

MINUTES

AHFA Joint Industries Fabric Standards and Guidelines Committee Meeting
Embassy Suites-Kingston Plantation, Myrtle Beach, S.C.
May 12, 2009

1. Bill Perdue opened the meeting at 8:30 a.m. A sign up sheet was distributed and the minutes from the last meeting were approved.
2. In Russ Batson's absence, Bill Perdue gave the flammability and government activity report. President Obama has announced his plan to increase the CPSC to 5 commissioners and to substantially increase their budget. He has proposed Inez Tanenbaum as the new chairman and Bob Adler (both Democrats) as a new commissioner. A fifth commissioner will be named later to join current commissioners Thomas Moore -D and Nancy Nord -R. All new commissioners are subject to congressional approval. Any action on proposed furniture flammability rule will likely be postponed until all commissioners are confirmed. A discussion was held regarding the general conformance certification to CPSIA, and the probability that CPSC will do more random testing with their increased budget. There appears to be no new developments in the push to get BS5852 into ASTM standards as proposed by M. Hershler and NFPA, nor in the attempt by NASFM to get the International Code Council to label upholstered furniture as "hazardous material".
3. Jodi Lynch reported that D4033 and D4034 tests have been removed from ASTM standards. She will petition to have these reinstated at the next ASTM meeting.
4. Update on Action Assignments:
MSDS sheets – It was decided by committee to drop the idea of a generic MSDS sheet as each source will still use their own forms as needed.

Environmental Statement - Perry Lowe reported on the following statement submitted by John Crocker's task group: "With the widespread distribution of manufacturing in the modern economy, the AHFA strongly recommends that all members verify that coverings and components used in their products meet all local, state, and federal guidelines in regards to regulated chemical and heavy metal concentrations. If there are any questions about these products or limits, vendors should consult with the Consumer Product Safety Commission <http://www.cpsc.gov/>, and have those products verified by an accredited 3rd party testing laboratory". After open committee discussion, it was decided the statement had little or no value and was not binding. Therefore, this project will not be pursued at this time.

Flex-Test Project - The flex test machine has been sent from Victor to Diversified Testing Labs for additional testing. Jodi Lynch has agreed to chair a task group to coordinate testing procedures, and results. Keith Stamp at Victor and Karon Matkins at Diversified have been asked to channel all info through Jodi for follow up.

5. Results of Ballot on Seam Integrity and Tear Strength. We had 5 ballots returned, 2 from furniture manufacturers and 3 from fabric suppliers. All votes were positive. Due to the poor response, we will re-issue the ballot with an extension on the deadline to vote until June 8th, 2009.

6. New Task Groups – Possible new task groups include:
Repeat variance within roll using single ply cutting technology.
Shade Control
Marked and Unmarked Flaws
Chenille loss
Cleaning methods for Rayon fabric

We will address Chenille loss and Rayon Cleaning methods for now.

7. Report from Breakout Groups:

Chenille Loss Group - Chairman Eric Schmitz reported his group will submit

Samples to Jodi Lynch for testing at CVCC labs, using a tape test and face to face rub test.

Rayon Cleaning Group - Chairman Lonnie McDonald will suggest some wording changes in the cleaning section to help address this particular problem on fabrics with Rayon fibers in them. These suggestions should also help to improve the consumer's ability to clean other upholstery materials as well.

8. David Bell gave a short commentary on his time in China. He indicated that the Chinese felt the economic slow down was the U.S. decision not to send them orders which hurt them. He suggested that importers should pay close attention to make sure you are getting what you pay for.

9. Action Assignments For Next Meeting:

Jodi Lynch - update on flex-test project

Eric Schmitz - update on Chenille Loss project

Lonnie McDonald - update on Rayon Cleaning Project

10. New Business - the November meeting will probably be held in Raleigh, NC with a tour of NC State University's School of Textiles. Dates are November 11th and 12th, 2009. AHFA will send out a letter to the general membership in hopes of increasing attendance.

11. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Perry Lowe, Bill Reichel -Co Chairs