

# *icphso update*

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

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

Winter 2000

## **President's Message**

This edition of the Newsletter finds us again in the midst of the Holiday Season (Hopefully a safe one!). Since our last newsletter, The Board of Directors has brought on three new members. Please welcome Jeanne Bank, John Baker, and Jytte Olgaard, who were elected prior to the last Board meeting and without recounts or chads! We should take special care to thank the retired Board members: Elizabeth Nielson, Merry Fran Tryon, Bob Adler, and Lois Bryant. Their commitment and efforts have helped ICPHSO to grow and develop as a prominent safety organization. Some board positions are expiring in February 2001, so please submit your recommendations or intentions to Mary Ellen Fise, Chair of the Nominations Committee.

While we had the favorable hand count momentum, a full slate of officers was also elected, including the following:

President-Elect: Kitty Pilarz  
Vice-President: Elaine Tyrrell  
Treasurer: John Drengenberg

The membership is in good hands with these dedicated and conscientious safety professionals! Please note that our committees always need help. By joining, you can experience more involvement with the organization direction and work closely with a fine group of people.

Looking ahead to the Annual Symposia in February 28 – March 2<sup>nd</sup> 2001, Kitty Pilarz, as Chair for the Symposium Planning Committee, has again developed a full and informative agenda. Some highlights include the popular CPSC Compliance Course, ABA Safety seminar, international meetings and diverse workshops covering safety issues related to media, transportation, e-Commerce, engineering, recalls, retail responsibilities, information management and standards harmonization.

Please register early and pass on the registration brochure to your industry colleagues. This is our last year at the Radisson, so let's get together and celebrate accordingly!

May all of you have a Safe and Memorable Holiday Seasons with your friends and family.

John Kupsch  
ICPHSO President, 2000-2001

## **ICPHSO AND CPSC MEET WITH PROSAFE TO PLAN INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATION MEETING.**

In October Marc Schoem, CPSC, and Ross Koeser, ICPHSO, met in London with the Chairman's Group of the Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe (PROSAFE) to plan an International Enforcement meeting. The meeting entitled, "Global Safety Enforcement Forum" is scheduled for February 27, 2001, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in Orlando. This first ever effort will piggyback with ICPHSO's Annual Meeting which starts Wednesday, February 28th. In addition to planning for the enforcement meeting, Mr. Schoem gave an excellent detailed report on CPSC's Fast Track Recall Program.

Although today's market place is global, cooperative efforts of government enforcement officials worldwide are very limited. ICPHSO sees a real need for greater international enforcement cooperation starting with Europe, Canada and the United States. This planned forum will have two objectives:

1. Increase communication and collaboration between enforcement officials around the world.
2. Provide a platform for the exchange of ideas between global regulators, the regulated industry and other interested parties.

*Attending PROSAFE Meeting, from left, Jytte Olgaard, Ross Koeser, Noel Hunter, Stig Hakansson and Marc Schoem.*

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## Member News

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Product safety enforcement officials from Europe, Canada, USA, and other countries, together with major international companies, will participate. Agenda items will include comparison case studies of how different countries assess product safety risks and conduct recalls. What are the major problems to greater exchange of "live" information of potentially dangerous products? We will hear from companies who produce international products and the problems they have encountered meeting global safety obligations.

This meeting could be the spark for developing an international enforcement strategy. Certainly this historic meeting will improve international dialogue and increase the exchange of information among enforcement officials.

Plan on attending this meeting and take advantage of this unique opportunity to meet with global enforcers and affected industries. Your presence and input are important. Registration information will be sent shortly.

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## From The Editor's Desk

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ICPHSO will be moving to the Rosen Centre Hotel for our 2002 and 2003 Annual Meetings. Recently I had an opportunity to visit the hotel while vacationing in Disney World with my family and I am confident that you will be pleased with the choice, both with the hotel itself and its location.

Mary Ellen Fise's husband, who is in the convention business helped us negotiate an excellent contract. Negotiations were difficult because of the large number of government rate rooms we demand during their prime season.

The reason for moving is two-fold. First, the number of registrants at the Annual Meeting is approaching 300 and we were running out of room at the Radisson. This year's sit down lunch was "packed like sardines." Secondly, past symposium evaluations showed that our number one complaint was the hotel and, in particular, its remote location.

The Rosen Centre, located on International Drive near shopping, entertainment, restaurants, the Orlando Convention Center and more, should satisfy the toughest critics. We hope!

A word of warning. The Rosen Centre Hotel, has a sister hotel called the Rosen Plaza Hotel located less than one mile away on the other side of the Convention Center. While waiting to meet the Sales Manager for a short tour, two different people showed up at the wrong hotel. Remember, we will be meeting at the Rosen Centre Hotel in 2002.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) honored Ann Brown, Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), by presenting her with its prestigious Excellence in Public Service Award for 2000.

The award recognizes Chairman Brown's leadership and consistent efforts in support of the nation's children and their families. It was presented at a reception in the United States Capitol.

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A special Lifetime Achievement Award was presented to Dick Moll at the Annual Quality Congress on May 9, 2000 in Indianapolis, Indiana. The award was presented on behalf of the American Society for Quality and the Product Safety and Liability Interest Group, "In recognition of Being the Outstanding Educator in the field of Product Liability Prevention."

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The Danny Foundation is pleased to announce that it will expand its mission beyond crib safety to include the safety of all child/nursery products. The Foundation will continue to concentrate on the sleeping environment of infants and toddlers. Accordingly, The Danny Foundation letter head now reads "The Danny Foundation for Crib and Child Product Safety." Check the Foundation web site at [www.dannyfoundation.org](http://www.dannyfoundation.org) for more information.

*Jack Walsh, Executive Director*  
*The Danny Foundation Phone:*

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ICPHSO member Marla Felcher's article, "Children's Products and Risk" was published in the November issue of The Atlantic Monthly magazine. The article is available on the magazine's web-site, [www.theatlantic.com](http://www.theatlantic.com).

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With every purchase of a Freesia Blossom "Komen Candle", Pier I Imports will donate 25% of the proceeds to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. These beautiful and fragrant candles can be purchased at all U.S. and Canadian Pier I Import stores and at [Pier1.com](http://Pier1.com).

The Komen Foundation is a forerunner in the fight against breast cancer by advancing research education, screening and treatment. For more information about breast health or breast cancer call 1-800-I'M AWARE.

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The Protective Headgear Manufacturers' Association which is represented by three members in ICPHSO has just completed another successful year of projects aimed at reducing head injury.

Working with Safe Kids, police departments, elementary schools and other safety organizations, PHMA has distributed several thousand safety videos on bicycle, skateboarding and other similar activities. "Professor Helmut on Helmets" has been a big success with elementary school age children. The videos have also been made available at our ICPHSO meetings.

PHMA is now producing a new video to be shown on public broadcasting stations with the emphasis on wearing helmets and wearing them correctly.

A major project also being funded is the development of a finite head model to study the effects of impacts to the head.

PHMA has been very active in CPSC and ASTM helmet standards development.

More information can be obtained by getting on the web at [www.phma.org](http://www.phma.org) or contacting Dean Fisher at [deanbell23@aol.com](mailto:deanbell23@aol.com)

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## Future Events

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### GROUND RULES ON HOW TO IMPORT TOYS INTO ARGENTINA - NO COST SEMINAR

January 9, 2001, 911 AM, Hyatt Regency Bethesda, One Bethesda Metro, Bethesda, MD 20814. The seminar will be held within walking distance of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC). The CPSC is holding an industry wide toy premium conference that afternoon. To register call Lynn Pestrichelli (973) 346-5515 ext 521 by January 4, 2001.

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### TOY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA, INC. ANNOUNCES TWO TOY FAIR® SEMINARS FOR TOY INDUSTRY SAFETY PROFESSIONALS

The American International TOY FAIR® will be held February 11-15, 2001 in New York City at the Jacob Javits Convention Center and various showroom locations in the Manhattan toy district. This year's conference program consists of 18 seminars, two of which may be of particular interest to toy industry safety professionals – *Annual Toy Safety Update* and *Compliance with Ethical Manufacturing Codes: Proposed Revision to the ICTI Code of Business Practices*.

The ever-popular *Annual Toy Safety Update* is a "must-attend" seminar that will provide an update on issues related to toy safety. Industry experts and U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission staff will address topics including, among others, a status report and overview of proposed changes to the U.S. voluntary safety standard ASTM F963; an update on recent developments regarding vinyl/PVC; and recent priorities and initiatives of the CPSC.

TMA®'s next seminar will address an important concern to all toy manufacturers and retailers, *Compliance with Ethical Manufacturing Codes: Proposed Revision to the ICTI Code of Business Practices*. As ethical manufacturing and labor practices continue to make headlines, toy manufacturers and retailers continue to be concerned and look for a means to ensure that their products are produced under safe and ethical working conditions. As a continuation of efforts first begun in 1995, recently TMA® and Toy Industries of Europe combined efforts to propose a draft revision to the ICTI Code of Business Practices. To implement the revised Code, the TMA® Board of Directors has approved the creation of an independent auditing organization to certify factories for compliance with the Code. This seminar will address the proposed changes to the Code and how the certification program will work.

Both seminars will be held Wednesday, February 14 at The New York Life Building (located at 51 Madison Avenue at 26<sup>th</sup> Street, NYC). If you would like program, pricing and registration information for these two seminars, please see the TMA® website at [www.toy-tma.org/industry/safety/events.html](http://www.toy-tma.org/industry/safety/events.html). For a complete list of seminars to be held during TOY FAIR®, please see the TOY FAIR® website at [www.toy-tma.org/AITF/seminars.html](http://www.toy-tma.org/AITF/seminars.html).

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The Third European Convention in Safety Promotion and Injury Prevention – The Challenge of Consumer Safety in New Europe

Vienna Radisson  
SAS Palais Hotel  
Vienna, Austria  
March 15 & 16, 2001

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### THE 10TH ANNUAL JOHNS HOPKINS SUMMER INSTITUTE: PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF INJURY PREVENTION

June 3-8, 2001. Baltimore, Maryland. This one-week intensive course is for professionals new to the field of injury prevention and those who seek to broaden or advance their basic skills and knowledge. Many of the nation's leading experts in injury control from Johns Hopkins and from other institutions conduct the lectures and discussions. Small group exercises are

held daily which enable participants to apply what they've learned in lecture and integrate this with previous experience. The week culminates with student presentations of their small group projects.

*For more information about the course or about academic credits, contact Susanne Ogaitis-Jones  
Phone: (410) 955-2636 Fax: (410) 614-2797*

*E-mail: [sogaitis@jhsph.edu](mailto:sogaitis@jhsph.edu) or see our website:  
[www.jhsph.edu/Research/Centers/CIRP/ci03006.htm](http://www.jhsph.edu/Research/Centers/CIRP/ci03006.htm)*

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**Professor Dick Moll offers ICPHSO members 10% discount on 2001 training programs.**

Many ICPHSO members have attended past training programs sponsored by the University of Wisconsin and coordinated by Professor Moll.

The University of Wisconsin is a leader in product safety and liability prevention programming. They are celebrating 26 years of providing engineers and product safety personnel with critical information on a wide range of topics. During this time, more than 5,000 individuals have participated in more than 2000 product safety and liability prevention programs.

Professor Moll has attended past ICPHSO conferences and is offering ICPHSO members a 10% discount on all 2001 programs. Although Dick retired in 1999 from the University of Wisconsin he continues his product safety programming with a 25% appointment.

Dick Moll's Program Schedule for 2001

January 24-26  
Essential Aspects of an Effective Product Safety Program, at UCLA, Los Angeles, California

March 28-30  
The Role of Warnings and Instructions

May 2-3  
Overhead Crane Safety  
Enhancing the Engineer's Product Liability Litigation

July 25-27  
Essential Aspects of an Effective Product Safety Program

September 19-21  
The Role of Warnings and Instructions

November 15-16  
Thirteenth Annual Product Liability Conference

*Additional information can be obtained from the web at [www.epd.engr.wisc.edu](http://www.epd.engr.wisc.edu) or you may also contact Dick Moll at 608-263-4712 or Diane Lange at 800-462-0876.*

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**TOY MANUFACTURERS OF AMERICA, INC. TO HOLD TOY AND FACTORY SAFETY CONFERENCES IN NANJING AND SHENZHEN, CHINA**

Since 1996, Toy Manufacturers of America, Inc., together with the China State Administration for Entry-Exit Inspection and Quarantine, Chinese Ministry of Labor, regional offices of the Chinese Import & Export Commodity Inspection Bureau and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, have conducted toy and factory safety seminars in Guangzhou, Shanghai and Shenzhen, China. These educational seminars provide information on such topics as, U.S. mandatory and voluntary toy safety standards as well as the European standards, toy testing demonstrations, discussions on factory safety, factory production and labor issues, among others. To date, more than 1,500 Chinese toy manufacturers and testing officials have attended these seminars. Because of the success of this program, TMA® is co-sponsoring two seminars in China in 2001; the first seminar will take place in Nanjing at the Hilton Nanjing on March 19-20 and the second in Shenzhen at the Shangri-La Hotel on March 22-23. Toy manufacturers who would like their vendors in China to attend should contact Kimberly Hubner at [khubner@toy-tma.org](mailto:khubner@toy-tma.org).

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## News Of Interest

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### SAFE KIDS WALK THIS WAY

The National SAFE KIDS Campaign and FedEx Express partnered together for the *SAFE KIDS Walk This Way* program to raise awareness of the dangers child pedestrians face. Pedestrian injuries are the second leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 5 to 14. Each year, 650 pedestrians ages 14 and under die in motor vehicle-related traffic crashes in the United States. In order to combat this problem, SAFE KIDS and FedEx surveyed driver speeds in 63 school zones across the country. Together they issued a report: *"Child Pedestrians at Risk in America"*. The report details survey findings – including the alarming statistics that two-thirds of drivers exceeded the posted speed limit during before – and after – school hours.

A key component of *SAFE KIDS Walk This Way* is to not only raise awareness of the dangers child pedestrians face, but to mobilize communities in establishing safer walking environments. SAFE KIDS will be working with selected SAFE KIDS state and local coalitions across the country to create local community task forces to address the issue of child pedestrian safety. This program will hopefully reduce the risk to our nation's children as they walk in their neighborhoods and to school.

## INDUSTRY-WIDE TOY PREMIUM CONFERENCE

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) will hold an industry-wide conference concerning hazards associated with toy premiums and the responsibilities of firms that manufacture and distribute these products. The meeting will be held at the Commission's offices in Bethesda, Maryland on January 9, 2001 from 1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m. in the fourth floor Hearing Room.

During the past year, there have been three recalls of toys because of a suffocation hazard. The toys were distributed with restaurant meal purchases and were labeled and promoted as safe for children most at risk - children between 4 and 36 months of age. The deaths and incidents regarding these toys underscore the seriousness of the suffocation hazard and the need to prevent similar incidents. CPSC has also announced recalls of premium items sold inside cereal boxes because they presented choking hazards to young children.

Commission staff from the Office of Compliance will discuss manufacturer, distributor and retailer responsibilities, as well as recalls, including the Fast Track Recall Program. Health Sciences and Human Factors staff will discuss the hazards associated with these toys and the development and selection of toys for use as premiums, including how to determine the appropriate age recommendation for the toy.

If you are interested in attending, please register on CPSC's web site: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) under Business Information. If you need information about topics of discussion and the agenda, please call Marc Schoem, Director, Recalls and Compliance Division at (301) 504-0608 extension 1365. For any other registration information, call Tillie Welch at (301) 504-0608 extension 1315.

### TOY PREMIUMS GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS THAT CONTRIBUTE TO THE RISK OF SUFFOCATION

- The products are generally container-like with cross-sectional areas that are circular or oval shaped and made of semi-rigid, lightweight, non-porous material and can easily be picked up by a child under 36 months.
- The products have an open end with a diameter between 6.0-11.0 cm that can fit over the contours of a child's face, covering the nose and mouth.
- The products have a volume less than 180 ml.
- The products appeal to children from 4 to 36 months of age. Children in this age range enjoy

playing with container-like objects that they can easily manipulate and are likely to place these objects on their faces while playing. They are also very likely to mouth their toys.

When a product with the characteristics described above is held in place over a child's nose or mouth (by a hand or the child lying down on the object), an airtight seal can form. Moisture from the child's lungs and from mouthing the toy helps seal the toy to the face. Once an airtight seal is formed around the mouth and nose, negative pressure is required to hold the container in place. A combination of factors can produce a strong negative pressure, thereby increasing the adherence of the container to the face. This can ultimately result in the child's suffocation.

The CPSC Office of Compliance staff urges manufacturers and distributors of toy premiums to review their current inventory of toys, as well as all prototypes and designs for future premiums, for characteristics that are similar to those mentioned above. If any products that you plan to distribute meet these criteria, do not distribute them to children under three years of age.

If you have any questions regarding the general characteristics mentioned above, or if you have any questions concerning products that you plan to distribute or the manner in which you plan to distribute them, please contact Terri Rogers, Associate Director, Recalls and Compliance Division at 301.504.0608 extension 1363. Terri will be happy to review the product and the marketing plan with you.

**Note:** The above guidance is based on currently available information. Should new or different information come to our attention, this guidance could change. Also, the views in this document may be changed or superseded by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

### PREVENTING PRODUCT RECALLS

*By: Jerry Miller, Regulatory Specialist, ACTS Testing Labs, Inc., Consumer Products Division of Bureau Veritas*

The safety of products in today's global marketplace is a serious issue for consumers and regulatory agencies. Product recalls are also an emerging global issue although the frequency and company costs associated with a recall vary greatly by country. For example, over the last five years, the US Consumer Product Safety Commission has recalled an average of 321 products per year. This number and the associated costs have continued to increase in recent years. Each recall can involve hundreds of thousands of dollars. Data for 1990-1996 for the United Kingdom shows an average of 42 products recalled per year, with the average cost of each being \$57,000. Information from the United Kingdom's Department of

Trade and Industry indicates that the number of recalls continues to rise each year.

By taking preventative actions, companies can minimize potential product hazards, liability concerns and the possibility of a recall resulting from defects, consumer concerns, and/or regulatory action. Services to assist manufacturers, retailers, advertising agencies, and other companies to prevent such costly problems include:

- **Design Evaluations:** When designing a new product or modifying an existing product, an assessment by regulatory specialists, research analysts, and engineers can provide critical information prior to production and distribution. Identifying applicable regulatory requirements and design concerns can save money and time.
- **Injury Data Research and Analysis:** By reviewing prior injury data in conjunction with a design evaluation, potential hazards associated with an existing or new product can be identified. ACTS' comprehensive injury analysis database contains over 38,000 incidents pertaining to 35 different injury types and 58 product categories. This information can be used to make informed decisions about product modifications that will help minimize the possibility of injuries associated with a product.
- **Product Reviews:** Reviewing products on a regular basis can help identify any items in your catalog or on your web site that may be subject to a recall, and/or that may not comply with Federal or State regulations.
- **Information Services:** Remaining up-to-date on mandatory regulations, current technical standards, and product recalls is critical to ensuring product safety. ACTS Information Resources Center (IRC) provides a variety of monitoring services in these areas, along with customized research on alternative materials and background information on suppliers. The IRC maintains summary analyses on US recalls for specific product categories such as candles, plush toys, and lights.

Enlisting the services of knowledgeable professionals is crucial to successfully preventing recalls. ACTS' technical staff is trained to provide comprehensive services. Access to professional information services and a comprehensive injury analysis system provides ACTS' staff with the necessary tools to meet clients needs. For more information, please contact Karen Kreizman Reczek, Manager, Information Resources Center, ACTS Testing Labs, Inc. at (800) 277-3300, ext. 3592, (716) 505-3592, or e-mail: [irc.buffalo@actstesting.com](mailto:irc.buffalo@actstesting.com).

### Searching for Information on Global Product Recalls?

Visit ACTS' "News Brief" section at <http://www.actstesting.com> or directly access <http://www.actstesting.com/ACTSnews.nsf/rn> for a convenient listing of product recalls by country. The site is fully searchable, allowing recalls and safety alerts to be quickly retrieved by keyword for the following countries:

- |                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| -Australia       | - Canada        |
| - Finland        | - New Zealand   |
| - United Kingdom | - United States |

## NFPA CAUTIONS CONSUMERS THAT DECEMBER IS PEAK MONTH FOR HOME CANDLE FIRES

According to the most recent national statistics from the NFPA (1997), there has been an alarming upward trend in home candle fires in the United States since 1991. In 1997 there were 11,600 home candle fires in the U.S. There are twice as many home candle fires in December as in an average month (based on a statistical monthly average).

In NFPA's study, one-third (36%) of home candle fires started when the candle was unattended, abandoned or inadequately controlled, almost one-fifth (18%) of home candle fires occurred because the candle was too close to combustible materials, and 9% of home candle fires were started by children playing with the candles.

"Candles help us create a spirit of warmth during the holiday season, and they add atmosphere and ambiance to our celebrations, but safety should always be a priority," says Meri-K Appy, NFPA vice president for public education. "NFPA has recently learned from a special study conducted in Massachusetts that teenagers are at a high risk of candle fires, and parents should be aware of this. It is safest not to allow any unsupervised use of candles by teens and young children," says Appy.

The NFPA offers the following tips for safe use of candles during the holidays:

- Use candles only with constant adult supervision.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles well away from items that can catch fire, such as Christmas trees, flammable decorations, clothing, books, paper, curtains, etc.
- Make sure candles are placed on a secure piece of furniture, in sturdy holders that will not tip over.
- Make sure candle holders are non-combustible and big enough to collect dripping wax.
- Do not place lit candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.
- Keep wicks trimmed to ¼ inch, and extinguish candles when they burn down to within two inches of

the holder.

- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Do not use candles in places where they can be knocked over by children or pets.

For more information on home candle fires and holiday safety tips, visit NFPA's website at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

## **CPSC WELCOMES HIGH-TECH TOY TESTING EQUIPMENT FROM MCDONALD'S AND RAM CONSULTING EQUIPMENT TO HELP CPSC EVALUATE TOY DANGERS AND PREVENT INJURIES**

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) today welcomed state-of-the-art testing technology from McDonald's Corporation and RAM Consulting. The high-tech equipment will give CPSC additional tools to evaluate the safety of toys and other children's products. In a unique partnership between the private sector and a federal agency, McDonald's and RAM consulting are sharing the equipment with the CPSC. It will give CPSC technical staff additional tools to evaluate safety problems such as choking or suffocation hazards - the leading causes of deaths and injuries associated with children's products.

The new equipment, displayed at a news conference today, includes a computerized "virtual child" and a life-like "breathing" mannequin designed to evaluate choking and suffocation hazards. CPSC data show that up to 30 percent of product-related deaths to young children involve choking or suffocation.

RAM Consulting of Oak Brook, Illinois, developed the equipment to test toys and other promotional items for McDonald's. The highly sophisticated technology is one-of-a-kind and provides additional scientific analysis to help assess safety.

"Toys and children's products are more sophisticated than ever," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "Our testing methods have to keep pace. This new equipment takes product safety into the 21st Century. It will help save children's lives and prevent injuries."

"Children and families have always been special to McDonald's, so we're delighted to share this life-saving technology with the CPSC, and ultimately, the American people," said Jack M. Greenberg, McDonald's Chairman and CEO. "This life-like model affectionately known as 'McBaby' is a proud symbol of our commitment not only to safety, but to our customers and to the communities in which we do business."

"At RAM Consulting, we measure our success by the number of injuries and fatalities we prevent," said Gene Rider, President of RAM Consulting. "The Technical Transfer Program teams the injury prevention technology we developed with the combined power of

CPSC and McDonald's Corporation."

The testing equipment will give CPSC staff additional tools to evaluate products for safety. The equipment includes:

- Infant Suffocation Model - A mannequin that replicates in many ways a living, breathing infant. It can be used to help evaluate suffocation hazards.
- Virtual Child - A three-dimensional computerized model that uses digital images to simulate and identify potential obstructions to a child's airway.
- Simulated Baby Jaw - Can help CPSC technical staff determine if a toy or other product is likely to come apart as a result of biting and tearing and pose a choking danger.
- Strangulation Tester-Can help determine if a product poses a strangulation risk by measuring the forces exerted by a toy or children's product on the neck.
- Bio-mechanical Model - Can replicate a child's pulling forces to test whether a product is likely to come apart in the hands of a child.

The equipment tests for dangers that pose the greatest risk to children - especially those under three years old. The CPSC and McDonald's are discussing sharing other safety evaluation equipment in the future, including a flammability and eye impact apparatus for evaluating products that present fire and eye injury hazards.

## **CHINA FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION AGREES TO TRANSLATION / DISTRIBUTION OF THREE NFPA CODES**

In an historic move toward referencing the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes and standards, the China Fire Protection Association (CFPA) has agreed to translate and distribute to its enforcement officials and academicians three key codes, including NFPA 101, *Life Safety Code*®, in an agreement reached and signed by the parties on October 16 in Beijing during the China Fire Conference 2000.

The two other codes translated and distributed to the Chinese authorities are NFPA 101A, *Alternative Approaches to Life Safety*, and NFPA 220, *Types of Building Construction*. George D. Miller, NFPA President and Chief Executive Officer, and Martin H. (Mickey) Reiss, NFPA Board Chair, signed the agreement with Mr. Hu Zhiguang, China Fire Protection Association President.

"We are very happy that the China Fire Protection community has taken a position to examine our codes and look forward to working with them on other existing codes," said Mr. Miller. "We are committed to working closely with CFPA to ensure that NFPA's codes, standards and other resources are properly translated to make them useful references in Chinese culture and society."