

# icphso update

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

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

Second Issue 2007

---

## President's Message

---

Hold the presses! Okay, we don't really use presses for our newsletter, but the result is the same. The newsletter was ready to go before our recent international conference, but I wanted to talk about our international activities and so I held off on this column. Several years ago the Strategic Planning committee addressed the "I in ICPHSO" and the decision was made to take action to become a truly international organization. Bruce Farquhar led the team for our European conferences and, as mentioned later in this newsletter, Mark Dewar took the ball and ran in Asia.

Our two-day conference in Beijing was highly successful. It was officially titled "International Consumer Product Safety Conference: Consumer Product Safety, Our Common Responsibility" and was co-hosted with AQSIQ, China's General Administration for Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine. We had attendance on par with our US symposiums and were able to provide a well-attended forum for discussing consumer product safety for Electrical and Electronic goods; Hardlines and Toys; and Juvenile Products. Speakers from importers, safety laboratories and major manufacturers joined with government agency VIPs from eight different world markets to discuss market surveillance, risk assessment and designing safety into products.

Eight premier sponsors and ten contributing sponsors helped to fund this successful conference that not only provided valuable and usable information for the participants, but also paved the way for requests from a number of other world markets to host future conferences.

And the Friday before the Beijing conference, I gave a presentation on ICPHSO in Seoul at the First International Product Safety Workshop hosted by the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards, Ministry of Commerce, Industry & Energy.

It has been truly impressive to see how successful ICPHSO has been in accomplishing this strategic goal with the dedication and hard work of our members. When Jack Walsh addressed ICPHSO's membership at our annual meeting, he called on us to be passionate about safety. I think we already are

(that's why we're members of ICPHSO) but I also think we need to turn our passion into action. The Beijing committee, led by Mark Dewar with the help of Jack Walsh, Joan Mattson, Sue DeRagon and Carol Pollack-Nelson, showed us what passionate action can accomplish. We will be reviewing and updating our strategic plan later this month and I urge all of you to contribute passionate action to one or more of the committees that will be working on our various goals. We're all pressed for time, but even a little passionate action can take ICPHSO to an even higher level of benefiting individuals around the world who are dedicated to product safety.

Denise Pozen  
President, ICPHSO



Jack Walsh, outgoing President with Denise Pozen  
ICPHSO President for 2007/2008

---

## ICPHSO Highlights

---

### Thank You ICPHSO Sponsors

ICPHSO is pleased to thank and recognize those companies and organization for their generous contributions as Symposium Sponsors.

This year ICPHSO received \$50,500 from sponsorships and scholarship donors. ICPHSO thrives without expensive dues or registration fees and we do this because of the generosity of the following 29 donors (listed alphabetically).

Akin Gump Strauss Haver & Feld LLP  
Americall Group, Inc.  
Arent Fox  
Arnold and Porter  
Association of Home Appliance  
Manufacturers (AHAM)  
ASTM International  
Bureau Veritas Consumer Products Svcs  
CSA International  
Home Safety Council  
IKEA North America Services, LLC  
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Assoc.  
Latham and Watkins LLP  
Law Offices of David Baker LLC  
Lego Systems Inc.  
Lighter Association, Inc.  
Marsh Risk Consulting  
Mattel / Fisher-Price, Inc.  
McDonalds Corporation  
MeadWestvaco Corporation  
Procter & Gamble  
Product Safety Letter  
SGS Consumer Testing Services  
Specialized Technology Resources, Inc.  
Stericycle  
The Art & Creative Materials Inst. Inc.  
The Home Depot  
Toy Industry Association, Inc.  
TUV Rheinland of North America  
Underwriters Laboratories  
XTel Communications

#### **Four New Board Members Join the ICPHSO Team**

The ICHPSO Board of Directors expanded by four members in 2007. The new members are:

Doug Geralde  
CSA Group  
Toronto, Ontario Canada

J. David Innis  
Procter & Gamble Company  
Cincinnati, OH

Wayne Morris  
AHAM – Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers.  
Washington, DC 20036

Ann Weeks  
Underwriters Laboratories Inc.  
Washington, DC 20036

In addition the Board elected Rachel Weintraub, Consumer Federation of America as Vice President.

Board members are elected to serve a 3 year term. A Board member can serve an additional 3 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.

Leaving the Board each having served with distinction are:

Jeanne Bank, Canadian Standards Assoc. Intl.  
Don Mays, Consumers Union  
Rick Seib, Whirlpool Corporation  
Bob Waller, Juvenile Products Manufacturers Assn.

#### **ICPHSO Keeps Rolling Along – 14<sup>th</sup> Symposium is Another Success**

How many conferences/symposiums can boast that 97% of the evaluations stated that the 2007 Symposium met or exceeded their expectations? Welcome to ICPHSO!

Attendance continues to grow as 342 people attended this years meeting. Lets hear some comments from this years attendees:

- As a first time attendee, I was overwhelmed by companies present and the material presented in the seminars. My experience with ICPHSO so far has been outstanding. I've had great support throughout – from contacts with sponsors and other attendees.
- Add more research topics, it is the one area that was fascinating, even when not applicable to individual industries.
- Networking is great, followed by keeping up on issues.
- We hope that we mutually benefit out of our relationship and also think of holding a conference/meeting in India.

ICPHSO is grateful to Underwriters Laboratories for sponsoring a reception at their exhibit – “Innovations” at Epcot a part of Disney. The fireworks show – IllumiNations: Reflections of Earth was fantastic and guests had an opportunity to mix and mingle.

The Preliminary Program entitled: International Day was an opportunity for participants to share knowledge about initiatives from their countries, to pose questions to experts from specific countries, to show new ideas and to brain storm on problems. The group was divided into 3 regions of the world:

- Europe
- North America
- Asia Pacific

Participants rotated from region to region.

Networking is always rated the #1 benefit of attending ICPHSO meetings. A breakdown of the 342 attendees – networking possibilities follows:

Mfg	32%
Retailers	25%
Testing/Std Labs	12%
Law Firms	10%
Government	9%
Consultants	5%
Public Interest	4%
Other	3%
	<u>100%</u>

The 2007 Symposium attracted 41 international safety professionals.

Our 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting will be in Washington DC, February 18 – 21, 2008. See you there.



Jack – You're supposed to be stuffing bags!!



Jeanne Bank and Don Mays leaving the ICPHSO Board (missing Bob Waller)



Ross Koeser with Tom Weekes – TUV Platinum sponsor



Stuffing bags – an ICPHSO ritual



Sue Demsey and Doug Geralde at CSA International Booth



Many thanks to Jane Chapman and Virginia Spittler –  
ICPHSO Staff

---

## Member News

---

### **Groundbreaking Study of Smoke Characterization Could Change the Face of Fire Safety**

Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and the Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) announced the completion of a study that enhances the fire safety community's understanding of modern fire hazards and may eventually lead to changes in how people are kept safer from fire.

The \$700,000 joint study systematically investigated the characterization of smoke and how materials used in modern residential settings have changed the way fires behave in homes. The year-long Smoke Characterization Project studied 27 synthetic and natural materials and various combinations of materials now more commonly found in homes.

Until recently, these different smoke characteristics couldn't be studied or identified. In developing the Smoke Characterization Project, UL invested more than \$500,000 to conduct the study and to secure the latest scientific measurement equipment. With this advanced analytical ability, UL's fire science experts were able to investigate the chemical and physical properties of smoke at a new level of sophistication.

"This review is the first of its kind to study such a wide range of materials now found in homes," said Kathleen Almand, executive director of FPRF. "What we are learning will enable public safety officials to further develop education and training programs regarding the use of smoke alarms in residential structures and provide valuable data to fire science engineers as they strive to develop new smoke detection technologies."

"The initial results of this project reflect that smoke can no longer be characterized just by color or thickness, but that smoke itself is highly complex and chemically different based on each unique fire event," said John Drengenberg, UL's manager of Consumer Affairs. "From the sheer amount of data we've gathered, we believe the results will change the way the fire community perceives smoke produced in home fires, which could further reduce the risk of injury or loss of life due to fires."

Drengenberg said the study will also help material scientists better understand how materials break down in residential fires and may lead to the development of safer materials in the home.

The Smoke Characterization Project followed a 2005 study conducted by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) that indicated fires in modern homes smolder longer, then burn hotter and faster than what was typical when smoke alarms were first introduced.

The NIST study also concluded that because fires could be more aggressive, the time needed to escape some types of fires has been reduced from approximately 17 minutes to as little as three minutes in certain situations.

"With this Smoke Characterization Project, UL and FPRF are helping move fire science to a whole new level," said Chief Jim Harnes, president, International Association of Fire Chiefs. "Home furnishings and products constructed from new synthetic materials and formulations are growing in popularity. This project has provided the data and measurement techniques needed to more fully assess a burning material's impact on detection."

### **The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. Releases Informational CD for Retailers/Distributors**

The Art & Creative Materials Institute, Inc. (ACMI) is pleased to announce its new informational CD for retailers and distributors that was made available to attendees at the recent National Art Materials Trade Association (NAMTA) Convention held in Chicago. The CD contains the following helpful information about art material safety and Youth Art Month:

- ACMI's "What You Need to Know About the Safety of Art & Craft Materials" booklet
- An article on the Labeling of Hazardous Art Materials Act (LHAMA) and responsibilities under LHAMA
- Complete listing of ACMI-certified products
- ACMI "Frequently Asked Questions" sheet
- Poison Control Call Tips for Retailers
- ACMI's "The Safe and Successful Use of Art Materials" Power Point presentation
- ACMI Ceramic Guidelines
- Current List of ACMI Members
- ACMI Officers and Directors

- “March is Youth Art Month” information booklet
- “Celebrate Youth Art Month in Your Store” sheet

ACMI has also sent each member company a copy of the CD and is making additional copies available to members free of charge for distribution to their retailers/distributors who were not able to attend the NAMTA Convention. If you are a retailer or distributor of art materials and would like a copy of this CD, please contact Debbie Gustafson at ACMI ([debbieg@acminet.org](mailto:debbieg@acminet.org)). The CDs are being made available on a first-come, first-served basis.

ACMI is a non-profit association of art, craft and other creative materials manufacturers that has been in existence for 67 years. It sponsors a program to ensure that products are properly evaluated and labeled, if necessary, with appropriate health warnings and safe use instructions. ACMI continues to grow, and currently has over 200 members. For more information, visit ACMI’s website at [www.acminet.org](http://www.acminet.org) or contact Deborah Gustafson, Associate Director, at The Art & Creative Materials Institute, P.O. Box 479, Hanson, MA 02341, Tel. (781) 293-4100, Fax (781) 294-0808, email: [debbieg@acminet.org](mailto:debbieg@acminet.org).

### **Canada Amends the Hazardous Products (Glazed Ceramics and Glassware) Regulations**

Canada has just amended its Glazed Ceramics and Glassware Regulation to harmonize with the United States Society of Glass and Ceramic Decorators (SGCD) Association’s limits for lead and cadmium in the lip and rim area for decorated drinking vessels. Additionally, Canada has changed the name of these regulations from hazardous Products (Glazed Ceramics and Glassware) Regulations to the Glazed Ceramics and glassware Regulations. The purpose of this amendment is to further restrict the limits for leaching of lead and cadmium from the lip and rim area of glass and ceramic drinking vessels with exterior decorations.

#### **New Limits**

The amended regulations restrict the limits for leaching of lead and cadmium from the lip and rim area of glass and ceramic drinking vessels with exterior decorations within 20 mm of the rim to 4 mg/L and 0.4 mg/L, respectively. These limits were adopted for the industry standard for the lip and rim area of drinking vessels set by the SGCD in 1999.

#### **Effective Date**

This amendment was published in the March 7, 2007 edition of the Canada Gazette and went into effect immediately upon publication. To view complete text of the amendment, please visit: <http://canadagazette.gc.ca/part11/2007/20070307/html/sor30-e.html>

Bureau Veritas offers testing services with experienced technical professionals. Bureau Veritas can assist companies by testing ceramic materials for the presence and percentage of lead and cadmium in products. Bureau Veritas also offer comprehensive services, including:

- Analytical Testing
- Toxicological Risk Assessments

For More Information please contact Shari M. Piskorz, Supervisor Heavy Metals Lab, (800) 277-3300 ext. 3579, (716) 505-3579 or via email.

### **Web Based Training**

STR is deploying a web based training module system (eLearning courses) which allows the reach of the seminar to increase while reducing cost to participants. Currently available from STR is the e-learning course entitled "Social Compliance Course 1: Essential Principles and Program Elements", which is available in both English and Chinese. Please contact Thuy Nguyen at [thuy@intlcompliance.com](mailto:thuy@intlcompliance.com) for more information or a course demonstration.

### **STR Expanding in India**

India is the globe's second largest and fastest growing market for textile and garment exports, and STR is expanding their presence and capabilities in India by building New Delhi's newest, state of the art laboratory. The laboratory is being developed employing STR global best practices, including web-based data management tools. This 16,000 sq. ft. facility will also house their vitamin supplement raw material testing laboratory, their inspection and audit offices and their back office processing activities as well as coordinate their southern India and Sri Lanka service offices.

---

## **From The Editor’s Desk**

---

Who put the I in ICPHSO? There are many people who had a role and made contributions to that end. Loads of people filled out their symposium evaluation sheets with similar comments, “Meeting is too much oriented toward the United States – needs more international programming”.

I think we have made great progress in this area in the past 4 years and much of the credit goes to a certain special person.

Our first International meeting was held in London in 2004. This first ICPHSO meeting outside the United States broke the ice and brought ICPHSO to Europe. Our special person had a vision for our

organization – helped organize the symposium and funded a major portion of the meeting.

Ok, now we are doing our 4<sup>th</sup> international meeting in China – opening our window of opportunity to the Pacific Rim.

Who had this vision? Who convinced a doubting Board that ICPHSO needed to venture into China? Who has spent countless hours and funds to organize this meeting and be the spokesperson for ICPHSO in China? I am sure you guessed who I am talking about by now. Thank you Mark Dewar. The ICPHSO Board and Membership appreciates all your hard work and countless hours dedicated to ICPHSO.

---

## News Of Interest

---

### ER Urges Cooperation on Import Product Safety

In the coming year, the EU will target customs officials for product safety training, especially at large seaports, the EU Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General (DG-Sanco) said April 23. The goal is to improve cooperation between customs and market surveillance officials and is needed because about 90% of products imported into the ER come through such seaports. Also targeted will be rules to streamline the cooperation between customs and market surveillance units and continued development of systems like RAPEX, which aid the exchange information on unsafe products between authorities in different EU nations. DG-Sanco also pointed to the importance of its memorandum of understanding with the Chinese which targets ensuring products are safe before they reach the EU. China is the top source of problematic products listed in RAPEX reports, according to a recent DG-Sanco report.

### EU Says RAPEX Improved Surveillance, Aided Cooperation

An April 19 report for the EU Health and Consumer Protection Directorate General (DG-Sanco) concludes that the RAPEX system has fueled improved market surveillance in numerous EU nations. As well, the system “has been instrumental in promoting the establishment of a close-knit community of national enforcement authorities” who are increasingly cooperating on projects such as exchanges of best practices, joint surveillance and training. DG-Sanco also pointed to requests by third-party nations for access to RAPEX as evidence of its success, and it asserted that agreements with CPSC and with China’s General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine have helped to improve RAPEX. China was the source of 48% of problem products, and the EU expects Chinese imports to increase.

The report emphasized that 40% of notices involve voluntary actions, which it termed a “clear indicator of growing safety awareness” among regulated companies. On the other hand, notices mostly still come from just a few nations, with about 60% originating in just five nations: Germany (144 notices, 16%), Hungary (140, 15%), Greece (98, 11%) the United Kingdom (92, 10%), and Spain (79, 9%). Top products were toys (221, 24%), electrical appliances (174, 19%), motor vehicles (126, 14%), lighting equipment (98, 11%), and cosmetics (48, 5%).

The report is at [ec.europa.eu/consumers/reports/report\\_rape\\_x\\_06\\_en.pdf](http://ec.europa.eu/consumers/reports/report_rape_x_06_en.pdf). The EU also put out a video explaining RAPEX. View it at [www.tvlink.org/vnr.cfm?vidID=240](http://www.tvlink.org/vnr.cfm?vidID=240).

RAPEX (rapid exchange) is the system by which EU nations alert each other to product safety actions; it also is referred to as the Rapid Alert System. It has seen large growth in recent years, increasing from 63 reports in 2003 to 924 in 2006. Early data for 2007, through February, show that the EU is on pace to meet or exceed 1,200 reports this year.

### ASTM Gets MOU with Russian Agency

ASTM April 10 announced the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Russia’s Federal Agency on Technical Regulating and Metrology. The pact aims to remove technical barriers by allowing the Russian agency access to ASTM’s standards with the goal of aiding the quality of Russian products as it seeks to join the World Trade Organization in 2008. The agreement also provides for Russian stakeholders’ participating in the ASTM standards-making process. Use of international MOU’s in the standards and product safety area has seen increased attention in recent years, including by CPSC, which has pacts with about a dozen nations.

### Japan to Have Monthly Product Safety Day

Japan’s Ministry of Economy Trade and Industry (METI) March 1 announced that the 2<sup>nd</sup> day each month will be Product Safety Inspection Day. The agency explained that it would use the day to provide consumers with product safety information, to focus on recalls and other product-safety activity. On March 2, METI made two announcements related to product safety:

- It issued guidelines for complying with Japan’s new product-safety reporting requirements. Those laws – passed last year – are based on CPSC reporting rules. The guidelines are at [www.meti.go.jp/press/20070302003/guideline-p.r.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/press/20070302003/guideline-p.r.pdf) - they are in Japanese; PSL is seeking an English version and will provide access if found.

- It issued proposals to amend the standards for electric heaters (prohibition of most remote controls) and for household paper shredders (labeling, safety interlocks, power switch disconnecting and tests for hazardous moving parts). More information (in English) on both proposals is at [www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/denan/080302.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/denan/080302.pdf). Details (in English) on responding to either request is at [www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/denan/080302.pdf](http://www.meti.go.jp/english/policy/denan/080302.pdf).

### **UL and Disney Expand Kid Safety Effort**

Underwriters Laboratories March 12 announced that it is expanding a program with The Walt Disney Company that focuses on safety education of children ages 5 to 12. The Wild About Safety effort targets household, electrical, water and recreational safety issues and incorporates the Disney characters Timon and Pumbaa from *The Lion King* with UL's *I Am Safety Smart* youth education program. The work will include public service announcement on Radio Disney stations and messages through the Disney Channel Games Ultimate Fan Experience events at malls. Both information efforts will involve the National Teacher Incentive Program and are slated to begin in July 2007. UL also said it will produce a study of youth safety issues to support the effort. A DVD will be available by January 2008. The effort originally began in 2003.

Parts of the above five articles are reprinted with the permission of "Product Safety Letter" [productsafety@cox.net](mailto:productsafety@cox.net).

---

## **Coming Events**

---

### **The Competitive Advantage of Essential Product Safety**

Intertek is offering a Product Safety Training course that addresses key issues involved with integrating safety into your business process. Presented by leading experts in the field of safety, including international safety lawyers and product testing specialists, Intertek Product Safety Training provides you with the tools to enhance brand value, improve market performance, and create an essential competitive advantage.

The Product Safety Training course is being offered at the following locations on the following dates:

July 17-18, 2007 in Chicago  
September 25-26, 2007 in Los Angeles  
October 17-18, 2007 in London  
October 23-24, 2007 in Chicago

To learn more about this course, the instructors, and how to register on line by visiting our website at [www.ramestraining.com](http://www.ramestraining.com)