

icphso update

News and information for members of the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

Spring 2001

President's Message

This year's annual symposium broke all previous records for attendance. Over 300 product safety professionals from government, industry, education, consumer advocate organizations, testing companies and the legal profession gathered in Orlando Feb 27-March 2. We exchanged ideas and educated each other.

This year for the first time there was a one day meeting on Global Product Safety Enforcement. The CPSC Compliance Course and American Bar Association Product Safety Seminar on Wednesday helped us keep current on product safety and compliance issues. The three keynote addresses and nine workshops of the ICPHSO symposium gave us a more in-depth look at selected topics.

At the conclusion of this year's symposium, I was reminded of the two main strengths of ICPHSO. First, that ICPHSO is a volunteer organization completely dependent on the commitment of the membership. We all have professional responsibilities that fill more than 40 hours each week. Yet the dedicated members of ICPHSO find the time and commitment to come to the meeting, give presentations, contribute ideas, become sponsors, and volunteer on committees. We even had a room full of devotees preparing conference materials late into the night before the meeting began. It is the efforts of all these professionals that keep the organization strong. It also keeps our symposium costs very reasonable, so our organization can be accessible to all.

Second, our symposium offers the unique opportunity to meet with other product safety professionals on neutral ground, where our goals are purely to enhance safety. Many of us meet on less than neutral ground at other times during the year. It serves us and our profession well to exchange information on a different plane when we meet in Orlando.

I would like to thank our generous sponsors this year. They contributed significantly to the success of our symposium. I would also like to thank John Kupsch, our outgoing president. John worked hard for the organization and was always willing to assist in any facet of the operation.

The future of ICPHSO is strong, and next year's meeting at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, is already shaping up to be a great success. Now if we could just have a pronounceable name for the organization....

*Kitty Pilarz, ICPHSO President, 2001-2002
Fisher-Price, Inc.*

FIRST GLOBAL PRODUCT SAFETY ENFORCEMENT FORUM IS A HUGE SUCCESS

ICPHSO held its first global safety forum this year the day before its annual meeting. This new initiative had been prompted by discussions last year in the international caucus of ICPHSO. There was a need to broaden the international appeal of ICPHSO and provide a platform for industry, business, consumers and government officials alike to meet and discuss relevant product safety issues. The interest in the Forum was self-evident from the attendance. Over 100 delegates were present from many different countries.

The need for an ongoing structured dialogue was made clear by the presentations and the audience response. There were two levels identified at which this dialogue should take place. The first was to continue the Forum, that is a dialog between all interested parties. Consumers need to have confidence in the work of the government on their behalf and industry and business had many issues to bring to the table to discuss with government as to how the government enforcement task was carried out. Secondly it was acknowledged that with the growth in international trade and the current wave of globalization that is taking place, government officials the world over needed a forum where they could talk in confidence and exchange information on enforcement and market surveillance. The recent cases of the Firestone tire recall and phthalates in toys were cited as practical examples of the need for such a discussion.

Annual Meeting Coordinator, Kitty Pilarz, discussing conference details with President, John Kupsch.

ICPHSO CONTINUES TO GROW

The International Consumer Product Health and Safety's Eighth Annual Meeting drew a record attendance of 303 health and safety professionals. This is the fifth straight year that attendance has increased. Kudos to all those who contributed to the success of the 2001 meeting and especially Kitty Pilarz, from Fisher-Price, the Annual Meeting Coordinator.

Of the fifty people who completed evaluations of the meeting, almost everyone stated that the symposium met their expectations. Some comments include:

"This symposium is always good because it targets product safety like no other meeting does."

"I particularly enjoyed the unique communication between private and public entities."

"I learned a great deal of critical information for me and my management."

"Excellent Meeting - Well run."

Many attendees mentioned that the ICPHSO meeting affords networking opportunities not found at other meetings. A break down of the networking opportunities follows:

26%	Manufacturers
19%	Retailers
19%	Government
	9% State and Local
	6% International
	5% U.S.
9%	Testing Labs
8%	Consulting Firms
7%	Law Firms
4%	Associations
3%	Distributors
3%	Consumer Representation
1%	Media

The meeting attracted 18 international safety professionals from 9 different countries. The ICPHSO Board of Directors continues to seek new ways to attract a larger international audience.

We thank all those who offered constructive criticism and suggestions for next year's conference. Elaine Tyrrell, from the Consumer Product Safety Commission and her annual meeting committee will find this information very useful when planning the 2002 meeting. Next year's meeting will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The dates are February 26th - March 1st, 2002. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the European Consumer Safety Association (ECOSA).

February 26, 2002 – March 1, 2002
ICPHSO's 9th Annual Meeting & Training Symposium

Global Product Safety Enforcement Forum moderator, Bruce Farquhar, with ICPHSO Executive Director, Ross Koeser.

Industry too pleaded for such co-operation to ensure a level playing field as they market their products internationally. A practical example of such co-operation between governments was the International Marketing Supervision Network. IMSN deals with fair trading and marketing practices. It was argued that its informal character could provide a good example of how to structure a closer collaboration between governments in product safety. It was furthermore stressed that a powerful set of tools already existed in the Prodsafe web-site that had been developed for the OECD by the New Zealand government.

It was agreed that developments to further these two forms of dialogues could take place in parallel. One practical initiative that was proposed during the Global forum was the drafting of a directory of enforcement agency contacts internationally. ICPHSO has a volunteer who is willing to undertake this useful initiative. A meeting of enforcement officers was called for later during the ICPHSO meeting to discuss what practical steps could be taken to increase international collaboration. The international caucus would meet later in the week to discuss the possibilities to hold another Global Forum next year. It was also proposed to keep raising the issue of international collaboration in relevant future meetings. During March there will be a conference examining the product safety issues raised by the internet. In addition, there is to be a product safety recall conference in Stockholm at the end of June. International collaboration would doubtless be on the agenda of these meetings.

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INTERNATIONAL CAUCUS REPORT

The international caucus met during the ICPHSO meeting. The caucus reflected on the successful global safety forum that had been held earlier that week. It was agreed that an effort should be made to try to continue to hold such a forum as part of the ICPHSO meeting and to try to further broaden the appeal of ICPHSO to the international community. The caucus heard that there were plans to hold a joint meeting between ICPHSO and ECOSA, the European Consumer Safety Association the following year in Orlando. It was decided to explore with the organizing committee what possibilities existed for a joint session between the two meetings that could serve as a platform for the kind of dialogue that the first Global Safety Forum had encouraged.

Bruce J. Farquhar

STATE AND LOCAL CAUCUS REPORT

This year's State and Local Caucus was the best ever! Approximately 30 state representatives from across the United States participated. The session was broken into four separate groups and centered on areas most requested by the states at previous caucuses. The program began with a discussion of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Recall Round-Up Campaign. Barbara McEachern and Jesus Chairez, Consumer Information Officers with the CPSC discussed this year's event and provided different ways to reach consumers in particular hard to reach ethnic groups. The second session was a state roundtable, that allowed for several states to share what is going on in their respective states. Rhoda Siegel from New Hampshire and Lori Gerzina from Colorado spearheaded the session and provided excellent ideas for other states to implement. The third session consisted of a session on both cigarette and multi-purpose lighters. Jim Joholske and Denise Beatty, both of CPSC provide background on how the commission implemented mandatory rules for these products. Perry Sharpless from CPSC's Engineering lab demonstrated a new "field screening tool" that will be used to identify volatile lighters in the marketplace. The final session of the day was on electronic reporting of incidents to the Commission and how the agency can better serve the needs of state officials. Many good suggestions were raised by the state representatives and we hope to incorporate as many of those suggestions into improving the relationship between the States and CPSC.

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SPONSORS HELP MAKE ANNUAL MEETING A GREAT SUCCESS

Sponsors are critical to the continuing success of ICPHSO. Therefore it is most important that those companies, organizations and associations that "stepped up to the plate" be recognized.

ICPHSO is not an organization with unlimited funds and a large staff. Far from it. The part-time staff of two works with a cadre of volunteer safety professionals who are members of ICPHSO. The majority of ICPHSO's funds come from the Annual Meetings Registration and we have resisted hiking registration fees or charging for meals at the conference.

The ICPHSO Board of Directors is proud to recognize and thank the following sponsors of the 2001 Annual Meeting and Training Symposium:

ACTS Testing Labs, Inc.

♦

American International Group

♦

Bell Sports, Inc.

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Business Response

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Canadian Standards Association

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Disney Sourcing – Technical Services

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Interactive Marketing Technologies

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Intertek Testing Services - Labtest

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Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association

♦

Lowe's Home Safety Council

♦

McDonald's Corporation

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National SAFE KIDS Campaign

♦

Outdoor Power Equipment Institute

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RAM Consulting

♦

Returns Online, Inc.

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Specialized Technology Resources

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**System Engineering And Labs (SEAL)
Corporation**

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The Lighter Association, Inc.

♦

Toy Manufacturers of America, Inc.

♦

Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

♦

Verhalen & Associates

ICPHSO's 8th Annual Meeting and Training Symposium

Thanks to all those that helped put the gift bags and syllabus together.

CPSC Compliance Director, Alan Schoem meeting with John Baker, Pier 1.

A chance to renew friendships. Linda Ginzel, Kids in Danger and Mary Ellen Fise, Consumer Federation of America.

Lunch time - - off to the pool.

*New Board member, Stig Hakansson,
Swedish Consumer Agency discussing
meeting program with Eric Rubel, Arnold
& Porter.*

*CPSC Alumni Day – Carl Blechschmidt,
Verhalen & Associates and Keynote
Speaker, David Pittle, Consumers Union.*

From The Editor's Desk

The Eighth Annual Meeting is over and by most accounts, including the evaluations, this was our best conference ever. Certainly our largest attendance. This year's evaluations were very positive, but over the recent years two areas of concern have surfaced through your comments. Problem #1: Get a new hotel! Next year we will be at a beautiful, larger, 1st class hotel on International Drive. Problem solved. Problem #2: "You need more international attendees -- put the 'I' in ICPHSO." This issue is still a work in progress and the ICPHSO Board and the Symposium Planning Committee continue to address it. Let's look at what the Symposium Planning Committee is doing:

- * All past international attendees receive an invitation.
- * Key individuals in Canada and Europe receive at least 50 additional invitations so they can reach potential attendees through their mailing lists.
- * Some ICPHSO member testing labs, associations, and others help ICPHSO by sending invitations to their international mailing lists.
- * CPSC helps by providing their international list to ICPHSO.
- * The Symposium Planning Committee tries to choose workshops with global appeal and to the maximum extent possible, international speakers.
- * This year we piggy backed on the Global Product Safety Enforcement Forum to increase international attendees.
- * Next year we are holding our meeting in conjunction with the European Consumer Safety Association (ECOSA) in part to draw a more international audience.
- * Finally, our host city Orlando has an excellent international airport -- and the weather is not bad either.

All that said, the number of international attendees has increased only slightly in the past 5 years. The ICPHSO Board is open to any ideas you may have, and help you can provide, to increase global participation. Let us hear from you.

Member News

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOAN LAWRENCE

Joan Lawrence, Director of Standards and Regulatory Affairs at Toy Manufacturers of America, Inc. and current ICPHSO Board member, gave birth to a daughter on Friday, March 30. Nellie Caroline weighed 7 lbs. 9 ounces and was 21 inches long. Mother and daughter are doing fine.

NEW ICPHSO BOARD MEMBERS

The following members have been elected to serve a three-year term on ICPHSO's Board of Directors.

David H. Baker
Thompson Hine & Flory LLP

Lori M Gerzina
Colorado Dept. of Public Health and Environment

Stig Hakansson
Swedish Consumer Agency

Donald L. Mays
Good Housekeeping Institute

Bob Waller
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association

Rachel Weintraub
US Public Interest Research Group

Mary Ellen Fise of the Consumer Federation of America and Noel C. Hunter of the Product Safety Enforcement Group of Europe will be leaving the Board. Both have made outstanding contributions to the mission of ICPHSO.

NEW SAFETY BOOK RELEASED

ICPHSO speaker E. Marla Felcher's book, "It's No Accident: How Corporations Sell Dangerous Baby Products," was released on March 1 by Common Courage Press (www.commoncouragepress.com). An excerpt from the book, "Regulatory and Legal Systems That Allow Companies to Keep Consumers in the Dark About Dangerous Children's Products," will appear in the April issue of TRIAL magazine. This spring, Ms. Felcher's book tour will take her to Baltimore, D.C., Philadelphia and Chicago.

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UL ANNOUNCES ELECTION OF NEW PRESIDENT AND CEO

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) announced today the election of Loring W. Knoblauch, 59, as its ninth President and CEO at a special meeting of its Board of Trustees. He was also elected to the UL Board.

Mr. Knoblauch served most recently as President and CEO of Talon Automated Equipment Company, a privately held manufacturer of industrial processing equipment. Prior to that he served for three years as Hubbell Inc.'s President of International Operations. Knoblauch also spent 20 years with

Honeywell International where he held a broad range of top management positions, including President of Honeywell Asia Pacific (Hong Kong) and Vice President of International Business Development (Minneapolis). Knoblauch's knowledge of industry is extensive and he brings a unique blend of international experience and business acumen. Knoblauch holds a B.A. degree from Yale University, a J.D. from Harvard University, and was a Sloane Fellow at Stanford's School of Business.

Knoblauch said, "UL has a stellar record of achievement as a leader in the safety community. I look forward to joining the organization and working with its dedicated staff, its customers and the regulatory and consumer communities to continue to advance UL's mission of working for a safer world."

CLE CREDIT REMINDER

Anyone who is seeking CLE credit for the past annual meeting must forward their full name, state of bar admission and bar number as soon as possible. Please e-mail information to ICPHSO@aol.com.

BIECHMAN NAMED NFPA VICE PRESIDENT FOR GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

John C. Biechman, of Alexandria, Va., has been appointed vice president for government affairs.

Biechman has more than 25 years experience in government relations, public affairs and trade association activities. He will serve as the primary advocate for NFPA's policies, programs and products within the federal government and as information liaison between Congress, federal agencies and Washington-based allied private sector organizations.

Most recently, Biechman served as deputy assistant secretary for congressional relations for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in Washington, DC, working closely with the White House and members of the House and Senate.

PRODUCT SAFETY CIRCLE CONFERENCE

"Sharing Safety: It's Good Business" is the theme of this first ever Product Safety Circle (PSC) Conference to be held Tuesday, June 26, 2001 on the campus of McDonald's Conference Facility in Oak Brook, Illinois. The conference is sponsored by the U.S. CPSC.

Chief executives of McDonald's and Lowe's, leading Washington attorneys, officials, and members of the media will headline the day long PSC conference.

Chairman Ann Brown of CPSC will deliver the luncheon keynote address on the theme, Sharing Safety: It's Good Business. Other speakers include Allen Feldman, President, McDonald's Corporation; Robert Tillman, Chairman & CEO, Lowe's Companies, Inc.; Bob Barnett, Partner, Williams and Connolly; and Victor Schwartz, Partner, Crowell and Moring.

This PSC conference is an opportunity for PSC member companies and others interested in product safety to exchange ideas on promoting product safety, showcase their product safety innovations and demonstrate how they have implemented the PSC principles, through presentations or exhibits.

The US CPSC launched the Product Safety Circle on October 5, 2000 to promote good product safety practices by companies involved in making and selling consumer products. It invited companies to join the PSC as members if they were willing to pledge support for ten important safety principles. Member companies are asked to share their safety innovations with others, while protecting trade secrets and other highly sensitive proprietary information, to the extent necessary.

This is a free public event open to the media and other interested attendees.

To learn more about the Product Safety Circle Conference and to register for the conference online contact www.cpsc.gov/businfo/psc.html.

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT SEMINAR

The University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Engineering Professional Development will offer a seminar, Essential Aspects of an Effective Product Safety Program, July 25-27 2001 in Madison, Wisconsin.

This seminar will benefit engineers, product safety coordinators, product safety team members, and attorneys.

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E-mail: Lange@epd.engr.wisc.edu

WWW: <http://epdweb.engr.wisc.edu>

ICPHSO FINANCES REVIEWED

In accordance with ICPHSO's bylaws and Board direction the financial records of ICPHSO have been reviewed by a Certified Public Accountant.

A review consists principally of inquires of organization personal and analytical procedures applied to financial data. It is substantially less in scope than an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards, the objective of which is the expression of an opinion regarding the financial statements taken as a whole.

The records were found in order and to conformity with general accepted accounting principles.

News of Interest

GRACO / CENTURY OPENS NEW CRASH SIMULATION CENTER FOR TESTING CHILD CAR SEATS

Graco Children's Products and Century Products officially opened their new Crash Simulation Center for testing child restraints (car seats) today. The Center allows Graco and Century engineers to design and test the latest car seat technology, and more closely study the factors affecting car seats and children in a crash.

"Crash testing and regulatory changes have brought about the addition of new safety technology such as tethers for forward facing car seats and the upcoming LATCH Anchorage System," said Century's Vice President of Product Development David Campbell. "Having our own crash simulation center puts Graco and Century in the forefront for quality testing and development of new child restraint technology."

The Center has the latest crash simulation technology, from a dynamic sled to an entire "family" of crash test dummies proportioned and weighted to represent children. The family includes a six and three-year-old, a nine and six-month-old, as well as a newborn and preemie dummy. These test dummies have measuring devices that record what happens to them during an impact.

Dummies are placed in the child restraints, which are secured to the test bench or sled that accelerates down a 100-foot track reaching 30 mph. The sled then collides with a seismic mass (a large block of concrete) simulating a head-on vehicle crash that can generate forces exceeding 26G's (26 times the force of gravity).

High-speed video cameras, intense lighting banks and computers record the simulated crash for analysis. Crash tests are viewed from behind the safety of two eight foot-long polycarbonate windows located in the center's control room. Other areas of the facility are used to prepare car seats and examine them after tests.

"Graco and Century have a history of innovation in the juvenile product market," said Don Oros, Manager of the Crash Simulation Center. "This center reaffirms the Graco and Century commitment to making the most advanced car seats on the market."

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NEISS ALL INJURY PROGRAM

The year 2000 brought a new purpose to the U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) 30-year-old National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). Thanks to a collaboration between the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the CPSC, NEISS has been expanded to collect data on all injuries treated in selected hospital emergency departments across the country.

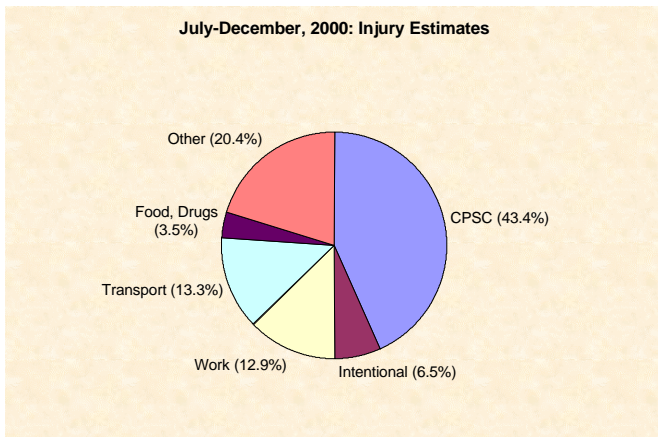
NEISS consists of a national probability sample of hospital emergency departments that collect information on consumer product-related injuries for CPSC. For the past 20 years, CPSC expanded NEISS upon request to collect information on injuries outside CPSC jurisdiction, but within the jurisdiction of other Federal agencies. Many agencies have participated in cost-sharing programs to collect specific data through NEISS. Using funding from CDC, all Federal agencies are now able to receive basic surveillance data from NEISS.

The NEISS sample is a stratified random sample of the approximately 5,000 U. S. hospitals with at least six beds that provide 24-hour emergency service. The sample contains 100 hospitals that report almost 350,000 consumer product-related injuries to the CPSC each year. The NEISS All Injury Program is currently operational in a subsample of 66 hospitals that will provide more than 280,000 additional injury cases each year. The sample contains five strata of which, four represent different levels of hospital size measured by the number of emergency room visits. The fifth contains the children's hospitals. Data from NEISS have been used to provide national estimates and associated variances for the number of injuries treated in all U. S. hospital emergency departments for any type of product-related injury. National estimates can now be made for all types of injuries. Follow-up investigations can also be conducted within the statistical framework and therefore, national estimates can be produced to cover variables collected through these follow-up activities.

Each NEISS case report consists of 13 coded variables and a two line narrative description of the injury incident. The coded data include treatment date, age, sex, and race/ethnicity of the victim, the diagnosis and body part injured, the locale, the disposition, and the product or activity associated with the incident, the intent and the cause of injury. The inclusion of intentional violence cases as well as 24 categories of mechanism of injuries is a new feature of this project.

The first three months of data are fully edited. The first six months of data will be finalized this summer and available for use by researchers and others. Preliminary analysis of the first six months of data shows an estimated 15.7 million injuries. The following chart shows how these injuries break down into categories.

May 21 - 28, 2001: Buckle Up America Week



The data will be accessible through the CDC *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* (MMWR) website at <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr>. It will also be available through CDC's WISQARS (Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System) at <http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars>.

For more information on the NEISS All Injury Program, please call Cathy Downs on 301-504-0539, extension 1359 or e-mail at Cdowns@cpsc.gov.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE TOY INDUSTRY: PROFITING FROM CONSUMER RESPONSES

In today's fast paced, fad-driven market, understanding how products perform in the marketplace is an important component of a company's success. Obtaining and effectively using consumer feedback is critical in determining a product's performance. Consumer feedback can indicate the likes or dislikes of product attributes, assist designers to make appropriate changes, and most importantly, identify any quality or safety issues associated with products. In a marketplace where products must be safe and reliable for months or years after purchase, identifying and acting quickly upon issues is crucial. Additionally, companies must ensure their products remain appealing to consumers on an ongoing basis. While consumer feedback provides valuable intelligence, it often goes unused.

Establishing a method to effectively gather and use consumer data is key. A comprehensive consumer data review program can significantly add to a company's bottomline. The information gathered can help to design better products, improve processes and sales, as well as avoid shipping delays and fines. Whether you create your own program or recruit the help of an experienced professional, consider the following steps:

Step 1: Determine how to gather information:

Product returns, toll-free numbers, surveys, as well as customer complaints are excellent sources of information. Additionally, retailers' data systems and web sites gather detailed consumer information that can provide valuable insight.

Step 2: Gather and compile the information:

Determine if the information involves a quality or safety issue by establishing preset criteria and procedures. Since data is gathered and compiled, in some cases, by individuals not necessarily trained in quality assurance, it is crucial to have clearly defined criteria to ensure efficient and accurate management of the information.

Step 3: Analyze the data:

Of the many methods available for analyzing data, a weighted Pareto analysis offers an efficient way to better understand issues by product or product category. This tool can be easily taught, understood, and implemented.

Step 4: Validate the data:

Once, an issue is identified, it is time to validate the data through testing and/or customer interviews. First determine if the product, in fact, failed. If the product failed, it is vital to determine why. Was the product used properly or abused? Is the problem a result of design, material, production, or shipment?

Step 5: Take the appropriate action:

The type of corrective action will depend on whether the problem represents a safety or quality issue. If a potential safety issue is uncovered at any point, it is important to review the information immediately. There may also be reporting requirements to the respective governmental agency.

Here's one example of how a company benefited from a consumer data review program. Consumer feedback from a toll-free number and retail outlets indicated an electronic toy was failing, even though the manufacturer had confirmed the product was working to specifications when it left Asia. Testing validated the product failure. Investigation revealed that transport and warehousing in environmentally uncontrolled conditions caused a PC board to not function properly. Through its consumer data review program, the company was able to quickly and effectively gather, analyze and use this data. As a result, the company implemented a design change to solve the problem before another 50,000-piece order was shipped. Consequently, the company saved thousands of dollars and improved customer satisfaction.

For more information, please contact Joe Skulski, Manager, Technical Services, ACTS Testing Labs, Inc., Consumer Products Division of Bureau Veritas, at (800) 277-3300, ext. 3510, or (716) 505-3510, e-mail: joe.skulski@actstesting.com.

STR FORMS ISO 9000 REGISTRATION SERVICE

STR has formed a new subsidiary, STR-Registrar LLC (STR-R). Headquartered in Enfield, CT, STR-R will provide ISO 9000 Quality Management System Registration to the global marketplace in a broad range of industry sectors. STR-R will utilize a worldwide network of local auditors working out of local audit offices.

To learn more about STR-R scopes of accreditation visit their website at www.str-r.com.

NAVIGATING EUROPE'S NEW APPROACH DIRECTIVES ON THE INTERNET

When the European Union formed, Member States needed a way to ensure product safety as well as a structure for individual states to work together. A system called the "New Approach Directives" (often known as CE Marking Directives) was created to introduce identical technical requirements throughout the European Union to enable the free exchange of goods between Member Countries. The Newapproach.org web site provides an excellent one-stop web source to help users understand and view New Approach Directives and standards.

The New Approach web site at <http://www.newapproach.org> can help you. . . .

Read an overview on how to apply New Approach Directives
View the actual full text of over 21 approved and proposed New Approach Directives
Identify Directives that provide for CE markings
Identify approved standards
Locate standard activities and working groups associated with specific directives
Identify any changes in standards as they appear in the *Official Journal of the European Communities (OJEC)*

Newapproach.org is a very comprehensive and well-organized web site. The user can easily locate specific consumer product categories and instantly link to the full text of appropriate directives. Horizontal flow charts link the user to relevant standards and related information associated with each directive. Links to key European authorities' web sites such as CEN, CENELEC, EFTA, ETSI, and EUROPA also are provided.

Additional Resources

Whether you require a quick search for information or in-depth research and analysis, ACTS trained library professionals can assist you. Their experience with technical issues, regulations, business documents, and government resources can help you save time and avoid the high cost of information acquisition.

For More Information please visit www.actstesting.com or contact Karen Kreizman Reczek, Manager, Information Resources Center, ACTS Testing Labs, Inc., Consumer Products Division of Bureau Veritas, at (800) 277-3300, ext. 3592, (716) 505-3592, or e-mail: irc.buffalo@actstesting.com

RENEWAL OF THE CANADIAN HEALTH PROTECTION LEGISLATION

Health Canada has undertaken a broad review of its health protection legislation. Many federal health protection statutes were developed decades ago to address specific concerns, creating a piecemeal legislative framework. The reform of health protection legislation currently underway would ensure that modernized federal health protection legislation can adequately protect the health of Canadians, as well as be more responsive to the global marketplace and to contemporary public health and safety considerations.

The new legislative framework set out in a new *Canada Health Protection Act* (CHPA) would replace legislation administered by Health Canada including the *Food and Drugs Act*, Part I of the *Hazardous Products Act* (excluding the Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System), the *Radiation Emitting Devices Act*, the *Quarantine Act*, etc. Other existing legislation, including the *Tobacco Act* that would remain in force, could be integrated into the enforcement provisions and, possibly, the sentencing options of the new legislative framework.

The legislative renewal will result in significant changes to much of the legislation administered by the Branch. New concepts and requirements may be introduced into the new legislation.

- Mandatory product recall of unsafe products
- General Safety Requirements for all products
- International harmonization of safety standards
- Regulatory management of products through their full life-cycle, from manufacture to disposal
- Addressing the health impacts of technologies and processes as well as products

Health Canada has conducted a first round of consultations in the fall of 1998 with interested groups and individuals to obtain their views about what is working well in health protection and what needs to be improved. Since the fall of 1998, on going consultation with Health Canada staff and stakeholders took place. A legislative proposal is being finalized and will serve as a basis for a second round of consultations which could take place as soon as the fall of 2001.

To keep in touch with the changes to the health protection legislation, please consult the Health Canada web site http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hpb/transitn/legis_e.html

May 2002: Sixth World Conference on Injury Prevention and Control, Montreal, Quebec, Canada.

SPARKY THE FIRE DOG® CELEBRATES THE BIG 50

That's 350 dog years!

It may be a dog-eat-dog world, but when it comes to teaching children about fire and life safety for a half-century, Sparky the Fire Dog ® will "paws" to no one. The cool, vibrant trademarked Dalmatian-mascot for the international nonprofit safety advocate, NFPA (National Fire Protection Association), and long-time best friend to the fire service, turned 50 years old on March 18! That's 350 doggie years! Whoever thinks that Sparky is being put out to pasture, or will be living, er, er, dog days, is surely barking up the wrong tree. NFPA plans to celebrate Sparky's birthday all year long and has just announced that Sparky will continue to doggedly impart educational messages to children.

CPSC VOTES TO BEGIN RULEMAKING TO BAN CANDLES WITH LEAD WICKS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) voted to begin rulemaking that could lead to a ban on candles with lead-core wicks. CPSC has determined that candles using lead wicks could present a lead poisoning hazard to young children.

Studies have found that despite a voluntary industry agreement in the past to remove lead from candle wicks, a small percentage of candles sold today still contains lead in their wicks. The lead cores are used to hold the wicks upright as they burn. The study found that lead-core wicks could emit relatively large amounts of lead into the air during burning. The emitted lead presents a risk to children from exposure through inhalation and from ingestion of lead that may settle on surfaces in the room. This deposited lead could remain accessible to a child for an extended period of time and allow exposure through direct mouthing of surfaces or objects or by hand-to-mouth contact.

Some of the candles emitted lead levels in excess of 2,200 micrograms per hour - about five times the rate that could lead to elevated levels of lead in a child. CPSC estimates that a level of 430 micrograms per hour could result in hazardous exposure to children.

The CPSC found that burning a candle with a lead wick for four hours per day, for 15 to 30 days, could result in blood lead levels above the 10 micrograms per deciliter that is considered a health concern for young children.

Lead poisoning in children is associated with behavioral problems, learning disabilities, hearing problems and growth retardation. Because lead accumulates in the body, even exposure to small amounts of lead can contribute to the overall level of lead in the blood. It is estimated that approximately 1 in every 25 children under the age of 6 in the United States has elevated levels of lead in their blood; that is almost one million children nationwide. The primary source of lead poisoning in the United States is lead from paint in old homes.

It is not possible for consumers to tell if the wicks of candles they are using contain lead. CPSC analysis shows that metal wicks, some of which could contain lead, are most likely to be used in container, pillar, votive and tealight candles.

Tapers, commonly used as dinner candles, use cotton wicks and do not contain lead.

To check a candle in your home, look at the top of the wick. If there is metal, you will see it in the center of the wick. If you have young children, do not burn candles with metal wicks or throw them away. Rulemaking to set a federal ban would not go into effect before the end of the year. Many retailers currently are not selling candles with lead wicks, including:

- Pier 1
- Gap
- Wal-Mart
- Michaels Stores
- Winn-Dixie
- Frank's Nursery & Crafts
- Ahold/USA, parent of Stop & Shop, Giant, Tops and Peapod
- Blyth, parent of PartyLite
- Bullfrog Light Company
- Atlanta Candle Factory
- Mom's Kitchen Candles

CPSC encourages other retailers to take steps and advise consumers of their efforts to keep candles with lead wicks off store shelves. Consumers should ask stores not specifically listed whether their candles have lead free wicks.

In addition to the list above, CPSC is providing a [list](#) of National Candle Association (NCA) members and Non-NCA members that have made a "no-lead wick pledge."

Safe alternatives to lead wicks, including zinc, tin, synthetic fibers, cotton and paper, are readily available to manufacturers. A federal ban would apply to all domestic and imported candles. It would deter manufacturers from making non-conforming wicks, allow the U.S. Customs Service to stop shipments of non-conforming candles, and make it easier for the CPSC to seek penalties against companies for violations.

Chairman Ann Brown and Commissioner Thomas Moore voted to begin rulemaking, Commissioner Mary Sheila Gall voted to grant the petition but to refer it to the Office of Management and Budget for review.