

**Joint Industry Fabric Standards & Guidelines
Committee Minutes
Renaissance Hotel - Charlotte, NC
November 6, 2002**

I. Chairperson Bill Reichel called the meeting to order at 8:40 AM

II. Self Introductions and Circulation of sign-up sheet was done by Tammy Schmidt

III. Bill Perdue went over the meeting arrangements for the day

IV. Flammability Report

Hugh Talley reported the CPSC standard is allowing a barrier to be used and is more reasonable than the California purposed standard. The California website has update information on this subject under the Bureau of Home Furnishings.

V. ATMI Report

Hugh reported on behalf of Penny Adair. The ATMI is working on the CPSC standard to make it more sensible as the group is against the California standard.

VI. ASTM

Hugh reported on behalf of David Ryan. The ASTM is trying to eliminate upholstery testing because there are no precision bias statements. Hugh advised more companies need to get involved so this does not occur.

VII. Tiered Standards Ballot Report

David Bell reported on the ballot. A comment from a member was made to make level 1 better than level 2. An information ballot will be sent out before the next meeting.

VIII. Report on Ballot on Standardization Guideline for Pattern Repeats

David Petty reported on the ballot for pattern Repeats. 12 for and 1 against – the negative vote was discussed. David will write the pattern repeat as a Guideline and sent it to AFMA for publishing.

XI. Report on Round Robin on Dynamic Seam Fatigue

Judy Fay reported on the results of the Round Robin. There were four labs that participated and 108 samples tested. Judy stated the results were not consistent from lab to lab and also slippage was noticeable at the claps on the specimens.

David Petty stated that Quaker Fabrics is working on a new machine to correlate with the Dynamic Testing Machine. He stated that no foam is used. David will provide a copy of test procedures and photos of this machine at the next meeting.

XII. Report on Marking Flaws

Tammy Schmidt and David Bell reported the purpose of looking at a new tag to mark flaws. The topic was brought up a few meetings ago due to new cutting machines which use lasers. At this time we do not feel it necessary to continue with this subject.

Danny Davis presented to the group florescent pink and yellow yarns which were dyed.

Furniture manufactures brought up the topic that they don't care what the flaws are marked with as long as they are marked. The mills response was they need piece numbers reported to bring the issue to the attention of the inspectors.

XIII. Breakout Session of Task Groups

A. Chenille Fabrics

David Petty (power point presentation attached)
Ballot on Pattern Repeat Standardization Guideline
(14.0 will be re-numbered accordingly.)

Discussion:

It is generally felt that a better balance can be reached between offering furniture manufacturers standardized pattern repeat lengths, versus affording fabric designers infinite design flexibility. For example, a survey recently undertaken by a subcommittee of the JIFSC found that of 1348 fabrics randomly selected from the market, there were 438 different pattern repeat lengths. Furthermore, there were only fourteen sets of fabrics that contained five or more common repeat lengths. This snapshot indicated that there was considerable opportunity for improvement.

The subcommittee concluded that the issue of standardized pattern repeats was most concerning with plaid fabrics. Having standardized repeat lengths on plaid fabrics enables manufacturers to better combine different fabric SKUs within their cutting process. Finally, it was felt that 0.25 inch repeat increments was a reasonable compromise between the extremes of absolute standardization and infinite plaid repeat lengths.

14.3 Guideline

14.3.1 Standardization of Plaid Pattern Repeats

Woven plaid fabrics will be limited in repeat length offerings to 0.25 inch increments. For example, an acceptable range of repeat lengths for 10 plaid fabrics could be: 12.0",

12.25", 12.5", 12.75", 13.0", 13.25", 13.5", 13.75", 14.0", and 14.5". The tolerances for roll-to-roll and within roll pattern repeat length measurements are unchanged (see 14.2.1).

A statement by Brian Burke, Sunbury – It is the responsibility of the seller of chenille fabrics who have the control over specifying the construction and fiber types of the chenille yarn to be accountable for the chenille yarn's performance in the fabric. The chenille yarn's construction is directly related to pile retention performance. The chenille yarn's winding direction is directly related to horizontal barre defects in fabric.

B. Roll Condition

Terry Medlin

At the November meeting of the Joint Industry Fabric Standards Meeting in Charlotte, NC a subcommittee was formed to address what condition a roll of fabric should be in when it arrives at the User dock. In order to determine what conditions rolls are currently being shipped, the subcommittee is sending out a survey to determine what those conditions are. The survey will address weight, width, and roll direction requirements as well as questions on applying indicator yarns or labels to the selvage edges to help maintain proper roll orientation. I will enter this information on a spread sheet and e-mail everyone a copy. If the Mills or Converters have several outside Finishers and you wish to keep the names confidential, please fill out survey for each Finisher and label as A, B, C, or etc.

Please complete the survey and e-mail the survey back to me at tmedlin@benchcraft.com or fax it to me at (662) 685-4784. If you can not open the attachment or the drawing in the document does not print out with all the lines connected please e-mail me or call me at (662) 685-0278 and I will fax you a copy. Please supply Fax #.

C. Plaid Repeat Patterns within a Roll

Pankaj Mistry – *(no report given to me to publish)*

XIV. New Business

Larry Runyan will be retiring and Bill Perdue will be taking over his responsibilities.

The ASTM 4157 Abrasion test has been updated. The screen size previously specified is no longer available for purchase. A new screen size is now stated. The Joint Industry Standard will be updated to reflect this change also.

The Joint Industry Standards are on the AFMA web site, the address is www.AFMA4U.org

XV. Meeting was adjourned at 3:05 PM