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**LOG OF MEETING  
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

**SUBJECT:** Meeting to Discuss a Study Performed for the British Government Concerning 5-gallon Buckets

**DATE OF MEETING:** March 28, 1996      **PLACE:** CPSC  
4330 East West Hwy.  
Bethesda, MD

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** John Preston, ES *gpf*

**COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Sue Cassidy, EHHA                      Mary Donaldson, ECPA  
Suad Nakamura, EHPS                  John Preston, ES  
Renaë Rauchschalbe, CCA              Celestine Trainor, ESHF

**NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:**

Robin Spencer, Sambrook Research International, Newport, Shropshire, England

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:**

Mr. Spencer had previously met with Commission staff in March 1995 to discuss a project on 5-gallon buckets on which he was working. This project, to determine whether 5-gallon buckets present a drowning hazard to toddlers in the U.K. was funded by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

Mr. Spencer had requested this meeting because he was in the Washington, DC area on other business and wanted to discuss with staff a report he had delivered to DTI titled "Fatal Drowning Accidents - 5-Gallon Buckets."

Prior to the meeting, Mr. Spencer had forwarded staff a copy of his report which stated that during the period 1982-1994, there were a total of 15 reports of drowning fatalities associated with plastic buckets in the U.K. This results in an annual average of 1.3 deaths per year. Over half of the deaths occurred in a bucket being used for "nappies" (diapers). He said that this figure is significantly less than the annual drowning rate in 5-gallon buckets in the U.S. and is no doubt due to the fact that a survey of households in the U.K. revealed that 82% did not have a 5-gallon bucket.

Mr. Spencer's report noted that consumers in the U.K. had a very low level of awareness that children can drown in 5-gallon buckets. The report also suggested that the use of a safety label on 5-gallon buckets, similar to that recommended in a U.S. voluntary standard, is likely to have a positive effect in increasing consumer awareness of the drowning hazard.

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