

US Consumer Product Safety Commission Log of Meeting

Subject: ASTM F15.45 Candle Task Group Meetings

Date: September 18 and 19, 2019

Location: Columbus, OH

Prepared By: Scott Ayers (sayers@cpsc.gov, 301-987-2030), September 26, 2019

CPSC Attendees: Scott Ayers, Yeon Kim, and Kristen Talcott (via teleconference in morning of 9/18 only)

Non-CPSC Attendees:

Contact Bob Nelson ([REDACTED]) for a complete list of attendees.

Summary of Meeting:

Contact Bob Nelson ([REDACTED]) for more details of this meeting.

Wednesday 9/18 8:30am – Candle Labeling Task Group meeting

- Introductions
- Review of the status ASTM standard for candle labeling
- Review of the status of the European standard for candle labeling (EN 15494)
 - The group reviewed the changes to the standard
 - This standard is focused on pictograms because of the diversity of European languages
 - Europe cannot use round safety symbols because that shape is reserved for prohibited activities only
 - EN 15494 requires four pictograms for a non-scented candle and six pictograms for a scented candle.
- Discussion of harmonizing the two standards
 - CPSC will follow up on the Comprehension testing Europe did for their pictograms
 - Europe also requires many candles to have chemical warning labels
 - Should ASTM allow European pictograms?
- Discussion on determining the area of the bottom of a candle
- A working group will be established to look into what would be needed to allow the European pictograms

Wednesday 9/18 1:00pm – Candle Emissions Task Group meeting

- Introductions
- Evaluation of current test method for visible emissions
 - Discussion about how to adopt the European test method of visible emissions into the ASTM standards
 - Discussion of the purpose of the ASTM standard of just being a test method and not a safety requirement

- Review of a joint NCA/European Candle Association study of candle emissions. A summary report is being prepared for CPSC review.
 - Discussion of EN 16738-2015, a standard to measure emissions of scented candles. Requirements for VOC, Benzene, Naphthalene, and Formaldehyde. Measurements tests for SO₂, NO_x, and CO without having maximum requirements. And whether ASTM should develop a similar standard.
 - Adapted from EN ISO 16000-9
- The group decided not to develop a new standard at this time

Thursday 9/19 8:30am – Candle Fire Safety Task Group meeting

- Introductions
- The group reviewed incidents and recalls on SaferProducts.gov and other places
 - The group reviewed three recalls from Australia, one involving a three-wick candle, the second involved a Christmas-themed candle holder, and the third also involved a decorative votive holder that caught fire. The group discussed the third recall, the ASTM standards would consider a votive holder as a barrier and the flammability of the decorations might not be tested, unless the decorations extended above the top of the glass holder.
 - The group tried to review two recalls in the US which were not able to be discussed on the quarterly incident phone call in July 2019 because SaferProducts.gov was down, but the group was not able to find those recall notices. Scott will follow up with CPSC compliance.
- A discussion on the status of the data analysis group. CPSC expects to have new data available for analysis in late winter or early fall 2020. The data will cover September 2017 through the end of the year December 2019.
- The group discussed an overlay of sales data from China with home candle fires for the last 20 years
- The group reviewed research presented on candle performance based on cooling time between cycles, burn cycle time, and wick trimming.
 - The group decided that the data does not show a safety difference, but a difference in candle performance. More data is needed to address if there is a safety difference.
- The group reviewed the watch list

Thursday 9/19 1:00pm – Candle Glass Task Group meeting

- This was a working meeting, the group edited a draft revision to F2179
- NCA showed the candle safety tip video available at candles.org
- Discussion on the applicability of the standard to secondary post-processing of glass containers
- Discussion on the possibility of creating a Standard Guide or Standard Practice for using glass as a filled candle container

The next face-to-face task group meetings will be held at SEA offices in Columbus, OH on September 16 and 17, 2020.