

icphso update

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

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

Third Issue 2006

President's Message

Something for Everyone

The mission of ICPHSO is to provide AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR INDIVIDUALS DEDICATED TO PRODUCT SAFETY.

Whether it's Belgium in November, Florida in Feb., China in May, this growing organization with the funny sounding acronym lives up to its mandate to provide multi-stakeholder forums for learning and information sharing.

ICPHSO is unique in that it brings together all the key players in product safety: regulators, retailers, manufacturers, consumers, lawyers, standards and testing organizations and researchers to share information and best practices.

Over the past 13 years, ICPHSO has grown to be a truly international organization. This year the symposium in Bethesda drew over 450 people from all over the world. ICPHSO is fortunate to be able to attract international experts to serve on its Board and Committees. Regulators have always attended ICPHSO's conferences, but in recent years the business and retail membership has grown rapidly and 3rd party suppliers (lawyers, testing labs and consultants) are becoming increasingly involved, recognizing tangible benefits of participation.

Yes, there are opportunities for everyone to become involved. The Board consists of a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 20 members and there are 5 Committees (Strategic Planning, Symposium, Membership, Outreach/Events, Sponsors and Scholarships) and 2 Caucuses (International, State and Local). You will soon receive your invitation to register for the 14th Annual Symposium to be held in Orlando, Feb. 26-March 1st. You will also be receiving information on our 1st China Conference to be held in May 2007.

I encourage you to seize one of the many opportunities available to you to become involved with ICPHSO. Consult our web site (www.ICPHSO.org) for more information. ICPHSO provides the forum. You provide the input and energy. Conferences, workshops,

Symposiums, Board, Committees, Caucuses; there is a place for you. See you in Orlando.

Jack Walsh
President

ICPHSO Highlights

We're Back to Florida

With a highly successful meeting completed in Brussels and the China Symposium coming up in May, going back to Florida seems pretty routine. But wait. Let's check out the Program. On Monday, February 26, 2007, we continue our International theme and we are calling it International Day. A special handout will be available at this meeting - "A Quick Reference Guide of Reporting Requirements and Recalls," by Country. You will not want to miss out on this. In addition you will get updates on the Bethesda Declaration, The Brussels Symposium, a report from the International Product Safety Committee, and plans for future International activities. This will be followed by updates on:

- Prosafes Market Surveillance Project
- EU's Electronic Notification Program
- CPSC's International Program
- Canada's Legislative Review

In the afternoon there will be "hosted" round table informal discussions held concurrently by international regions. Tables will be placed around the perimeter of the room and all participants will be encouraged to display informational material from their country.

The next day (CPSC Day) by popular demand we will be offering a split session: A course for first time attendees and an update on current CPSC rules and regulations issues.

After these two split meetings, all attendees will get together for an in-depth discussion on various CPSC initiatives.

In the afternoon, six researchers will discuss recently published findings relating to either specific risks/injuries and/or consumer behavior associated with product-related injuries.

The always popular ABA Consumer Product Law Seminar will highlight the Wednesday morning program. Workshops and round tables complete the 3 1/2 day program. They include:

- New Standards Initiatives from ISO COPOLCO
- Fighting Counterfeit Products with New Policies, Technology and Government/Industry Partnerships
- Risk Management of Consumer Products
- "Product safety: warnings and instructions. Cultural differences and challenges for effective safety communication"
- Gettin' Your Ducks in A Row (a discussion on recalls)
- Nanotechnology and its implications for Consumer Products
- Compliance with International Restrictions of Hazardous Substances (RoHS) Directives
- Consumer Safety Education/Communication
- Role of ICPHSO in Building Positive Relationships between Consumers, Manufacturers, and Retailers.

Nancy Nord, Acting Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, heads a strong list of Keynote Speakers including Rick Hackman, Procter and Gamble, and Dr. Joseph Chiaro, M.D. from the Florida Department of Health.

ICPHSO Going to China

ICPHSO has plans to hold its 4th International meeting (outside the US) in Beijing, China. The dates are May 21 & 22, 2007.

This Symposium is unique as it is ICPHSO's first meeting in China and the first in Asia. It will bring together participants from China, Japan, US, EU and Canada, half of whom will be Chinese manufacturers, regulators and legislators thereby giving an unprecedented access to the key stakeholders in the design, manufacture and regulation of Chinese consumer products. The particular goods that will be focused on are: electrical goods, toys and household products.

As you know ICPHSO Symposiums have successfully widened the diaspora to the EU having held Symposiums in London and Arnhem. This step is the most exciting to date as it takes our forum to the very heart of consumer goods manufacturing: China!

ICPHSO has already found 4 premier sponsors to help support this effort. The four sponsors are:

- Canadian Standards Association International
- Marsh Risk Consulting
- Bureau Veritas
- Toy Industry Association

As more details are finalized concerning this meeting you will find them at www.icphso.org.

Member News

Honors to Jeanne Bank

Jeanne Bank, Past President of ICPHSO, has recently switched roles at the Canadian Standards Association. She has been promoted to Program Manager for Occupational Health and Safety and Mechanical Industrial Equipment for CSA. Jeanne's expertise and dedication to public safety and stakeholder engagement will be a good fit with one of the most important areas of standards work -- improving the safety of workers and workplaces.



As the Manager of the Consumer Program at CSA for 12 years, Jeanne established a world-recognized program for consumer and public involvement in standards work. She is a leader in consumer policy at the national and international level, and was awarded in September, 2006 with the Standards Council of Canada's Award of Excellence for her contribution to standards development in September 2006.

CPSC Signs Cooperative Agreement with Japan to Improve Consumer Product Safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced the signing of Guidelines for Information Exchange and Administrative Cooperation with the Japanese government to improve the safety of consumer products in the U.S. and Japan.

CPSC's Acting Chairman Nancy Nord and President Makoto Misono of National Institute of Technology and Evaluation (NITE) signed the agreement at the ICPHSO conference in Brussels, Belgium.

The agreement calls for an exchange of information between the two countries on consumer product safety issues, the development of training programs dealing with consumer product safety, and an

exchange of safety professionals to carry out consumer safety programs.

Consumer Union Launches Product Safety Blog

This September, Consumers Union announced its new Public Safety blog. Consumer Reports on Safety Blog Writers will be ICPHSO Board member Don Mays, Consumer Union's senior public safety and consumer sciences director along with Caroline Mayer, former consumer reporter with the Washington Post. Topics include consumer products, food, and vehicles.

ICPHSO Member Dick Moll's Wife Pat Passed Away

We recently learned that Pat Moll passed away last spring. Pat accompanied Dick at many of our Florida conferences. On June 26, 2005, they celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. Pat will best be remembered for her warmth, gentle manner, upbeat personality, and thoughtfulness for others. For over 40 years, Pat was not only a homemaker but spent many hours as president and executive for Dick's Product Safety Consulting business.

Former CPSC Director of Compliance Partners with Stericycle expertRECALL

Long time ICPHSO member, David Schmeltzer, has joined forces with Stericycle expertRECALL, an industry leader in delivering effective and compliant recall management consulting and execution services for consumer products.

In 1973, Dave joined the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission as Assistant General Counsel and later served as Deputy General Counsel where he shaped the rule-making activities for the newly formed commission. For the following 20 years, he played a vital role as Director of Compliance which included supervising the enforcement of the commission's regulations, monitoring defective products' investigations and assessing civil penalties for violations of the CPSC's laws and regulations.

Dave was one of the founding members of ICPHSO and co-chaired its Recall Effectiveness Committee and its International Caucus.

Dave will be a valuable asset to Stericycle clients as he assists them in complying with CPSC regulations and compliance issues.

For more information about Stericycle go to: www.stericycle.com.

The I continues to grow. The I stands for International in ICPHSO.

One of the main criticism of ICPHSO has been that it lacked an international focus – program content, speakers, Board members, etc. Not any more. Let's briefly look at how the organization has changed.

In the last three years ICPHSO has held meetings in London, The Netherlands, Brussels and in May 2007 we will be in China. The China Symposium will bring key participants from Japan, European Union, Canada, US and of course China. Half the audience will be Chinese manufacturers and regulators.

Hey, our last President was from Canada, three Board members are from the UK, Netherlands and Canada. IKEA is on the Board and The Toro representative's office is in France.

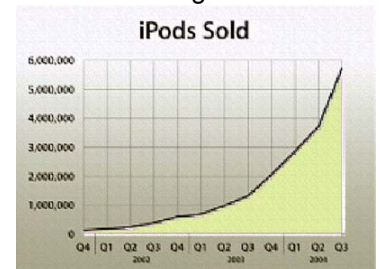
All workshop moderators are instructed to provide an international focus if possible together with international speakers. The International Caucus is more active than ever and the beat goes on.

Certainly our work is not finished. We have not scratched the surface in Central and South America as well as Africa. But we are definitely heading in the right direction.

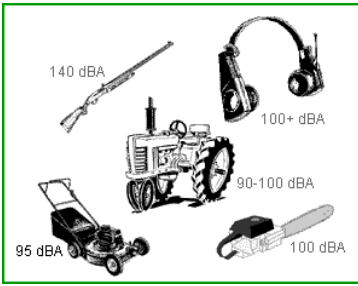
News Of Interest

What is Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL)?

New research shows that excessive noise exposure is one of the leading causes of hearing loss among children 1 thru 10 years of age. Exposure to noises such as fireworks, power tools, and loud music can significantly damage the hair cells in the inner ear. This damage causes permanent hearing loss. There may be greater potential for damage to children from speakers that go directly into the ear canal as opposed to speakers that rest on the outside of the ear. Since the damage is painless and cumulative over time, the total effects may not be felt until one has reached adulthood. In a study conducted in 2001, 12.5% of children in the U.S. alone (ie 5.2 million) were estimated to have Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL) in one or both ears.



From The Editor's Desk



NIHL is preventable by identifying noise hazards, understanding how continual noise can deteriorate your hearing, being aware of what is “too loud” / “too dangerous” to be exposed to, and last but not definitely not least, by

using protective devices when sounds climb too high on the decibel charts – ie. are obviously hazardous to your health. Intertek Risk Assessment & Management (RAM) is working on a solution for NIHL by collaborating with external medical resources to conduct a study on how much loud and excessive noises effect children’s hearing (otherwise known as a child’s temporary threshold shift). A child’s temporary threshold shift is a silent precursor to NIHL.

Once all actions involved in the study are approved by the Ethics Review Board (ERB) of each hospital Intertek works in collaboration with, Intertek will measure the average decibel range of 100 children ranging in age from 1 to 10 years old. After this first measurement is made, Intertek will divide the group of children into two even groups of 50. One of the groups will be exposed to music and a variety of sounds from a speaker directly placed in the ear canal (ie. as a majority of ear buds are designed today) and the remaining group will be exposed to music and loud sounds from headphones that are placed on the outside of the ears. After a significant amount of time has passed all 100 children’s decibel rate at which they hear will be measured again. The comparison of both measurements for each child will help Intertek determine whether or not these products are indeed potential agents of NIHL.

The results of this particular study can then be shared with various manufacturers and other interested parties. By doing so, consumer conscious companies that value both their brand value and reputation as well as the essential safety and well being of their customers, can make products which do not cause NIHL in the future.

According to Ries (1994), Benson (1995), et. al., the number of Americans with hearing loss has doubled during the past 30 years.

For more information contact: Olivia Rios, Risk Assessment & Management, 630-623-2385.

NEMA Denounces ‘REACH’ Amendments; Promotes RoHS Work

The U.S. National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) October 27 joined its European counterpart, Orgalim, in issuing strong criticism of the Eu’s latest effort on REACH. The groups said they are especially concerned about proposed requirements related to “homogenous material” like plastic or glass, which they said could require companies to file declarations “for every such material when products are imported into Europe.” They noted that some companies deal with hundreds or thousands of materials annually.

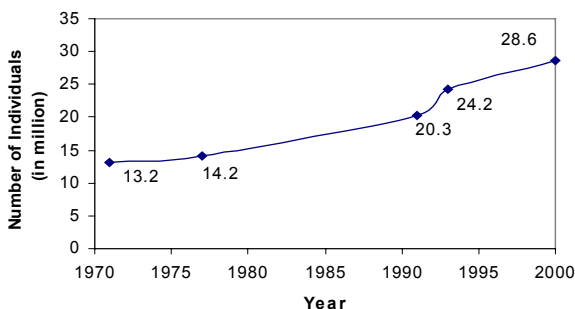
Meanwhile, NEMA October 27 announced a two-phase effort for its members to limit hazardous materials in electrical products. Phase one is based on the EU’s RoHS Directive (Restriction of Hazardous Substances), and NEMA said that while members typically are meeting RoHS requirements in Europe, the goal is to meet them worldwide by July 2010. Phase two targets limitations of hazardous materials in products not covered by the RoHS Directive by July 2014. The group said the plan “removes the need for policymakers to impose design restrictions on the electrical products industry.”

The European Parliament last month voted to toughen REACH and the EU is urging companies to start preparing for the regulations now. REACH stands for Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals. It would require pre-market safety and health evaluation of about 30,000 chemicals, including many in consumer products.

EU Parliament Approves PFOS Restrictions

The European Parliament October 25 adopted a proposal in enact strict limits on the use of perfluorooctane sulfanates (PFOS). The body accepted a July recommendation for limits of 0.005% for substances of constituents of preparations and 0.1% in most products except textiles or coating materials. The limit for those will be 1µg/m². The substance mostly sees primary to promote grease-, oil- and water-resistance in consumer products like textiles, carpets, leathers and paper. It also has uses in chromium plating, photography, photolithography, fire-fighting foams and aviation hydraulics. However, it is deemed a persistent and bioaccumulative toxin among other

Hearing Loss Statistics in US



problems such as possibly contributing to the greenhouse effect.

The restrictions will come under Annex XVII of REACH (Registration, Evaluation and Authorization of Chemicals), an in-the-works EU program to require pre-market safety and health evaluation of about 30,000 chemicals, including many found in consumer products. The European Parliament earlier this month voted to strengthen REACH provisions.

EU and China Reach Toy Deal

The EU Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General (DG-Anco) and China's Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ) September 19 signed a *Roadmap for Safer Toys*. The effort will focus on improving the safety of Chinese imports, with emphasis on training, technical assistance, exchange of RAPEX information, as well as tracing, feedback and follow-up efforts on dangerous products.. The EU pointed out that about 25% of RAPEX notices involve toys, with about 85% of the problematic toys coming from China.

EU Seeks Feedback on Nanotech Safety in Cosmetics

The EU Scientific Committee on Consumer Products (SCCP) seeks comments by December 15 on the safety of nanotech used in cosmetic products. Among information it would like to see are peer-reviewed research done since 2000, data on safety evaluations obtained since 2000, and "other publicly available, reliable scientific information that may not be easily available and which is directly relevant to this issue." Send comments to sanco-sc6-secretariat@ec.europa.eu. For more information on the request, see ec.europa.eu/health/ph_risk/committees/04_sccp/doc/a/sccp_nano_en.pdf.

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Who Won or Lost on CPSC's Congressional Subcommittees

The following show how the November 7 election affected members of the congressional subcommittees with CPSC oversight. Incumbents are first. Winners or those otherwise remaining in office are underlined. In races with three or more candidates, only the closest loser is shown.

Senate Subcommittee on Consumer Affairs, Product Safety and Insurance

Republicans

- George Allen (R-Va), outgoing chair, lost to James Webb (D)
- Conrad Burns (R-Mont) lost to Joe Tester (D)
- Jim DeMint (R-SC) was not up for reelection
- Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) was not up for reelection
- David Vitter (R-La) was not up for reelection

Democrats

- David Pryor (D-Ark), ranking, was not up for reelection, and is in line to be chairman
- Barbara Boxer (D-Calif) was not up for reelection
- Daniel Inoué (D-Hawaii) was not up for reelection

House Subcommittee on Commerce, Trade and Consumer Protection

Republicans

- Cliff Stens (R-Fla), outgoing chair, beat David Bruderly (D)
- Fred Upton (R-Mich) beat Kim Clark (D)
- Nathan Deal (R-Ga) beat John Bradbury (D)
- Barbara Cubin (R-Wyo) beat Gary Trauner (D)
- George Radanovich (R-Calif) beat TJ Cox (D)
- Charles Bass (R-NH) lost to Paul Hodes (D)
- Joseph Pitts (R-Pa) beat Lois Herr (D)
- Mary Bono (R-Calif) beat David Roth (D)
- Lee Terry (R-Neb) beat Jim Esch (D)
- Mike Ferguson (R-NJ) beat Linda Stender (D)
- Mike Rogers (R-Mich) beat Greg Pierce (D)
- Butch Otter (R-Idaho), elected Governor, replaced by Bill Sali (R) over Larry Grant (D)
- Sue Myrick (R-NC) beat Bill Glass (D)
- Tim Murphy (R-PA) beat Chad Kluko (D)
- Marsha Blackburn (R-Tenn) beat Bill Morrison (D)
- Joe Barton (R-Texas) beat David Harris (D)

Democrats

- Jan Schakowsky (D-Ill), ranking, beat Michael Shannon (R), and is in line to become chairman
- Mike Ross (D-Ark) beat Joe Ross (R)
- Edward Markey (D-Mass) won, unopposed
- Edolphus Towns (D-NY) beat Jonathan Anderson (R)
- Sherrod Brown (D-Ohio), elected Senator, replaced by Betty Sutton (D) over Craig Foltin (R)
- Bobby Rush (D-Ill) beat Jason Tabour (R)
- Gene Green (D-Texas) beat Eric Story (R)
- Ted Strickland (D-Ohio), elected Governor, replaced by Charlie Wilson (D) over Chuck Blasdel (R)
- Diana DeGette (D-Colo) beat Tom Kelly (R)

- Jim David (D-Fla), lost run for governor, replaced by Kathy Castor (D) over Eddie Adams (R)
- Charles Gonzalez (D-Texas) beat Michael Idrogo (L)
- Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis) beat Dave Magnum (R)
- John Dingell (D-Mich) defeated Aimee Smith (G)

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ICPHSO 14th Annual Meeting and Training Symposium

February 26 – March 1, 2007

The Rosen Centre Hotel

Orlando, Florida

Check our website for details, www.icphso.org

2007 National Drowning Prevention Symposium

April 25-26, 2007

Phoenix, AZ

For more information go to

www.drowningpreventionalliance.com

Kristin Goffman, NDPA Administrator

Coming Events
