

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
LOG OF MEETING**

**SUBJECT: Button Cell Battery Injuries**

**CPSA 6(b)(1) CLEARED BY**  
**NO. MFRS PRVT. BLRS. PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED** *3/20/11*  
\_\_\_ EXCEPTED BY: PETITION  
\_\_\_ RULEMAKING ADMIN. PROC.  
\_\_\_ WITH PORTIONS REMOVED

**DATE OF MEETING: March 17, 2011**

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE: J. Midgett**

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**LOCATION: Bethesda headquarters, room 714**

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Jonathan Midgett, Doug Lee, Cheryl Osterhout, Jackie Ferrante, Kim Dulic, DeWane Ray, Carolyn Manley, Mike Lee, Michael Gougisha, Jana Fong-Swamidoss, Elliot Kaye, Colin Church**

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Claire Kammer, UL; Mark Kohorst, NEMA, Michael Babiak, NEMA; Don Mays, Consumer Reports; Toby Litovitz, NCPCC; Kris Jatana, Nationwide Children's Hospital; Jim Harisiades, Children's Memorial Hospital; Karen Maule, Children's Memorial Hospital; Steven Krug, Children's Memorial Hospital; Megan A. Hayes, CEA; Laura Knapp, CEA; Cindy Pellegrini, AAP; Gina Beredo, American Greetings; Albert Mauro, Hallmark; Ioana Rusu, Consumers Union; Kristen Mizzi, AAP**

**SUMMARY OF MEETING: Organized by Jim Harisiades, attendees presented information about the hazards associated with ingestion of button cell batteries, described the types of consumer products known to have been associated with**

incidents, and presented recommendations for injury prevention for CPSC staff to consider. Dr. Toby Litovitz of the National Capital Poison Center described injury rates, data sources, major victim outcomes, diagnosis challenges, and the consumer product categories associated with incidents. The presentation categorized the outcome of 8,648 battery ingestions from the National Battery Incident Hotline from 1990-2008. The larger, lithium 3V cells were involved with the majority of the severe injury and death cases but other smaller, lower voltage batteries caused severe injuries as well. Her recommendations included public education for caregivers and the medical community, standards for battery compartment integrity on consumer products, and child resistant packaging especially with 20 mm lithium coin cells.

Dr. Karen Maule described a case study of a misdiagnosis of an ingested button cell and its subsequent effects on the victim's life. Dr. Kris Jatana showed photos and videos of battery ingestion and body insertion injuries and described the challenges doctors and victims face when treating internal injuries caused by ingested button cells. Dr. Steven Krug urged an immediate reaction to the burgeoning hazard.

Don Mays recommended addressing the hazard through comprehensive voluntary standards that cover any consumer product that uses a button cell. Cindy Pellegrini explained the urgent need for a comprehensive, multifaceted approach to injury prevention that includes more than just warnings.

Claire Kammer reported that UL is pursuing requirements to address the hazard in UL 60065, UL 1642, and others. Gina Beredo and Albert Mauro urged participants in the standards development process to maintain design flexibility in the proposed requirements. Megan Hayes showed examples of electronic remotes with battery compartments that are difficult to open.

The presentations from Dr. Litovitz and Dr. Jatana are appended to the meeting log.

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