



# Enhanced Use of *Voluntary* Consumer Product Safety Standards

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*When it matters*



# I. **Who Benefits** From Product Safety Standards?

- A. Government?
  - B. Manufacturers?
  - C. Importers?
  - D. Consumers?
  - E. All of the Above?
  - F. None of the Above?
- (Choose correct answer)



## II. Current CPSC *Mandatory* Standards (examples) -

### A. Consumer Product Safety Act:

- Architectural Glazing Materials (laceration hazards)
- Matchbooks (burn hazards)
- Bicycle Helmets (impact/fractures)

### B. Federal Hazardous Substances Act:

- Toys Intended for Children Under 3 years (ingestion/ban)
- Electrically Operated Toys
- Fireworks Devices



## II. Current CPSC *Mandatory* Standards (cont'd)

### C. Flammable Fabrics Act:

- Children's Sleepwear
- Carpets
- Mattresses/pads

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**Total** CPSC enforced and developed safety standards, approximately 30\*

*\* Not including additional bans and labeling requirements under FHSA.*



### III. *Total* Consumer Products Regulated by CPSC

- CPSC estimate: approximately [15,000](#)  
Consumer Products subject to regulation





## IV. Recent CPSC Recalls of Hazardous Products -

- ❑ November - December 2006 (examples) -
  - ❑ Children's Metal Jewelry (lead hazard)
  - ❑ Children's Strollers (abrasion hazard)
  - ❑ Boilers (carbon monoxide)
  - ❑ Sweatshirts (choking hazard)
  - ❑ Lithium-ion Batteries (fire hazard)
  - ❑ Air Rifles (accidental discharge)
  - ❑ Magnetic play sets (ingestion by children)
  - ❑ Candles (fire hazard)



## IV. Recent CPSC Recalls of Hazardous Products -

- Total CPSC Recalls (2006) = 1019



\* \* \*

- **Question:** Would some or all of the recalled hazardous products (and others) benefit from **enforceable** safety standards?





## V. CPSC Staff *Participation* in *Voluntary* Standards Proceedings (examples) -

- ❑ Carbon Monoxide Sensors - (approximately 140 deaths annually – sponsor, Underwriters Laboratories)
- ❑ Portable Generators (172 fatalities over 5 years – sponsor, U.L.)
- ❑ Toys – flammability, noise, entrapment (210,300 estimated emergency room injuries annually – sponsor, ASTM)



## V. CPSC Staff *Participation* in *Voluntary* Standards Proceedings (examples) -

- ❑ Cribs (138 injuries; 12 deaths over 10 years – sponsor, ASTM)
- ❑ Baby Bath Seats (123 deaths; 182 injuries over 12 years) sponsor, ASTM)
- ❑ Pools (approximately 280 deaths; 2,200 injuries per year – Sponsor, ASTM)
- ❑ Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters (40,000 residential fires annually – Sponsor, U.L.)



## V. CPSC Staff *Participation* in *Voluntary* Standards Proceedings (cont'd)

- ❑ Batteries (in computers, cell phones, etc.; sponsor, Institute of Electrical and Electronic engineers)
- ❑ Electric Heaters (estimated 90 deaths; 290 injuries annually, sponsor, U.L.)
- ❑ Smoke Alarm Effectiveness (residential fires: 1999 estimated data 337,300 residential fires; 2,390 deaths – sponsors, NFPA, U.L.)
- ❑ Candles (annual average 12,500 fires; 110 deaths; 1,100 injuries; \$248,000 million property damage – sponsor, ASTM)



## V. Current CPSC Staff Participation in *Voluntary* Standards Proceedings (cont'd)

- ❑ Bicycles – (reflectors, frame strength; sponsor – ASTM)
- ❑ Power Saws – (29,000 - 38,000 injuries estimated annually; sponsors, ANSI, U.L.

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- ❑ Question: Substantial public resources and time are devoted to the development of voluntary standards. Will they be enforceable and effective when issued?



## VI. Advantages of *Enforceable* Standards -

- Advanced Notice of Product Requirements for Producers
- Prevention of Injuries
- “Level Playing Field”
- Public Confidence in Consumer Products



## VII. Potential Disadvantages of *Enforceable* Standards

- Cost to develop
- Time to develop
- Possible influence by interest groups;
- Need for broad public participation
- Possible anti-competitive effect





## Conclusion

- Who benefits from consumer product safety standards?
  - A. Government
  - B. Manufacturers
  - C. Importers
  - D. Consumers
  - E. All of the above
  - F. None of the above
  
- You Choose The Correct Answer!***

