPHSO for years to come.

THANK YOU TO OUR ICPHSO SPONSORS

Sponsors are critical to the success of ICPHSO and the ICPHSO leadership is pleased to thank and recognize the following companies and organizations for their generous contributions.

Special recognition is in order for our five Gold Sponsors: Barnes & Thornberg, CSA International, Collier Shannon Scott, PLLC, Intertek Group plc, and Specialized Technology Resources, Inc.

Americall Group, Inc.

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Toy Industry Association

XTel Communications, Inc.

ICPHSO COMMITTEES "The Lifeblood of the organization"

ICPHSO Committee Coordinator:
Jack Walsh, Vice President

Committees allow ICPHSO membership the opportunity to participate in the organizations activities. Participation allows members to make contributions to the mission of ICPHSO and to increase ones ownership in the organization. If you are interested in assisting ICPHSO by participating in an ICPHSO committee, please contact Jack Walsh at (925) 314-8130 or jwalsh@DannyFoundation.org. Following is a breakdown of our Committee structure.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

Symposium Planning and Program Committee:

Chair - Jeanne Bank

Purpose: Develop the program and all arrangements for the annual symposium ensuring the program is conducted in a professional manner. Establish metrics and benchmarks for improving our annual conference consistent with current strategic plan.

Membership Committee:

Chair - Don Mays

Purpose: Establish a comprehensive membership development plan with targeted segments for potential growth consistent with current Strategic Plan.

Strategic Planning Committee:

Chair - Denise Pozen

Purpose: Oversee and support current strategic Plan.

Outreach Committee:

Chair - Elaine Tyrrell

Purpose: Provide guidance concerning ICPHSO's Web Site, member profiles and Newsletter. Serves as a clearinghouse for successful consumer information and education efforts.

Events Committee:

Chair - Marc Schoem and Ross Koeser

Purpose: Expand Regional training programs consistent with current Strategic Plan.

Sponsors/Scholarship Committee:

Chair - Michelle Reinen

Purpose: Promote and coordinate annual call to membership to find sponsors for the symposium and scholarships for worthy government and public interest professionals.

From The Editor's Desk

Good news! ICPHSO is planning a one-day seminar in London later this year, probably in October. In recent years the ICPHSO Board of Directors and the International Caucus have discussed this possibility and Marc Dewar, Simons-Simmons, made an offer that we cannot refuse. An ICPHSO meeting outside the USA will broaden our base to the European community and carry our objectives to a mostly new audience.

The purpose of the meeting, in addition to expanding ICPHSO's reach is to present the US product Safety requirements and the EU Product Safety requirements under the revised General Products Safety Directive and draw a comparison between the various enforcement objectives.

This is a "heads up." Details are being worked out as I write. This is truly good news and another milestone in the short but rich history of ICPHSO.

Member News

ICPHSO BOARD WELCOMES TWO NEW MEMBERS

The ICPHSO Board of Directors welcomes an old friend (Marc Schoem) and a new friend (Richard Sieb) to the Board. Board members serve a three year term and may serve an additional consecutive three-year term if nominated and elected. Board members are a key part of ICPHSO and become representatives of the organization in the product safety community. They are advocates for the organization and active in ICPHSO sponsored events. The new members are:

MARC SCHOEM

Director, Recalls and Compliance Division
US Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: (301) 504-7520 Fax: (301) 504-0012
Email: mschoem@cpsc.gov

RICHARD SIEB

Director, Corporate Product Safety
Whirlpool Corporation
2000 M-63 North, MD2200
Benton Harbor, MI 49022
Phone: (269) 923-3289 Fax: (269) 923-3919
Email: Richard_C_Seib@email.whirlpool.com

The ICPHSO Board says goodbye to Stig Hakansson of Sweden. Stig has been active in ICPHSO from the very beginning. Because of Stig's knowledge and flexibility he has been featured on numerous workshops - - sometimes with little notice. All of ICPHSO says "Thank You Stig for a job extremely well done." Stig plans to work part-time while easing into retirement. We see more golf in his future.

OUR BUSY PRESIDENT WILL BE TWICE AS BUSY

So you wonder why you did not see our current president, Joan Lawrence, at our recent Symposium. Now you know. See her new twins pictured below.



Big sister Nellie with Henry Lawrence Cotrupe and Lucy Jane Cotrupe. Born 12/10/03. Henry born at 6:46 pm, 2 lbs 5 oz. Lucy born 6:47pm, 5 lbs, 15 oz.

Congratulations Joan and welcome back!

News Of Interest

CSA INTERNATIONAL PUTS PUBLIC EDUCATION ON THE AGENDA

In mid-January of this year, CSA International joined forces with the Technical Standards & Safety Authority (TSSA), the Fire Marshal Safety Council and Canadian Tire, a major Canadian retailer, to launch a new co-operative public safety program.

Initiated by TSSA, this national campaign also includes the participation of Direct Energy, Energizer Canada Inc., Kidde, and State Farm Insurance. This unique opportunity allows CSA International to join forces with manufacturers and service providers to distribute safety information to consumers while building awareness of, and confidence in, the value of CSA certification marks and the products that bear them.

Through 2004, over 500,000 safety booklets will be distributed by fire department staff at school events, fire department open houses, at Canadian Tire locations, at shopping malls, and at numerous community events.

In addition, there will be several high profile activities this year, including Safety Awareness Day with Toronto Blue Jays - scheduled in July, Fire Safety Week in October, and CO Safety Week in November.

The summer edition of the safety booklet features hundreds of consumer safety tips and is supported by a Web site - <http://www.safetyinfo.ca>. Activity books have been created for children, as well as lesson plans and support materials for elementary school teachers.

For more information on the program, please call Jan Russell-Johns at 416-747-2533 or email to jan.russelljohns@csagroup.org

CSA International is a provider of product testing and certification services for electrical, mechanical, plumbing, gas and a variety of other products. Recognized in Canada, the U.S. and around the world, CSA's marks appear on over one billion products worldwide. CSA International is a division of CSA Group, which consists of CSA International, Canadian Standards Association, a developer of standards and codes, and QMI for management systems registration.

GROWING IMPORTANCE OF TECHNOLOGY IN MANAGEMENT OF PRODUCT RECALLS

Technology has become important component in achieving high levels of product recall effectiveness. As attention is focused on how to increase the effectiveness of recalls, and the efficiency of their operation, technology has a role to play. As consumers become more adept at using technology, notably the computer and access to the Internet, technology is a convenience to product identification and recall registration. Here are four examples of how Americall Group, Inc., and its CRM division (formerly Business Response, Inc./BRI) has been a leader in the inventive use of such technology.

www.regcen.com:

In 1998, AGI launched the first web-based interactive system for registering consumers in product recall programs administered by our firm. The system includes a proprietary site where the public notice of the program is posted, along with instructions for registering for that particular recall. Consumers can register at their own convenience, which has great appeal in today's busy world. Since inception, regcen.com has achieved over 32,000 site visits. AGI's user-friendly web-based system has enabled many thousands of consumers to register for a variety of programs, which we administer. This website was ranked among the best in the country by *INC Magazine*.

Interactive voice response (IVR):

In 2002, AGI introduced a fully automated system for allowing consumers to determine if their products were eligible for product recalls which we administer. Using this proprietary system, a consumer is lead by a series of voice prompts to enter such information as serial numbers, date codes, and other forms of identification. This information is then analyzed by our software system and the consumer is notified on that call whether or not their unit is included in the specific recall program about which they're inquiring.

Barcode identification:

This year AGI has introduced a barcode system that allows consumers return products to be identified and inventoried as an eligible returned product. Consumers with eligible products are sent a shipping label with all information required for return of product. Upon receipt

of the package, the barcode technology enters the return information into the master database for that program, while the appropriate segment of remedy is administered in concert with this product return.

Shared client databases:

AGI has developed a system with our clients which allows us to access a common database so that client company personnel are able to draw down data and reports for their management at the same time that the database is continually updated by AGI personnel who are administering the program. This also facilitates timely reports for any federal agencies overseeing such recall programs.

Each of these technology innovations has served our clients, as well as their customers, in making product recall notification, registration, and remedy a simpler, more efficient process, thereby adding to the effectiveness of programs we administer at AGI.

For more information contact: Don Kornblet, (314) 213-7871, or Matt Schneider, (314) 213-7852.

EUROPEAN COMMISSION IS PUBLISHING SAFETY ALERTS

The European Commission is publishing weekly summaries of alerts it receives from Member States about dangerous consumer products on the Consumer Affairs website at http://europa.eu.int/comm/consumers/cons_safe/prod_safe/gpsd/rapex_en.htm.

The summaries contain a description of the product, the dangers presented by the articles, and the measures adopted by the notifying Member State. These alerts are part of the new requirements under Directive 2001/95/EC relative to general product safety, which became effective on 15 January 2004. The Directive aims at strengthening the European Union's rapid alert system (known as RAPEX, RAPid Exchange of Information) by introducing new obligations for businesses to alert authorities to dangerous products.

CPSC SIGNS COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH CHINESE GOVERNMENT TO IMPROVE SAFETY OF U.S. IMPORTS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the government of the People's Republic of China whereby both sides agree to work together to provide greater protections of the health of consumers in the United States and China.

CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton signed the MOU with Minister Li Changjiang of the General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine of the People's Republic of China during a ceremony at the U.S. Department of Commerce. According to Chairman Stratton, "The signing of this agreement with the government of the People's Republic of China will facilitate a cooperative relationship, one in which we hope to work together to reduce deaths and injuries to

children and consumers both in the United States and in China.”

By formalizing a working relationship between the two governments, the CPSC and AQSIQ have committed to the exchange of scientific, technical, and regulatory information to help ensure the quality, safety and proper labeling of consumer products. The information exchange includes the training of laboratory and inspection personnel in China.

SWITCHING TO THE EURO: STILL HARD TO SWALLOW

BACKGROUND: Injuries resulting from the ingestion of coins by children are common. In this particular study, researchers analyze whether smaller coins impose a greater risk. Evaluation of risk was performed using a natural experiment in Greece with the introduction of the Euro in place of previously used larger coins.

METHOD: Data on inhalation and ingestion events were collected from the European Union injury monitoring process, a network of three representative hospitals in Greece, and a network of five representative hospitals from Denmark, which has not shifted to the Euro system. Data was obtained by specially trained interviewers for each ingestion and inhalation incident. General physical characteristics for the coins were retrieved from the European Central Bank, the National Bank of Denmark, and the National Bank of Greece. For Greece and Denmark, the risk of childhood choking during the three month period from Jan 2002 to March 2002 was obtained.

RESULTS: During the first three months of 2002 the incidence in Denmark was similar to earlier years. In contrast, there was a significant increase of incidents in Greece with the institution of the euro coins as opposed to the drachmas. Using sampling ratios previously calculated, an expectation that over half of the estimated choking / ingestion incidents that occur would not have occurred if not for the change from drachma to euro.

CONCLUSION: The findings from a natural experiment in Greece suggests that the change to Euro, a smaller size coin than the drachma, could very well be responsible for the increase in coin related incidents. These findings can only be used for policy on coin design if they are combined with a future study on the relevancy between coin size and more specific medical measures of injury.

Please note that this particular abstract was created by an individual other than the experts who authorized the particular publication in question and was condensed merely for the purpose of providing a brief overview of an extensive study.

For more information contact Julie Haujakas at www.ram.com.

KANSAS MAN SENTENCED TO 15 MONTHS IN PRISON FOR CONSPIRING TO SELL ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

A Kansas businessman was sentenced today to 15 months in federal prison for conspiring to sell illegal fireworks and for making false statements. He was also permanently banned from manufacturing, importing, or distributing fireworks. Through the investigative work of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the conspiracy was dismantled before any consumers were seriously injured or killed.

U.S. District Court Judge J. Thomas Marten sentenced Gerald Lee Dunnegan, 59, of Wichita, for conspiring to sell highly explosive display fireworks to an out-of-state buyer who had falsified Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) documents and intended to sell the fireworks to consumers. Under federal law, both dealers and out-of-state purchasers must possess a license issued by ATF.

Dunnegan, who pled guilty in October 2003, also was fined \$25,000, sentenced to two years of supervised release, ordered to forfeit over \$400,000 in profits, and is permanently banned from operating a fireworks-related business in the future.

NEW LAWS FOR PRODUCT RECALLS TO ENSURE CONSUMER SAFETY THROUGHOUT THE EUROPEAN UNION UNDER DIRECTIVE 2001/95/EC

Producers and distributors are now legally obligated to inform the authorities if they determine a product they supply is dangerous (a notification form is being developed by European authorities). They also are required to assist the authorities in tracing dangerous products and taking them off the market. If necessary, companies can be required to organize a product recall. Producers have to adopt measures, which will enable them to:

- be informed of risks which the products they supply might pose;
- choose to take appropriate action including, if necessary to avoid these risks, withdrawal from the market, adequately and effectively warning consumers or recall from consumers.

These measures include for example:

- an indication, by means of the product or its packaging, as to the identity and details of the producer and the product reference or, where applicable, the batch of products to which it belongs;
- sample testing of marketed products, investigating and, if necessary, keeping a register of complaints and keeping distributors informed of such monitoring.

Above mentioned requirements are also applicable to products, subjected to specific safety Directives, which do not address these requirements: e.g., toys subjected to Toy Safety Directive 88/378/EEC are also subjected to Directive 2001/95/EC for the notification of dangerous toys and traceability requirements.

**SAFE KIDS CANADA THRILLED BY
GOVERNMENT'S BAN ON BABY WALKERS**
Asks parents to take action and wipe out walkers

Following Health Canada's ban on the sale, importation and advertisement of baby walkers yesterday, Safe Kids Canada, the national injury prevention program of The Hospital for Sick Children, encourages parents and caregivers to dismantle and dispose of their baby walkers immediately.

"We are thrilled that Canada has taken the lead by being the first country in the world to ban baby walkers," says Allyson Hewitt, executive director, Safe Kids Canada. "This new legislation is a wonderful step toward our goal of wiping out walkers completely. Canadian parents should recognize the inherent danger and take action by destroying all walkers, to prevent any more children from being injured by the use of this dangerous product."

A survey released last spring by Safe Kids Canada and Johnson & Johnson showed that nearly one-third (32 per cent) of parents use or have recently used baby walkers with wheels for their young children. Based on survey findings, an estimated half a million baby walkers are currently in Canadian homes.

Approximately 1,000 babies are injured every year while using a walker – nearly three walker injuries every day. Walkers cause more serious injuries than any other children's product. Baby walkers allow children more freedom to move, enabling them to reach hazards more quickly than they could on their own. Eighty-five per cent of walker injuries are a result of a child falling down stairs. Compared to an ordinary fall down stairs, serious head injuries are twice as likely if a child is in a walker. Children also suffer scalds and burns because the walker makes it possible for them to reach hazards in the kitchen that would otherwise be out of reach.

Health Canada's ban prohibits the sale, advertisement and importation of baby walkers in Canada. Modified and second-hand baby walkers are also included in this ban.

"There is no such thing as a safe baby walker and this government decision makes great strides to prevent future injuries to babies," says Hewitt. "We are thankful for the support of more than 300 parents, doctors, public health professionals and community members who wrote to Health Canada to support our call for the ban."

Safe Kids Canada advises that parents permanently dismantle and dispose of all baby walkers by taking the following precautions:

Step #1

Dismantle the baby walker by removing detachable toys, wheels and seats. Cut the seat fabric and crush the wheels. This decreases the likelihood that others will retrieve the baby walkers for resale or for use with their own infants.

Step #2

Contact your municipal waste management and/or recycling companies to determine if they will pick up and dispose of these products. If you put the walker outside for regular garbage pick-up, be sure to dismantle it first.

Safe Kids Canada is the national injury prevention program of The Hospital for Sick Children. The mission of Safe Kids is to prevent injuries by educating the public about injury prevention and by working to create safer environments. Injuries are the leading cause of death and disability among children in Canada.

To learn more about child safety, parents can call-1-888-SAFE-TIPS or visit www.safekidsCanada.ca.

For more information, contact: Lisa Lipkin, Public Affairs
The Hospital for Sick Children, (416) 813-6380
lisa.lipkin@sickkids.ca

Upcoming Events

RAM BASIC SAFETY TRAINING

This program addresses the key issues involved with integrating safety into your business process without interruption. Presented by leading experts in various fields of safety, including international safety attorneys and product testing authorities, the RAM Basic Safety Training program is directed toward anyone involved in the safety business process from concept, design, quality and product engineering through to manufacturing and distribution. The "hands on" instruction is designed to help you realize the competitive advantages of essential safety.

The next RAM Basic Safety Training course will be offered July 12-13 in Hong Kong.

THE ROLE OF WARNINGS AND INSTRUCTIONS

Course Number F631

The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Engineering Professional Development will offer a course, The Role of Warnings and Instructions, September 22 - 24, 2004, in Madison, Wisconsin.

This course will benefit managers, engineers, technical writers, product safety specialists, and others.

Attendees will cover factors useful in evaluating effective warnings and instructions; current legal duty to warn and instruct; recent court interpretations of this duty; how to test and revise warnings and instructions; and resources and techniques available to help write clearer warnings.

For further information contact Richard A. Moll at 608-263-4712, moll@epd.engr.wisc.edu, or visit our website at <http://epdweb.engr.wisc.edu/WEBF631>.