



MEETING LOG

MEETING TITLE/SUBJECT: Independent/Joint Gas and Electric Range Knob Working Group Meeting

OP PLAN ENTRY: Ranges

DATE OF MEETING: January 14, 2025

LOCATION OF MEETING: Virtual

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Scott Ayers

Filing Date: January 16, 2025

CPSC STAFF ATTENDEE(S): Scott Ayers (ESEE), Tim Smith (ESHF), and Chen Su (ESEE)

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

Issac Sargunam	Gary West	Meri-K Appy
Kamran Akhlesi	Gianbattista Guerrini	Nick Shrewsbury-Gee
Peter Baker	Mike Gerdes	Oscar Rozo
Bell Lary	Armando Gondon	John Park
Akshita Iyer	Jacob Pixler	Peter Silman
Meredith Birkhead	Jared Wells	Rehan Ehsan
Brehmer Brankin	Jennifer Hess	Robert Longseth
Paul Cadima	John Moss	Roger Noles
Canfield Steve	John Rukavina	Ryan Beard
Carl Suchovsky	Johnson Choo	Jeff Sefton
Randy Cooper	Ken Martin	Ali Sherazee
Milos Coric	Kyle Bowell	Simen Silva-Arrin
Dana Harshbarger	Jean Francois Lalande	Stephen E. Gatz
Dana Parker	Franco LaRiccia	Stephen Hrustich
David Lott	Lauren Kerwin	Steve Baas
Robert G. Dellavalle	Brian Lusignan	Todd Brown
Kyle Eden	Maa W. Wilber	Trevor
Mike Edward	Michael Stoddard	Vazquez Jose

Summary of Meeting:

CPSC is aware of incidents where houses burned and people died from house fires started by range knobs accidentally turned on, whether from people or pets bumping into the knobs and activating the range. An independent and joint working group was formed to discuss the issue and potentially recommend changes to the electric (UL 858) and gas (CSA/ANSI Z21.1) range standards. A kick-off meeting was held on June 27, 2024, where stakeholders asked to review CPSC data before proceeding. On November 21, 2024, CPSC staff shared data on incidents involving accidental burner control activations on ranges with the interested stakeholders.



During the meeting, CPSC staff shared the following summary of the CPSC data:

CPSC staff wanted to find incidents in CPSRMS where there was a fire or gas leak involving a range caused by an accidental activation because of knobs turning inadvertently. CPSC staff did not search the NEISS database. CPSRMS is CPSC's database, which includes consumer reports, newspaper accounts, hotline reports, medical examiner reports, and more. CPSC staff searched for incidents occurring between January 1st, 2017, and July 19th, 2024.

The search found 455 in-scope incidents and 19 more incidents that were "maybe in-scope". Of the 455 in-scope incidents, four involved ranges with push-button controls (rather than knobs) that accidentally activated. Of the 474 in-scope plus "maybe in-scope" incidents the breakdown by manufacturer was as follows:

Manufacturer A – 115
Manufacturer B – 80
Manufacturer C – 64
Manufacturer D – 58
Manufacturer E – 28

There were two fatal incidents, which led to three fatalities.

CPSC staff remarked that, in their opinion, there is sufficient information to suggest that a number of different range manufacturers have a similar issue with the accidental activation of burners, and a gap exists in the current standards to address this issue. Participants discussed the data and the issues. Points discussed included knobs/controls locations (e.g., on the front ranges versus on the back guard) and orientations (e.g., forward, up, or angled), additional CPSC data, ergonomics and human factors, research and development of a test method, and reasons of accidental activation. Health Canada staff stated that they may also have data that they may want to share in future meetings. At the conclusion of the meeting, participants generally agreed that there is a gap with the current standards to address incidents of accidental activation and that more work is needed. The group did not specify any additional details but will instead work those details out in future meetings. Participants were open to the creation of a performance test method for accidental activation, although the details of such a test method were not discussed. Participants also recognized that this group would probably not create a final performance test method for ranges but instead would most likely recommend concepts of performance test methods that the UL and CSA standards could implement in their standards development processes.

Next Steps:

The group will meet next on Tuesday March 18, 2025, from 10:30am to 11:30am. At that meeting, the group will try to establish a reoccurring meeting.