

# icphso update

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

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

Second Issue 2003

## President's Message

It is indeed an honor for me to serve as President of ICPHSO. Having been involved in the organization for many years, I am excited to be part of the leadership of this fantastic organization. The organization is lucky to have such a strong group of individuals willing to serve on the board of directors.

By all accounts the 2003 Symposium was very successful. The attendee surveys provided very positive comments, as well as some insight into what future meetings should include.

Joan Lawrence has already held one conference call with the 2004 Symposium Planning Committee. Based on that call, I am confident in saying we are in for another great meeting next year!

Be sure to mark your calendars now to attend the CPSC/ICPHSO Regional Training Workshop planned for June 12-13 in Chevy Chase, MD. The workshop includes discussions covering "Designing Safety into Consumer Products", "Avoiding Safety Problems – Utilizing CPSC Data Sources", "Retailer Obligations" and much more. Many thanks to Marc Schoem and Ross Koeser for all of their hard work in pulling this workshop together.

One of ICPHSO's strengths has been the involvement and support of our membership. It is the membership that determines what the topics/sessions are for the Annual Symposium, the membership determines what the focus of the organization can/should be, as well as providing input to the board of directors. I encourage you to become actively involved in the organization.

If you are interested in getting more involved, please contact Virginia Spittle in the ICPHSO office (icphso@aol.com) I am sure you will gain a variety of benefits out of your involvement.

I look forward to seeing everyone March 2-5, 2004 at the Omni Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida for our next symposium.

*Bob Waller*  
JPMA  
ICPHSO President

## 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

### ICPHSO 2003 – ATTENDANCE REMAINS HIGH IN A WEAK ECONOMY

Even in a weak economy The International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting drew 300 people, only 9 less than last year's record attendance. One of the evaluations stated, "If you're involved in the safety of consumer products ICPHSO has become the one meeting you cannot miss".

Other comments included:

"This is the most productive meeting I attend each year - - so focused, so relevant. I always learn something".

"Excellent value for the money. This is my 6<sup>th</sup> ICPHSO meeting and every year it gets better".

"The hotel is excellent - -don't move".

"Outstanding – great networking. Diverse participants really add to the value."

ICPHSO is the one organization that brings all sectors of the product safety community to the table. Attending ICPHSO affords networking opportunities not found at other meetings.

A breakdown of the 300 attendees follows:

Manufacturers, distributors, importers	30%
Government	
- Federal	7.3%
- State & Local	6.3%
- International	5.4%
Testing Laboratories	13%
Retailers	11%
Law Firms	9%
Consultants	5%
Public Interest	5%
Trade Associations	3%
Other (media, hospitals, standards organizations, universities)	5%
	100%

This year's symposium attracted 32 international safety professionals from 10 different countries. Of interest is that one-half of the international participants were from non-government agencies - - by far the largest number to attend ICPHSO.

Approximately 75% of the attendees are from the corporate, for profit world while 25% were from the government / not-for-profit sector.

Congratulations to President Bob Waller, head of the Symposium Planning Committee, and all his committee members for organizing a highly successful conference. Many attendees said it was the best ever.

Thanks to Past President Elaine Tyrrell for all her hard work on behalf of ICPHSO, not only this year but also the 10 previous years.

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## Member News

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### ICPHSO'S BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

The ICPHSO Board of Director's has expanded by four members in 2003. Two of the four are from outside the United States. The new members are:

Bruce Farquhar, Product Safety Consultant  
Bruce Farquhar Consulting  
14 Academy Street, Sutton, Quebec J0E 2K0 CANADA  
Phone: 1-450-538-0599 Fax: 1-209-254-5278  
Email: bruce.farquhar@bigfoot.com

John Kupsch, Technical Director  
Good Housekeeping Magazine  
959 Eighth Avenue, New York, NY 10019  
Phone: (212) 649-2390 Fax: (212) 489-8139  
Email: JKupsch@hearst.com

Michelle Reinen, Product Safety Investigator  
WI Dept. of Agriculture, Trade & Consumer Protection  
2811 Agriculture Drive, Madison, WI 53718  
Phone: (608) 224-4988 Fax: (608) 224-4939  
Email: Michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us

Wim Rogmans, Ph.D., Secretary General  
European Consumer Safety Association  
P.O. Box 75169, NL-1070 AD Amsterdam  
THE NETHERLANDS  
Phone: 31 20 5114512 Fax: 31 20 5114510  
Email: W.Rogmans@consafe.nl

Board members are elected to serve a three-year term. A Board member may serve an additional consecutive three-year term if nominated and elected.

Board members are a key part of ICPHSO and become representatives of the organization in the product safety community. They are advocates for the organization and active in all ICPHSO sponsored events.

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## From The Editor's Desk

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Now that we have all agreed on how to pronounce ICPHSO (IC – FA – SO) there really isn't much more to do. Get real!

ICPHSO is busier than ever and we have much to be thankful for. Our 2003 annual meeting was highly successful -- some attendees said the best. ICPHSO is in its best financial situation ever and this years meeting was again, a financial success. Our Committees remain active. The International Caucus and the State and Local Caucus continue to be viable entities that support ICPHSO and provide a "home" for these special interests.

ICPHSO will be cosponsoring a CPSC Compliance workshop and lab tour on June 12-13, 2003 at the National 4-H Center in Chevy Chase Maryland.

ICPHSO leadership continues to be enthusiastic and strong. The Board of Directors was increased by four this year – two international members, one State representative and one Consumer professional.

Yes, we have much to be thankful for as we continue to grow and serve consumer product safety professionals worldwide.

**SPONSORS ARE CRITICAL TO THE SUCCESS OF ICPHSO**

ICPHSO leadership is pleased to thank and recognize those companies and organizations for their generous contributions to become Symposium Sponsors.

ICPHSO thrives without expensive dues or registration fees. In 2003 we could only do this because of the support of the following sponsors.

**Americall Group, Inc.**



**CSA International**



**Exponent**



**General Mills**



**IKEA North America Services**



**Intertek Testing Services, Labtest**



**Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association**



**Home Safety Council**



**McDonald's Corporation**



**MTL – ACTS, Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Services, Inc.**



**RAM Consulting**



**SGS US Testing Company**



**Specialized Technology Resources, Inc.**



**The Marketing Store Worldwide**



**Toy Industry Association**



**Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.**



**XTel Communications**

Scholarships

**Toy Industry Association**



**LEGO Systems, Inc.**



**The Arts & Creative Materials Institute, Inc.**

**ICPHSO's GOLD SPONSORS**



**CSA International**



**RAM Consulting**

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR  
ICPHSO'S 2004 ANNUAL MEETING  
THE ROSEN CENTRE HOTEL  
ORLANDO, FLORIDA  
MARCH 2 - 5, 2004**

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## News Of Interest

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### COMMERCE DEPARTMENT LAUNCHES STANDARDS INITIATIVE

Department of Commerce (DOC) Secretary Don Evans recently announced a new initiative aimed at boosting U.S. exports by harmonizing product standards around the world. Included in the program is an eight-point plan intended to augment current DoC activities to break down trade barriers. The goal is to create a more level playing field around the world and incorporates assessment, training, warning systems, dialogue with industry and more. The project acknowledges that foreign standards and methods used to assess conformity to standards can facilitate efficient international trade and its benefits, or they also can be used intentionally or unintentionally to impede access to foreign markets. This observation mirrors statements included in the National Standards Strategy (NSS) for the United States that was approved in 2000. The NSS establishes a framework that can be used by all interests including companies, government, nongovernmental organizations, standards developers and consumers, to further improve U.S. competitiveness abroad while continuing to provide strong support for domestic markets. It was developed over a two-year period by representatives from the public- and private-sectors; its development was coordinated by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

A DOC press release summarizes the initiative as follows:

1. **Developing a Commerce Global Standards Activity Assessment:** The Technology Administration, through the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), will take the lead in conducting a standards activity assessment of all existing Commerce Department programs and efforts to reduce standards-related barriers in foreign markets. Following consultations with industry and other stakeholders, including ANSI and its member standards developers, recommendations will be made to the Secretary for future action.

2. **Reinforcing Expertise in Key Markets:** NIST and the International Trade Administration (ITA) have developed a new, redesigned, intensive training program for standards liaisons posted abroad.

3. **Devising an Effective Training and Outreach Program:** NIST and ITA, in cooperation with U.S. standards development organizations, will develop a standards training program for all Commerce Department Foreign Commercial Service Officers.

4. **Creating a "Best Practices" Database:** Working with its offices abroad, other government agencies, and industry, the Commerce Department will develop a database of "best practices" in addressing standards issues in foreign markets.

5. **Expanding the Early Warning System:** The Commerce Department will strengthen and expand "Export Alert!," a free, web-based service to disseminate

market intelligence and information on standards developments in key priority foreign markets in Europe, Asia, and Latin America.

6. **Partnering with the President's Export Council on Standards Leadership:** The Commerce Department will support the development of a dialogue on standards within the proposed President's Export Council subcommittee on technology and competitiveness.

7. **Reaching out to U.S. Industry:** The Commerce Department will host a series of industry-specific roundtables to gather input from U.S. industry on the most pressing standards issues and priority foreign markets.

8. **Appointing a Liaison at the International Trade Administration:** A senior official will be named to act as ITA's Standards Liaison with U.S. industry to ensure that industry's priorities on standards are promoted through the Commerce Department's international policies and programs, and will also work closely with other U.S. government agencies.

### CPSC BANS CANDLES WITH LEAD-CORED WICKS

CPSC voted unanimously to ban the manufacture and sale of lead-cored wicks and candles with lead-cored wicks. CPSC determined that candles using lead-cored wicks could present a lead poisoning hazard to young children. The federal ban, which applies to all domestic and imported candles, should deter manufacturers from making non-conforming wicks, allow the U.S. Customs Service to stop shipments of non-conforming wicks and candles, and allow for the CPSC to seek penalties for violations of the ban.

A CPSC investigation found that despite a voluntary industry agreement in the 1970s to remove lead from candle wicks, a small percentage of candles sold in the past several years still contained lead-cored wicks. CPSC staff found that some lead-cored wicks could emit relatively large amounts of lead into the air during burning. Children may then inhale the vaporized lead, placing them at risk. Children may also be exposed to lead by mouthing objects on which lead has settled or by handling such objects and then mouthing their hands.

Some of the candles tested by CPSC staff emitted lead levels in excess of 3,000 micrograms per hour - about seven times the rate that could lead to elevated levels of lead in a child. CPSC estimates that an indoor air lead level of 430 micrograms per hour from burning candles could result in hazardous exposure to children.

The CPSC was petitioned to ban candlewicks containing lead cores and candles with such wicks by Public Citizen, the National Apartment Association, and National Multi Housing Council on February 20, 2001. The ban against manufacturing, importing, or selling candles with lead wicks will become effective in October 2003.

*For more information contact CPSC Media Contact: Scott Wolfson, (301) 504-7051.*

## **CPSC TO HOLD REGIONAL ATV SAFETY HEARING IN WEST VIRGINIA; ATV INJURIES DOUBLE IN FIVE-YEAR PERIOD, DEATHS CONTINUE TO CLIMB**

All-terrain vehicle safety is the focus of a regional public hearing the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission will hold in Morgantown, W. Va., on June 5, 2003. ATV-related injuries in the U.S. have doubled in a recent five-year period and deaths also continue to climb.

"We recognize the growing popularity and diversity of uses for ATVs by the American public, but we are concerned about the disproportionate increase in the number of deaths and injuries associated with their use in recent years," said Hal Stratton, CPSC chairman.

ATV injuries requiring an emergency room visit increased by 104 percent from an estimated 54,700 in 1997 to more than 111,000 in 2001. In 2001, about a third of these victims were under 16 years old. In this same period the estimated number of ATV drivers increased 36 percent, driving hours grew by 50 percent and the number of ATVs increased by 40 percent, according to a recent CPSC analysis.

For 1999, the last year for which death records are substantially complete, CPSC has reports of 357 people who died as a result of ATV use, up from 251 in 1998 and 241 in 1997.

"We want to hear from people who use ATVs for recreation, on their farms or ranches and in industry. We want to understand their motivations. We also want to hear the perspectives of medical professionals and emergency service providers, state and local public health and safety professionals, distributors and dealers, and any others who feel they have a stake in this important issue," Stratton said.

Interested persons from Maryland, Ohio and Pennsylvania also are invited to participate in the West Virginia hearing.

"West Virginia and Pennsylvania ranked in the top six states for ATV-related deaths between 1982 and 2001," Stratton said, "so it makes sense to hold a hearing in that area." (Pennsylvania and West Virginia recorded 264 and 194 deaths, respectively, in that period. Ohio recorded 124 deaths and Maryland 25 deaths.)

"The field hearing gives local people a voice and an opportunity to participate when they otherwise might not have been able if we limited our hearings to Washington D.C.," Stratton said.

The Consumer Federation of America and other groups petitioned the CPSC in September 2002 requesting a ban on the sale of adult-size 4-wheel ATVs sold for the use of children under the age of 16. The commission sought written public comments on the petition from October through March 16, 2003. The West Virginia hearing will provide an additional opportunity for the public to express its views about this petition.

Requests to make oral presentations at the regional hearing and the text of the presentation must be submitted to the CPSC, Office of the Secretary, no later than May 29, 2003. The hearing is from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the Robert C. Byrd Health Sciences Center,

West Virginia University Health Sciences Campus, in Morgantown.

### **ATV Facts**

- In the 1980s the CPSC held hearings in several locations around the country to address hazards associated with ATVs, namely as they related to the then-popular three-wheeled vehicles.
- In 1987, the commission filed a lawsuit under section 12 of the Consumer Product Safety Act to declare ATVs an imminently hazardous consumer product. The lawsuit was settled in 1988 by consent decrees between the commission and ATV distributors. The consent decrees expired in 1998. The consent decrees contained provisions addressing both three-wheel and four-wheel ATVs, and led to the elimination of the manufacture of three-wheeled ATVs.
- After the consent decrees expired, the commission entered into "ATV Action Plans" with individual distributors who had been subject to the original consent decrees and three other distributors who had subsequently entered the market. In the consent decrees and action plans, ATV distributors agreed to use their best efforts to see that adult-size ATVs (vehicles with engines larger than 90 cc) would not be sold for use by children under 16 years of age.
- Since the expiration of the consent decrees, the commission has continued to study and gather information about ATV-related injuries and deaths. It also continues to monitor the ATV dealer market to make sure that industry complies with the agreement not to sell adult-size ATVs for children.
- From 1997 to 2001, ATV-related injuries rose 104 percent, from an estimated 54,700 to 111,700. Over the same five years:
  - the number of drivers rose 36 percent from 12.0 to 16.3 million;
  - the number of driving hours rose 50 percent from 1,575 to 2,364 million; and
  - the number of ATVs rose 40 percent from 4.0 to 5.6 million.
  - None of these exposure measures accounts completely for the rise in injuries.
- Subgroups that have been associated with greater risk for injury continue to be at greater risk in 2001; for example, drivers under the age of 16, drivers with less than one year of driving experience, and recreational drivers.
- CPSC was petitioned by consumer organizations in September 2002 to ban the sale of adult-size 4-wheel ATVs sold for use by children under age 16.

CPSC will consider its recent injury/exposure studies and all other information, including that obtained at the regional hearing in West Virginia, in responding to the petition.

## UL CONVENES STANDARDS TECHNICAL PANEL TO STUDY WHY SOME CHILDREN MAY NOT AWAKEN TO SMOKE ALARMS

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), held a Standards Technical Panel (STP) meeting on Friday, March 7, 2003 at its Northbrook, Ill., headquarters to discuss issues relating to why some children might not awaken when a smoke alarm sounds.

The issue received national attention in November after television stations in Milwaukee and Fort Worth, Texas, coordinated demonstrations with local families and fire departments to gauge effectiveness of fire evacuation plans. Reporters were surprised to find that some children slept soundly through activated smoke alarms.

As a result of the meeting, the STP set up two ad hoc working groups. The first, comprised of pediatric sleep experts, safety engineers, government officials and manufacturers, will gather information and make proposals for future research designed to better understand the physiological and technical aspects of the issue. The information the group gathers is expected to lead to new research that could provide the basis for changes to the way smoke alarms operate and/or the way in which they are installed and used.

The second working group, comprised of members from UL, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), fire prevention and education specialists, and manufacturers, will develop educational and publicity campaigns to raise public awareness of smoke alarm and fire safety issues.

Both groups will report back to the STP by May 30, 2003.

"Based on what we heard from pediatric sleep experts and fire prevention officials, there might not be a single answer to this complicated issue," said John Drengenberg, UL's manager of Consumer Affairs and moderator for the discussion. "It seems clear, however, that some children, especially young children, may at times sleep so deeply that it may not be possible for the alarm alone to arouse them to the point where they can reliably evacuate a house on their own. If, and until, a technological solution can be found, public education on the issue will be a pressing concern for the fire safety community."

Drengenberg and fire officials at the STP meeting emphasized that smoke alarms – when maintained properly – continue to save lives every day, and that consumers should consider them a reliable "front-line defense" against fire.

*For more information contact John Drengenberg at 847-272-8800 or e-mail: [John.P.Drengenberg@us.ul.com](mailto:John.P.Drengenberg@us.ul.com)*

## STATE AND LOCAL CAUCUS REPORT

For the 10<sup>th</sup> straight year the State and Local Caucus has met in conjunction with ICPHSO annual meeting. The Caucus is attended by state and local professionals involved in consumer product safety issues. This year's theme was "Building a State and Local Team".

The Caucus provides a great opportunity for State and Local officials to get together, share success stories, learn from each other and make new friends. The importance of CPSC meeting with state and local partners to help leverage each other's mission cannot be over emphasized.

Michelle Reinen, a Product Safety investigator in Wisconsin, discussed how they enforce the Product Safety laws in Wisconsin combined with a strong information and education program.

John McPherson, State Designee from New Mexico, discussed the need to tailor their programs to address Spanish speaking populations and cultures of rural populations.

CPSC staff introduced the state and local list server and recommended the use of this vehicle to facilitate communication. CPSC and State and Local partners can hold discussions with everyone that is a member of the list. The address is [state@list.cpsc.gov](mailto:state@list.cpsc.gov).

Iris Liskey, Program Manager, facilitated the caucus with the assistance of Denise Beatty, Director of State and Local Programs, Regional Directors, Eric Ault and Jerry Naylis and Deputy Regional Director, Larry Cornell.

Many attendees came away feeling they received great ideas to take back to their colleagues and implement in their respective program areas.

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## Coming Events

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### UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN'S PRODUCT SAFETY PROGRAM

Professor Dick Moll will present the following training:

**Enhancing the Engineer's Product Liability Experience**  
July 9-11, 2003 in Madison, Wisconsin

**The Role of Warnings and Instructions**  
September 17-19, 2003 in Madison, Wisconsin

Professor Moll offers a 10% discount to ICPHSO members.

*Additional information can be obtained from the web at <http://epdweb.engr.wisc.edu> or you may also contact Dick Moll at 608-263-4712 or Nora Kaufman at 1-800-462-0876.*