

icphso update

News and information from and for members of the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization
www.icphso.org

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

First Issue 2006

President's Message

Dear Members,

At a time when many member-based organizations are facing declines in membership, I am pleased to report that ICPHSO continues to grow. Our goal is to make ICPHSO the world's pre-eminent forum on consumer product safety issues. If you were in Arnhem, Netherlands in November you know for yourself what a success our 2nd European Seminar was. I would like to express my sincere thanks to our principal sponsor, KEMA who provided outstanding conference support, our able and entertaining Chair, Bruce Farquhar, and our speakers and roundtable moderators who helped to make the day a huge success. It was definitely worth the drive to Arnhem and many of us developed some new skills in navigating the Dutch railway system. I am pleased to report that building on the success of our two seminars in Europe, plans are now underway for a 3rd event in Brussels in November, 2006.

Holding the European seminar was one of our key objectives, but we are also working on a number of other strategies and I am truly amazed and gratified by the contributions of the Board, our Committees and our dedicated staff. Since I don't have enough space to report on everything ICPHSO is doing as an organization, I will just give you an idea of the range of some of the other projects reported at our recent Board meeting:

- * Our Symposium Planning Committee is putting the final details in place for our first ever Annual Conference in the Washington, DC area
- * Sponsorships are on target for the Annual Symposium
- * A comprehensive action plan was approved for our international expansion
- * Board members will be introducing ICPHSO to key regulators and stakeholders at an upcoming International Council of Toy Industries Conference in China
- * A revitalized Membership Committee will be developing tactics to expand and diversify our member program
- * Revised bylaws will be presented to the Board for approval at the May Board meeting and proposals for a name change are being studied by the Board

- * We are taking a conservative, sustainable approach to our finances so that we can continue to grow our activities and services
- * We are working with an expert to develop guidelines for new partnerships and sponsorship options
- * We are looking at ways to increase our marketing and communication activities, through the website and other vehicles

To find out how you can get involved in one or more of these initiatives, send us an email at: icphso@aol.com and we will connect you with the right people.

See you in Bethesda!

Jeanne Bank
ICPHSO President, 2005/06
Canadian Standards Association

Second ICPHSO European Meeting and Training Symposium



Pictured left to right: Robert Madelin, EC; Bruce Farquhar, Symposium Chair (ICPHSO), Ge Zhirong, Peoples Republic of China; Hal Stratton, Chairman, CPSC

ICPHSO recently held its second European Meeting and Training Symposium in Arnhem in the Netherlands. The theme of the meeting was ensuring consumer product safety in a global marketplace. The meeting attracted 101 delegates from 22 countries around the world. Most notably the meeting brought together for probably the first time government

representatives from China together with their colleagues from the European Union, the United States and Canada to discuss consumer product safety issues. Interest was also shown in the meeting by the governments of Japan, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. The distinguished speakers in the plenary sessions underlined their commitment to consumer product safety and the value they found in participating in ICPHSO.

In the afternoon the delegates had to choose two workshops to attend from the four offered. This was a difficult choice with subjects such as recall, supplier liability, testing and conformity assessment and a hazard/risk-based approach to safety being addressed in the workshops.

The European Union and China also took the opportunity presented by the ICPHSO event to unveil the new memorandum of understanding they were due to sign the following day in Brussels. The MoU sets out to further improve co-operation between the EU and China on product safety enforcement.

Presentations from the meeting are posted on ICPHSO's website and the Board is actively considering how to follow-up the meeting at ICPHSO's Bethesda meeting and beyond.

Evaluation Survey on 2nd European Meeting

- 86% of respondents rated the overall value as good to excellent.
- 72% indicated that they were very likely to attend future ICPHSO events in Europe.
- 31% said they were very likely to attend the Bethesda Conference.
- The plenary sessions in the morning received very good ratings – 80% rating them good to excellent.
- All the afternoon workshops received high ratings – none received a rating below good. The recall workshop received the highest rating with 52% rating it as excellent.

Mark Your Calendar

May 9-12, 2006

ICPHSO Annual Meeting and Training Symposium
Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, MD

Sponsorship Opportunities contact Michelle Reinen,
Chair, Sponsorship Committee at: 608-224-4988 or by
email at Michelle.Reinen@datcp.state.wi.us

For detailed information concerning the meeting go to
www.icphso.org

Register before April 7, 2006 to avoid a late fee.

From The Editor's Desk

I remember the story of a young man, 29 years old, who was appointed President of a bank. The promotion was beyond his wildest dreams and he went to the Chairman and asked how he could be a great bank president.

The chairman said "Make Right Decisions". The young man asked if the chairman could be more specific. The wise chairman answered, "Experience".

Exasperated, the young President said, "that's why I'm here, I don't have experience – how do I get experience".

"Wrong decisions" came the chairman's reply.

So as ICPHSO starts its 13th year we as an organization have, no doubt, made our share of mistakes and wrong decisions. But the organization has "hung in there" and survived and gained valuable experience.

Today ICPHSO is a vibrant organization with record attendance and membership. Many of us believe the best is yet to come. I always get a smile on my face when I meet some of the people that started ICPHSO and are still active like Mike Brown, Alan Korn and Elizabeth Nielsen. We look at each other and think, "Who would have thought".

Ross Koeser
Executive Director, ICPHSO

Member News

EU and China Finalize MOU



Pictured left to right: Ge Zhirong, China; Robert Madelin, EC; Bruce Farquhar, ICPHSO

EU and Chinese officials finalized a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate on product safety issues. Initial priorities will include providing China with information from Europe's rapid alert systems, including RAPEX on consumer products, and providing training to Chinese on EU product safety requirements. The MOU finalization occurred during the

visit to China by EU Health and Consumer Protection (DGSANCO) Commissioner Markos Kyprianou, who signed it along with his counterpart Minister Li Changjiang of the Agency for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine (AQSIQ). A signing ceremony was celebrated at the ICPHSO conference as pictured above.

ICPHSO Members Working on Shared Values Declaration

ICPHSO is developing a declaration to be presented at the upcoming meeting in Bethesda. The principal purpose of the declaration is to build on the momentum built up at the Arnhem meeting and provide further impetus to closer international regulatory co-operation on the one hand between regulatory authorities and on the other hand between regulatory authorities and their stakeholders. The statement would recognize the role that ICPHSO can play in promoting open dialogue between regulatory authorities and their stakeholders.

The declaration is intended to be a non-legal and will be presented as a consensus position of the conference. There will be opportunities to contribute to the drafting of this statement before and during the Conference. For more information on this process, watch the website at www.ipchso.org.

Catherine H. Pilarz Begins Term on ASTM International Board of Directors

Catherine (Kitty) H. Pilarz, director of Mattel worldwide product safety for Fisher-Price in East Aurora, NY, has begun a term as a member of the ASTM International Board of Directors.

Pilarz served as symposium chair for the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization, and as president and board member of ICPHSO.

Pilarz chairs ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products, a group of about 800 professionals from industry, government, and academia who work on 40 technical subcommittees. She also leads the F15 group on play yards and participates in the work of many F15 standards developing subcommittees.

At Fisher-Price, which designs, manufactures and markets toys and family products sold more than 150 nations around the world, in a position she has held since 2001, Pilarz is responsible for the safety of the Mattel and Fisher-Price product lines, assuring that all products conform to corporate safety requirements. She is also chair of the Fisher-Price Safety Committee, which audits new products to assure safety and conformity to standards and provides technical direction for product development related to safety issues. Pilarz also develops safety standards and policy for her firm.

Pilarz is vice chair of the Juvenile Product Manufacturers Association Certification Committee, which oversees the JPMA certification program, a mechanism whereby independent laboratory testing validates a baby and toddler product manufacturer's certification of compliance with ASTM International safety standards. In addition, Pilarz is a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the American Society for Quality Control. Through ASQC, she has earned the designations of certified reliability engineer (1993) and certified quality engineer (1986). She works on a number of committees responsible for juvenile product safety standards for the American National Standards Institute and Underwriters Laboratories.

Former CPSC Commissioner Ann Graham Dies

Anne Graham, 55, who served as a commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission from 1986 to 1991 and a former White House aide in the Reagan administration, died of throat cancer Dec. 26 at her home in Rehoboth Beach, DE.

During her tenure, Ms. Graham advocated industry and consumer cooperation as an approach to achieve product safety standards, most notably in the effort to ban the sale of three-wheel all-terrain vehicles.

Ms. Graham left the Consumer Product Safety Commission in 1991 and worked a few years as chairman of the Consumer Products Committee of the American Society for Testing and Materials in West Conshohocken, PA.

A former Arlington resident, Ms. Graham lived off and on for the past five years in Rehoboth Beach, where she was a reporter and food columnist for the Cape Gazette newspaper.

New Hire at Marsh

Marsh's Global Product Recall and Product Liability Practice has added a new team member in the UK. Jeremy Moore joined Marsh UK to provide local on-site professional consulting services for clients encountering a product recall, product tampering, product contamination, product safety or liability issue. Jeremy has played an important role in assisting some of the world's largest manufacturing and consumer companies in re-aligning their recall strategy. Jeremy can be contacted at + (44-207) 357-2825 or Jeremy.Moore@marsh.com.

Shuster Laboratories Announces ISO 9001:2000 Certification

Shuster Laboratories, Inc. is pleased to announce that its quality management system has achieved compliance with ISO 9001:2000. Companies that are certified to the ISO 9001:2000 standard undergo

rigorous independent auditing process to ensure that the processes influencing their quality conform to ISO's high quality standard.

ISO 9001:2000 is an internationally accepted quality management certification system to define, identify, and confirm quality benchmarks within organizations. Not only is ISO certification often required for companies that do business internationally or with the federal government, but it demonstrates to customers that they have made a fundamental commitment to quality management systems in their businesses.

Shuster Laboratories, an STR Company, provides R&D and quality assurance testing services to the consumer packaged goods industries, including food, pharmaceuticals, dietary supplements, personal care products, and household products. For more information, please contact Tricia Baressi at tricia@shusterlabs.com

STR U.S. Launches New Website

Specialized Technology Resources, Inc. (STR) is pleased to announce the launch of their new web site. The current site provides our clients and visitors with easy access to valuable information on STR's global quality, safety and compliance services. STR's industry expertise and core services, including QA testing, product inspections, factory audits, product development, corporate social responsibility, UL regulatory & plastics/rubber testing, and ISO 9001/AS9100 registration, are featured on the site. Specific project requests can be submitted to STR using the information request form available throughout the site. We invite you to visit www.strlab.com to learn more about STR and our family of companies.

News Of Interest

EU Regulatory Simplification

The European Commission issued a three-year plan to simplify more than 1,400 regulatory laws. Options for the targeted laws, including 222 basic legislations plus related legal acts, include repeal, recasting, codification and modification. Work initially will focus on highly regulated areas such as cars, wastes and construction, but eventually will move to other areas, including some consumer products. For example, 45 directives that currently regulate cosmetics could be combined into one simplified directive. As well, the effort seeks to create more reliance on "co-regulation" by third parties. Further, the report deems the issuance of actual regulations, as opposed to directives, to be simpler because they assure quicker and more even application. The report is available at europa.eu.int/comm/enterprise/regulation/better_regulation/docs/simpli_en.pdf.

CPSC Plan to Improve Safety of Products from China Recommends JPMA Certification Program

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff has recently highlighted the advantages of the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA) certification program for juvenile products as a means of verifying that products have been tested to ensure conformance to both voluntary and consensus safety standards applicable to juvenile products. The recommendation of certification of products to the JPMA certification program was highlighted in CPSC's plan for improving the safety of products imported from China. This *International Consumer Product Safety Program Plan-China*, has been the subject of extensive discussions between the CPSC and Chinese government officials. The plan was developed because Chinese imports into the U.S. overwhelmingly exceed imports of consumer products from any other country. The CPSC has advised manufacturers and retailer representatives in China to "take advantage of various product certification programs associated with certain industries, such as ...the Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association for juvenile products."

This is significant recognition that the JPMA certification program is a viable way to demonstrate reasonable compliance to applicable mandatory and consensus safety standards. Recently, in recognition of the effectiveness of such standards, the CPSC's Director of the Office of Compliance, John Gibson Mullan, has written (December 13, 2005) to all manufacturers, importers and retailers of baby walkers urging them to make certain that all baby walkers manufactured, imported and sold in the United States comply with all applicable federal requirements and consensus safety standards, including ASTM F977- Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Infant Walkers. In urging such compliance, it was noted that CPSC Office of Compliance staff considered baby walkers that do not meet such standard to be defective and to present a substantial risk of injury to children under Section 15 of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA). It was noted that should the staff encounter such products, they would seek a recall of the products from the marketplace.

These actions represent growing recognition of the effectiveness of consensus safety standards in addressing potential hazards to children. Since the implementation of the ASTM walker standard, injuries related to falls down stairs in walkers have declined almost 75%. These recent developments provide further evidence that participation in the Association-promoted Certification Program is an effective, efficient way to demonstrate reasonable efforts at ensuring compliance to applicable safety standards for juvenile products. Retailers, in turn, can rely on such certification as evidence of compliance to applicable standards and avoid unnecessary, burdensome testing which increases product costs to consumers.

Industry Advances in Candle Safety

Candles are used in 7 out of 10 U.S. households, and retail sales are estimated at \$2 billion annually. Votives, container candles, and pillars, are currently the most popular types of candles with American consumers. Candles are largely used as decorative items in consumer's homes. The National Candle Association works diligently to inform consumers of the dangers of misusing candles. The following voluntary standards have been adopted over the last several years by the candles industry to promote quality and safety.

ASTM F 2058- Adopted 2000: "Standard Specification for Cautionary Labeling for Candles Burned at Home" This standard outlines the minimum warning suggested to inform the consumer about the correct way to use candles. The following warnings should appear on all candles:

- WARNING
- Keep burning candle within sight
- Keep out of reach of children and pets
- Never burn a candle on or near anything that can catch fire

This standard is up for reevaluation in 2006.

ASTM F 2179- Adopted 2002: "Standard Specification for Annealed Soda-Lime-Silicate Glass Containers That Are Produced for Use as Candle Containers." This standard protects the consumers by insuring that glass used is safe for use as a candle container.

ASTM F-2417- Adopted 2004: "Standard Specification for Fire Safety for Candles." This standard establishes maximum flame height, stability limits, secondary ignition restrictions, and end-of-useful life requirements.

There are also two additional task groups currently working on standards related to candle safety.

Candle Container Temperature Task Force –
The goal of this group is to provide a standard for certain candles to help ensure a reasonable degree of safety for normal use. This group is looking at a variety of current standards from the U.S. and abroad related to the temperatures of heated surfaces that consumers may come in contact with.

Fire Safety for Candle Accessories Task Force –
The goal of this group is provide a standard that will minimize the occurrence of fires, and injuries related to candle accessories. A thorough investigation of all current standards and a comparison test between materials and suppliers has been conducted.

The candle industry is committed to providing their consumers with high quality and safe candles for their homes.

For more information contact Martha Tremblay-Cohen at MTremblayCohen@BeautyAvenues.com.

Pacifier Use: Promoting a New Recommendation on Reducing the Risk of SIDS

Epidemiological studies have shown that while Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) cannot be prevented, modifications to an infant's sleep environment can reduce an infant's risk of SIDS. These modifications include back sleeping, elimination of soft bedding, sleeping in cribs and not inappropriate sleep surfaces and the elimination of tobacco exposure.

Since 1993, epidemiological studies have shown that pacifiers are protective against SIDS for infants. Researchers and the public health community have considered recommending the use of pacifiers to further reduce the risk of SIDS. However, until recently, they have been reluctant to do so due to valid concerns that arise with pacifier usage. Pacifier usage has been associated with interfering with breastfeeding, increasing incidence of acute otitis media infections and the development of dental problems.

The National SIDS and Infant Death Program Support Center, a program of First Candle/SIDS Alliance, believes that recommending the use of pacifiers as an additional measure to reduce the risk of SIDS is appropriate at this time for several reasons:

1. The American Academy of Pediatrics' (AAP) Task Force on Sudden Infant Death Syndrome recently published their revised risk reduction recommendations which now include use of a pacifier.
2. The National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) has adopted the AAP's policy statement on reducing the risk of SIDS. NICHD is working to incorporate the new risk-reduction messages into all *Back to Sleep* campaign materials.
3. Epidemiological research continues to indicate that pacifiers reduce the risk of SIDS.
4. The U.S. SIDS rate is no longer declining and in the most recent data, the rate has slightly increased.
5. The concerns related to the use of a pacifier (such as interference with breastfeeding, dental malocclusion, acute otitis media and pacifier safety) can be appropriately managed or addressed.

NSIDPSC supports the adoption of the AAP's recommendations on pacifier use as a SIDS risk reduction measure. The AAP recommendations are as follows:

- Offer a pacifier at nap time and bedtime. Do not force an infant to use a pacifier. Do not reinsert a pacifier after the infant falls asleep.
- Pacifiers should not be coated in any sweet solutions.
- For breastfed babies, the pacifier should be delayed until 1 month of age to ensure that breastfeeding is firmly established.

Older Consumer Safety

Adults 65 and older are a rapidly growing segment of the U.S. population. Yet the older-adult population is one that is commonly overlooked in consumer product design, and more importantly, in consumer product safety. The successful and safe use of a consumer product is highly dependent on the extent to which the user has the capabilities necessary to meet the demands that the product places on the consumer. Age-related deficits in sensory, cognitive, or physical abilities can, therefore, negatively impact consumer product safety. The staff of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) initiated a project in 2005 to examine consumer product safety issues associated with older adults. This report is the culmination of the first phase of this project: to develop a comprehensive profile of older adults in terms of attributes relevant to consumer product interactions. Specifically, the staff performed a literature review to identify changes or differences associated with adult aging that might affect an individual's ability to successfully interact with a product. As detailed in this report, older adults' sensory systems generally become less sensitive, making them less capable than the young of perceiving information. Age related declines in muscle strength and motor coordination limit the extent to which older adults are capable of performing actions that may be necessary to use a product or to avoid a hazard. Adult aging is also associated with deficits in cognitive skills that require rapid, flexible thinking about novel or unfamiliar situations. This report also discusses product- or environment-related interventions that are likely to compensate for these age-related differences.

On Tuesday, May 9, 2006 at our Bethesda Conference, ICPHSO will be presenting a ½ day program related to this issue.

For more information concerning this article contact: Timothy P. Smith, Engineering Psychologist
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CPSC Meeting Logs Available Electronically

CPSC has added meeting logs to its website. Found in the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) Electronic Reading Room section of the site. CPSC staff is required under 16 CFR 1013.5 to prepare logs of most meetings, and paper versions always have been available from the Secretary's Office. Availability can lag due to the agency's information clearance rules. The FOIA/Electronic Reading Room is at www.cpsc.gov/library/foia/foia.html.

CPSC Signs MOU with Mexican Government

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission announced an agreement with the Mexican government aimed at further improving consumer safety and making both the United States and Mexican marketplaces among the safest in the world. This agreement is also part of the "Security and Prosperity Partnership" between the U.S., Mexico, and Canada.

The agreement calls for both agencies to work toward reducing product-related deaths and injuries in both countries, by exchanging information about product recalls, violations of federal safety laws, and enforcement actions. In addition, CPSC and Profeco will share scientific data, information on emerging hazards, safety research, hazard reduction strategies and notification of changes in product safety laws. The agreement also calls for both agencies to share inspection and laboratory test results, when appropriate.

Mexico is an important trading partner and producer of consumer products under CPSC jurisdiction. It is the second biggest exporter of consumer products to the United States, after China. In 2004, according to the U.S. International Trade Commission, 10.7 percent of all imports of products under CPSC's jurisdiction came from Mexico and were valued at \$55.2 billion – an 80 percent increase since 1997.

Coming Events

Risk and Insurance Meeting Society's (RIMS) Annual Conference, April 25, 2006

Hawaii

How Best to Manage a Product Recall Workshop

For more information about this conference contact Kathy Hill at (214) 303-8595 or Kathy.Hill@marsh.com.

You can also find information at www.marshproductrecall.com.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), July 18-19 will hold a conference on US competitiveness and global standards at NIST in Gaithersburg, MD. More information is forthcoming on ANSI's website.

RAM Product Safety Training

Unsafe products impose both a risk to company reputation and clientele. By implementing essential product safety in the first stages of design, you can better foster corporate innovation, drive market productivity, and secure consumer trust.

RAM Product Safety Training courses are being offered:

March 1 – 2, 2006 in London

March 27 – 28, 2006 in Hong Kong

We encourage you and your colleagues to learn more about this course, the instructors, and how to register online by visiting our website at www.ramestraining.com.

Mark your Calendar
ICPHSO's
Third European Meeting

November 29 & 30, 2006
Brussels, Belgium

Details to Follow