

CPSA 6/15/98
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MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

SUBJECT: Meeting to Discuss Flammable Vapor Ignition
Resistance Test Method Proposed by Arthur D. Little
to the ANSI Z21 Water Heater Subcommittee

PLACE: Arthur D. Little, Inc., 20 Acorn Park, Cambridge MA

MEETING DATE: July 9, 1998

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Donald W. Switzer *DWS*

ENTRY DATE: July 20, 1998

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Donald W. Switzer ES

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

See attached attendance sheet

MEETING SUMMARY

Arthur D. Little (ADL) has proposed a test method to the ANSI Z21 Water Heater Subcommittee to address the hazard of flammable vapor ignition. ADL invited all subcommittee member to the meeting and gave the attached presentation.

Also at the meeting, American Water Heater Company discussed the their belief that the ADL proposed method is needed to be sure that water heaters are adequately tested against vapor ignition. In one prototype test series with a gasoline spill test method, American had a behave inconsistently between two tests. In neither case, however, were vapors in the room ignited.

CPSC staff was asked whether it prefers the gasoline spill test method or the butane chamber test method proposed by ADL. Staff responded that either tests would greatly reduce the likelihood of ignition in a home. Staff stated that it's position was that it was more important to get an adequate test method in place now, rather that delay adoption of a test method while it is fine tuned.

