

icphso update

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

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

First Issue 2005

President's Message

ICPHSO Takes it On the Road

2004 will be known as “**The Year ICPHSO Took it On the Road**”. Thanks to massive efforts of Bruce Farquar, Mark Dewar, Miles Alexander, and others, and a generous sponsorship from Simmons & Simmons, ICPHSO held its first event ever outside of the U.S.

Since its foundation, ICPHSO has long been committed to providing a forum for international discussion of consumer product safety issues. The goal of global involvement is regularly discussed by the ICPHSO Board and in ICPHSO's committees. The event, held in London November 11, was the latest – and most visible – of those efforts.

The event was a tremendous success. Attendees from 14 countries totaled 92 in number. (See details of the program and the event covered in this Newsletter.) The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission contributed in the program development and, in doing so, helped create an event that served to open dialogue on consumer safety regulation with their counterparts from other countries and has laid the groundwork for future discussions, including those slated to occur at **ICPHSO's Annual Meeting and Training Symposium in Orlando in February (2/22-25)**.

In fact, a number of topics on the February Program for Orlando will seek to build upon the dialogue that began in London – including specific sessions on **Managing Product Safety on a Global Basis (2/23)**, **Reporting Requirements (2/23)** and **International Enforcement (2/24)** – as well as continuing the ICPHSO tradition of aiming to consider an international perspective in every session!

In addition, as part of the International Caucus meeting to be held on February 23, CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton will formalize a **Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)** for enforcement cooperation with the European Commission. ICPHSO is pleased to provide the forum for this momentous occasion and serve as the conduit for international cooperation.

No doubt that this all marks a new start for ICPHSO's continuing global effort and a new era for consumer product safety. Thanks to all who've participated in ICPHSO efforts thus far and here's hoping that you'll join us for the continuing journey.

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

ICPHSO Meets in London

It all started as an idea from the International caucus and subsequently endorsed by the ICPHSO Board to hold its first meeting outside the United States. The organization went a long way to emphasizing the I in ICPHSO.

The one day meeting was proclaimed by all 92 attendees to be tremendously successful while carrying out ICPHSO's objectives to a new European audience. Fourteen countries were represented at the meeting.



The meeting started with four keynote addresses from the key policy makers in the US, European Union, United Kingdom and Canada. See above from left to right.

- Robert Madelin – Director General of the DG for Health and Consumer Protection of the European Commission
- Hal Stratton – Chairman, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, USA
- Ron Gainsford – Head of Trading Standards Institute, UK
- Marta Caris – Director of the Consumer Product Safety Bureau, Health Canada

It is believed that this was the first time that the leaders of Consumer Product Safety in these countries met.



Ross Koester, ICPHSO Executive Director surrounded by Mark Dewar and Miles Alexander from Simmons and Simmons, Sponsors of the meeting.

Gib Mullan, CPSC General Counsel and Erik Hansson, Deputy Head of Unit, EC Directorate General Health and Consumer Protection provided a side-by-side comparison of CPSC rules and the European General Product Safety Directive (GPSD) rules. Highlights include:

Scope: CPSC jurisdiction involves “consumer product” defined broadly but with many products, such as automobiles and cosmetics, carved out. The GPSD includes any product intended for consumers, including many not under CPSC jurisdiction, such as automobiles.

Definition of Safe Products: CPSC does not have an explicit definition of a “safe product”, while the GPSD does define it in terms of conforming to a member state’s rules, or in their absence, in terms of European standards, national standards, codes of good practice, state of the art and consumer expectations. Mullan noted that despite the lack of an explicit definition. CPSC and Europe practice might not be that far apart. He pointed to the recent reporting settlement by Battat for its toy drumsticks. The sticks did not produce small parts in either third-party or CPSC tests. However, in real life use by children, they did.

Member State Roles: U.S. state laws may or may not be influential in CPSC matters. Mullan noted that jury determinations that products caused injury or death receive “considerable significance.” He also pointed to a recent Connecticut-only toy recall – while CPSC rules bar easy access to small batteries in toys, the state did not like difficult-to-access batteries because that increased the likelihood they would end up in landfills. The GPSD deems products safe if they conform to the rules of member states, but limits the scope of national rules.

Post-Marketing Obligations: CPSC requires no specific duties that are stated in terms of activities such as data collections, but those activities are implied. In Europe, companies must sample products, keep track of complaints and investigate them.

Reporting: CPSC demands Section 15 reports in four defined circumstances; failure to comply with mandatory standards, failure to comply with certain voluntary standards; presence of a defect that creates a “substantial product hazard,” and presence of an “unreasonable risk.” The GPSD obliges companies to report when they know or should know that products fail to meet the definition of “safe”.

Reporting Not Required: Retailers are exempted if they have “actual knowledge” that CPSC is adequately informed. The GPSD exempts companies from reporting if they successfully take immediate corrective action on all products involved, among other exemptions.

Number of Products: For CPSC, the number of products in commerce can be a factor in whether a product is a substantial hazard and thus should be reported, but is not conclusive by itself. In Europe, the number of products is not a factor in whether to report.

Retailer Obligations: In the U.S., their statutory obligations are the same as manufacturers and importers, although they have provisions for simpler Section 15 reports such as just phone calls or copies to CPSC of reports to the manufacturer. They also are exempted from reporting if they have “actual knowledge” that CPSC is adequately informed, but “actual knowledge” has a high standard. In Europe, retailers’ obligations are secondary to manufacturers’.

Private Lawsuits: Companies must report to CPSC under Section 37 if they lose three cases involving the same product within two calendar years. The GPSD does not address them.

Who Gets Reports: CPSC gets them in the U.S. National authorities get them in Europe.

Reporting Time Limits: Companies report to CPSC “immediately,” which the agency interprets as within 24 hours. CPSC presumes a report received by a company reaches the responsible person within five days. Companies have 10 days to investigate incidents. In Europe firms must report as soon as they have “notifiable information,” with 10 days to investigate.

After Reporting: In the U.S., firms can chose fast-track recall or await a CPSC investigation. In Europe, firms take actions such as withdrawal from the market, warning to consumers or recall from consumers. National authorities monitor the actions and intervene only if necessary.

Sanctions: CPSC penalties are at \$7,000 per item and up to a maximum of \$1.65 million for a series of violations. That number increased January 1, 2005. The GPSD obliges member nations to establish “proportionate and dissuasive” penalties.

Confidentiality: CPSC keeps information in reports confidential until investigations are complete. Trade secrets remain confidential. Europe releases risk information except when there are trade secrets or when release would hamper an investigation.



From left to right: Marta Caris, Director Consumer Product Safety Bureau, Canada; Joe Mohorovic, CPSC; Stig Hakinsson, PROSAFE; Bruce Farquhar, Consultant, Canada.

Thanks and kudo's to Bruce Farquhar, Product Safety Consultant from Canada for moderating the meeting and to Mark Dewar and Miles Alexander, Simmons and Simmons for hosting the event.

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From The Editor's Desk

I live in Maryland. It is cold and snow is on the ground. But then, it's January. The trees and plants are resting but not the birds. I look outside my window at my bird feeder. I see beautiful birds perfectly displayed in a background of white. So many varieties and colors: cardinals, blue jays, juncos, chickadees, wrens, warblers, woodpeckers, and nuthatches, just to name a few. Oh yes, and the robins that forgot to fly South. The birds uplift my spirits - - especially in the Winter.

There is something else that lifts my spirits and it is this: PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS ARE COMING TO ICPHSO AND WANT TO BE A PART OF OUR ORGANIZATION.

Yes, product safety professionals WANT to be involved with ICPHSO. They are asking to be on our Board of Directors; they want to be speakers at the Annual Symposium; they want to exhibit; they want to attend our meeting; they want to sponsor meetings outside of the USA; they want to be part of an organization that has no hidden agenda, is fair and sets the table for product safety worldwide.

Many, many thanks to all volunteers that make ICPHSO special and beautiful - - just like the birds.

Member News

CPSC Top Staff Changes

CPSC Chief of Staff James Fuller left the commission for the same position at the Transportation Security Administration.

General Counsel Gib Mullan has been named Director, Office of Compliance. He will continue as General Counsel until a replacement is found.

Jeffrey Trout, Special Assistant to Hal Stratton has been assigned to the Office of Compliance.

Page Faulk has been named Acting Chief of Staff for the Chairman. She will also retain her duties of Senior Counsel to Chairman Stratton.

Ken Giles, with over 30 years of distinguished service, retired from Public Affairs in January.

Clinical Knowledge and Corporate Research Unite

Mr. Gene Rider, president and founder of RAM, and long time member and supporter of ICPHSO, has been inducted to the Board of Directors for The Society of Ear, Nose and Throat Advances in Children, Inc., (SENTAC).

With a membership of more than 300 leading research and teaching health care professionals including otolaryngologists, pediatricians, surgeons, speech pathologists, audiologists, nurses, and scientific researchers, SENTAC provides a unique forum for the expansion and pursuit of innovative clinical knowledge and research conducted by health care providers and scientists. This non-profit professional organization was founded in 1973 to continually update the science and practice of medicine, surgery, and rehabilitation as it relates to the diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, and throat areas of infants and children. SENTAC thrives to improve the quality of care administered to children, foster research and technological advances involving ear, nose, and throat ailments, and encourage scientific partnerships among professionals from related disciplines.

Mr. Gene Rider works closely with the medical community to develop ground-breaking technologies for assessing the safety risks posed by consumer products. Mr. Gene Rider has achieved influential status as a leading force in injury prevention and is truly honored to be appointed on the Board of Directors for SENTAC.

David Pittle Retires

Dr. R. David Pittle has retired from his post as Senior Vice-President for Technical Policy at Consumers Union, the nonprofit publisher of Consumer Reports, on January 14, 2005. Dr. Pittle has dedicated his career to advancing the consumer interest through fairness and balance in the marketplace, with a special emphasis on reducing death and injury from the use of unsafe consumer products.

“The strength of Consumers Union’s unique core values, the rightness of our mission, and the dedication and competence of our terrific staff have given me immense satisfaction and pride over what we have accomplished,” Dr. Pittle said in announcing his retirement to CU staff last October. “Having the opportunity to contribute to CU’s mission has been one of the major highlights of my life. I could almost imagine doing this job forever.”

“Consumers Union has been extremely fortunate to have a safety pioneer, untiring advocate, and distinguished leader like David Pittle,” said Jim Guest, the president of Consumers Union. “In his more than 22 years of service, he came to embody the organization’s mission of protecting and empowering consumers through scientific and expert information while zealously safeguarding our independence from commercial interests and partisan politics. David’s dedication to improving the quality of the American marketplace, most notably his tireless efforts to reduce the number of deaths and injuries associated with vehicle rollovers, has been an inspiration. No one could ever replace him. But CU is determined to defend and advance his legacy – protecting consumers from unsafe products by keeping a focus squarely on unreasonably dangerous designs – which will continue to play an integral role in all our work.”

Many people will remember David Pittle as one of the original five Commissioners of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. President Nixon selected him in 1973 and he was later re-appointed. A favorite of CPSC staff he stood for safety through engineering and consumer involvement.

Dr. Pittle has received a number of awards, including the Consumer Federation of America’s Philip Hart Public Service Award, the Margaret Dana Award from the American Society for Testing and Materials, and the Federal Executive Board’s Award for Outstanding Public Service in Consumer Protection for his leadership of the Alliance for Consumer Protection, a large citizen-action consumer group in Pittsburgh, PA.

News Of Interest

JPMA Certification Program – Quality, Safety, and Functionality

The Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association, Inc. (JPMA) is a national trade association, comprised of companies that manufacture and/or import a variety of infant products, from cribs and car seats to bedding and children’s accessories. Since 1962, JPMA has existed to advance the interests, growth, and well-being of the juvenile products industry. At its inception, JPMA consisted of 29 industry companies. Today, its membership includes more than 400 manufacturers in the United States, Canada and Mexico, representing 95 percent of the \$6.02 billion juvenile products industry.

For more than 20 years, JPMA’s Certification Program has helped guide retailers and consumers toward smarter, safer juvenile product purchases. The Certification Program, established by JPMA, consists of voluntary standards developed by ASTM International.

Participation in the program requires that the product be subjected to a battery of rigorous testing. Once a product passes laboratory testing, it is then marked with the distinctive JPMA Certification Seal – ensuring consumers that the product was built with the highest safety standards in mind. The JPMA Certified Seal on a product’s packaging provides parents and caregivers with added assurance that the product exceeds the traditional standards of quality, safety, and functionality.

JPMA certified products include:

- Bassinets & Cradles
- Bath Seats
- Carriages
- Strollers
- Full Size Cribs
- Non-Full Size Cribs
- Play Yards
- Gates & Enclosures
- Hand Held Infant Carriers
- High Chairs
- Infant Bouncers
- Infant Swings
- Portable hook on chairs
- Portable bed rails
- Stationary Activity Centers
- Toddler Beds
- Soft Infant Carriers
- Walkers

JPMA’s Certification Program is continuing to grow, expanding to include changing tables as of February, 2005. For a copy of the ASTM standards, call

ASTM at 610-832-9500 and request a copy of F2388-04 Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Changing Tables.

For more information on the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association, contact JPMA Headquarters: 15000 Commerce Parkway, Suite C, Mount Laurel, New Jersey 08054; Phone: (856) 638-0420; Fax: (856) 439-0525; Email: jpma@ahint.com, or visit the website at www.jpma.org.

CPSC Invites Comments on Voluntary Standards Program

CPSC launched two pilot programs to invite public comments on product safety voluntary standards positions and research reports. CPSC published a notice in today's Federal Register asking the public to comment on proposed staff positions on voluntary standards and on staff and contractor research reports. CPSC wants to open staff activities for public review and comment, making the agency more transparent and obtaining public input before CPSC staff positions are finalized.

CPSC staff members participate, as non-voting members, in a number of steps in the voluntary standards development process. Staffers often provide expert advice and research, technical assistance, and injury and death data and analysis. CPSC staff will typically submit recommendations concerning new consumer product safety standards or modification of existing voluntary standards. These recommendations are often based on previous CPSC research.

At present, CPSC staff is involved in over 60 consumer product voluntary standards. For this pilot effort, CPSC selected eight voluntary standards. These include: smoke alarms, arc-fault circuit interrupters, ground fault circuit interrupters, pool and spa safety vacuum-release systems, bunk beds, gasoline containers for child-resistance, portable generators, and garage door and gate operators. A new area of the CPSC Web site, www.cpsc.gov/volstd/standards.html, invites public comment on newly developed staff recommendations before they are submitted for consideration to voluntary standards organizations.

In addition, CPSC invites public comments on staff and contractor research reports. At a new area of the CPSC Web site, www.cpsc.gov/volstd/research/research.html, five reports are posted for public comment. These reports address electric clothes dryers, sound effectiveness of smoke alarms, paper shredder machines, fire indicators, and concentric-ring smooth-top range sensors. CPSC staff will assess and take account of public comments on these reports.

This new pilot program will operate for six months, after which CPSC will make a judgment about extending or modifying the program.

For more on the pilots, contact Lowell Martin, Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, (301) 504-7628, lmartin@cpsc.gov or see the October 18 *Federal Register*.

CPSC to Sign Cooperative Safety Agreement with the EC at ICPHSO Annual Meeting

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Health and Consumer Protection Division of the European Commission (EC) plan to enter into a working agreement at ICPHSO.

CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton and Director General Robert Madelin from the EC will sign a Memorandum of Understanding at a ceremony to be held February 23rd at 4:00pm during the International Caucus meeting.

This agreement will strengthen the ties between the two organizations while providing the framework and impetus for improving the respective consumer health and safety programs.

The MOU with the EC is one of several that CPSC has negotiated in recent months with representatives of foreign governments. CPSC also has formal working relationships with Chinese, Taiwanese and Costa Rican authorities. The goal of these MOUs is to heighten awareness of the global aspect of consumer product health and safety issues and to foster the exchange of information that will help reduce the incidence of death and injuries associated with consumer products.

All attendees at the ICPHSO Annual meeting are invited to attend the signing.

Kitchen Scalds and Thermal Burns in Children Five and Younger

Dorothy Drago's article, "Kitchen Scalds and Thermal Burns in Children Five and Younger," appears in the January issue of *Pediatrics* (2005; 115(1):10-16). The study examined emergency room data of thermal burns and scalds associated with non-electric cookware collected by the U.S. Consumer Product and Safety Commission's injury surveillance system from 1997-2002. According to the data, scalds were approximately twice as common as thermal burns and resulted in significantly more hospitalizations. Thermal burns are heat-caused, usually by contact with a hot surface. Scalds are also heat-caused, but the source is usually a hot liquid or steam rather than a hot surface. The two

most common ways scald injuries occurred were (1) the child reached up and pulled a pot of hot water off the stove or other elevated surface, and (2) the child grabbed, overturned or spilled a container of hot water onto him- or herself. One-year-olds were at highest risk for scalds and burns and more boys than girls suffered scald and burn injuries. The author asserts that there is an apparent failure on the part of parents to recognize children's ability to gain access to hot items and liquids in the kitchen and a failure to recognize the potential severity of resulting injury.

CPSC's Congressional Subcommittees See Little Change

Barring extensive committee reassignments, CPSC will see familiar faces in the congressional subcommittees that oversee it. One change, although already known, is the retirement of Sen. Peter Fitzgerald (R-Ill.), who was chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs and Product Safety. Elsewhere on the Senate panel, the two Democrats won their elections: Sen. Ron Wyden (D-Ore., ranking) defeated Al King ®, Savid Brownlow (Constitution), Dan Fitzgerald (Libertarian), and Teresa Keane (Green) while Sen. Byron Dorgan (D-N.D.) defeated Mike Liffrig ®. Sen. Conrad Burns (R-Mont.) and Gen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) were not up for re-election.

Meanwhile, in the House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection, no incumbents lost their seats (although two did not run).

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Intertek's ETL Listed Safety Certification Mark Now Accepted by all Major North American Retailers

Intertek Group, plc recently announced that all major North American retailers now accept products that have been tested and certified by Intertek and consequently, bear the ETL Listed Mark. Consumer product manufacturers now have a choice in safety certification marks. The list of top selling retailers that now accept ETL Listed products includes but is not limited to:

- Best Buy
- Circuit City
- IKEA
- JCPenney
- Lowe's
- Radio Shack
- Sam's Club
- Sears
- Target
- Wal-Mart

"Total retail acceptance of the ETL Listed Mark benefits manufactures and retailers alike," said Donald Mays, vice president of retail and consumer product services, Intertek. "It gives manufacturers the option to choose the safety certification agency to best meet their needs for quick service and global market entry. On the other hand, retailers have a choice in product safety marks, which broadens access to more products for their retail shelves".

The ETL Listed Mark is a proprietary Intertek certification mark indicating that a product meets the minimum requirements of widely accepted product safety standards. Compliance to these standards is determined through independent testing by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL). Intertek is a recognized NRTL by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and is a SCC-accredited Testing Organization and Certification Body. These credentials allow Intertek to test and certify products to North American product safety standards.

However, Intertek is not new to the safety certification industry. In fact, "ETL" has been around for over 100 years. In 1896, the original Electrical Testing Labs (ETL) was founded by Thomas Alva Edison to address concerns of lamp safety and performance issues. Edison's vision was to provide assurance to consumers, through various types of product performance and safety tests. The basic principles of Edison's third-party lamp testing methods remain the same today.

From coffee makers to chemical processing equipment to treadmills, Intertek has helped thousands of manufacturers get their products to the North American marketplace months before their competition. In fact, Intertek's consumer products customer base, including Sunbeam, The Holmes Group, Helen-of-Troy, Conair, Hunter Fan and more, is growing by more than 25% per year.

For more information on the ETL Listed Mark and Intertek visit www.intertek-etlsemko.com.

CPSC Votes to Propose Fire Safety Standard for Mattresses and to Initiate Rulemaking for Bedclothes

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted to issue a proposed safety standard to reduce deaths and injuries from fires involving mattresses. The proposed standard for mattresses addresses fires ignited by an open flame. CPSC also voted to issue an advance notice or proposed rulemaking to develop a separate safety standard to address bedclothes (such as blankets, comforters, and pillows) flammability.

"This is a significant step toward reducing deaths and injuries from mattress fires," said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton. "This is a top priority at CPSC. Voting for this proposed mattress standard means we are pretty far down the road toward a final standard."

CPSC Commissioner Thomas Moore added, "This proposed standard will lead to mattresses that are a dramatic improvement, in terms of fire resistance and lives saved, over most mattresses currently on the market."

The proposed mattress standard will be published in the *Federal Register*, requesting public comment for a period of 75 days. An opportunity for oral testimony will also be scheduled.

Stockholm Manifesto Targets Child Injuries

The Stockholm Manifesto, released January 10, 2005 calls on companies to apply design-for-safety practices to all levels of product development. The document is the product of a September 2004 workshop on child injury prevention involving delegates from 18 European nations, and the European Child Safety Alliance is shepherding it. The paper also seeks more transparency in pre-market safety tests and accident reports, as well as work towards worldwide standard harmonization and balanced representation among all stakeholders in the development of safety regulations and standards. Broadly, the document has these goals: better injury data, more leadership and commitment to child injury prevention, and cooperation among all stakeholders. It also lists recommendations for the roles of the World Health Organization, European Commission, European Union member states and non-governmental organizations. The manifesto is available at [www.childsafetyeurope.org/csi/ecsa.nsf/index/injurythemes/\\$file/StockholmManifesto.pdf](http://www.childsafetyeurope.org/csi/ecsa.nsf/index/injurythemes/$file/StockholmManifesto.pdf).

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CPSC Votes to Start Development of Mandatory Standard for Cigarette Lighters

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted unanimously (2-0) to start development of a mandatory safety standard for cigarette lighters. The mandatory standard could be based on the current voluntary standard "Consumer Safety Specification for Lighters" (ASTM F-400) to prevent mechanical malfunction of lighters.

"Reducing fire deaths is one of our top priorities," said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton. "A mandatory standard for cigarette lighters – along with

standards for the flammability of mattresses and upholstered furniture – would help reduce fires, deaths, and injuries."

There are approximately one billion cigarette lighters sold in the U.S. annually. About 400 million of those are imported from China. From 1997 through 2002, CPSC estimated that 3,015 people went to hospital emergency rooms for injuries resulting from malfunctioning lighters. Most of these injuries involved thermal burns to the face, hands, and fingers. For the same time period, CPSC received 256 incident reports related to cigarette lighter malfunctions and failures; 65 percent of these cigarette lighter failures resulted in fires, leading to 3 deaths and 6 serious injuries.

The voluntary standard for lighters addresses the risk of fire, death, and injury associated with mechanical malfunction of lighters. A mandatory standard would apply to imported as well as domestically-manufactured products.

Knowledge Portal Unveiled at ICPSHO Annual Meeting

RAM is honored to participate in the 12th Annual ICPSHO Meeting and Training Symposium on February 22 – 25, 2005 at The Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, FL. Anyone interested in learning more about the RAM^{es} Knowledge Portal is welcome to stop by the RAM booth any time during the duration of the show. RAM will be conducting demos and customized searches for all inquiring attendees.

Come experience the RAM^{es} Knowledge Portal - your online gateway to the most comprehensive, up-to-date, and easy to use injury and fatality data ever compiled.

Polyurethane Foam Association Members Successfully Phase Out PentaBDE Flame Retardant Additives

Polyurethane Foam Association (PFA) manufacturing members report an almost total phase out of the use of pentabrominateddiphenylether-based (pentaBDE) flame retardant additives in the manufacturing of foam grades for use in home furnishings cushioning applications. OctaBDE additives are not used in the manufacturing of flexible polyurethane foam.

The announcement was made after almost two years of conversion work on the part of PFA's manufacturing members and their suppliers of combustion modification additives.

For more than 25 years, pentaBDE additives have been the predominate fire retardant used to help meet the requirements of the Calif. TB117 upholstered furniture flammability standard. TB117 does not apply to mattresses.

Currently, fire retardant additives are not required in mattress products. The new California mattress flammability standards (Calif. TB603) that became effective January 1, 2005 requires that finished mattresses be ignition and combustion resistant, but it does not require that mattress components, including foam, perform in a specific manner. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recently announced intent to mandate a similar national mattress flammability standard.

The manufacturing members of the Polyurethane Foam Association produce about 70% of all flexible polyurethane foam used in the United States.

Coming Events

Save the Date for Drowning Prevention Symposium

The 4th Annual National Drowning Prevention Symposium, to be held April 28-29, 2005 at the Hyatt Regency in Austin, Texas. This is the first symposium officially under the banner of the National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA), and the host organization is the Central Texas Water Safety Coalition.

For further information contact
www.drowningprevention.info.

Product Safety Training

RAM is offering a **Product Safety Training** program that addresses the key issues involved with integrating safety into your business process. The next RAM Product Safety Training courses being offered are:

March 15 – 16, 2005 in Chicago

March 30 – 31, 2005 in London

May 10 – 11, 2005 in Hong Kong

To learn more about the course and register online, please visit www.ramestraining.com.

The Role of Warnings and Instructions

March 9-11, 2005

University of Wisconsin Madison

Madison, Wisconsin

Contact: 800-462-0876 or 608-262-1299 (TDD 265-2370)

custserv@epd.engr.wisc.edu

ICPHSO 13th Annual Meeting and Training Symposium

May 10 -12, 2006

Bethesda Hyatt

Bethesda, MD 20814