

Joint Industry Fabric Standards and Guidelines Committee Meeting
Renaissance Charlotte Suites Hotel
Charlotte, NC
May 28,2003

Minutes

Hugh Talley Called the meeting to order around 8:40 am. Self introductions were made of all individuals in attendance. Remarks concerning the minutes of the last meeting were made, and a sign up sheet was circulated. Forty-five individuals signed the sheet.

Bill Perdue did an introduction and overview of the schedule of the day. Bill Perdue requested feedback on all the website and the e-mail balloting. He informed everyone that the sign up sheet would be used to update the email addresses. He also requested feedback on the location for the meeting, and asked for suggestions for the next meeting site, and how many months apart the next meeting should be held. He gave a website and e-mail update and explained using the website for standards and how to browse the AFMA website. Bill Perdue and Hugh Talley explained that the information on meetings could be found on the website. Tasks groups are requested to have presentations in PowerPoint format to make it easier to follow.

Bill Perdue gave the Flammability Update. He reported that Hal Stratton spoke at the Association Board of Directors meeting with an update on flammability. A discussion on CPSC Standards and Proposals was held. Cooperation from the CPSC is coming forward. There are some cost effective concerns on BFR's and toxicity. A discussion was held on the meeting Hugh and Bill attended in California. AFMA will submit comments to the CPSC. BFR issues are in the newspapers regularly. Regulatory approaches used by manufacturers. Working with the EPA going forward.

A question and answer session followed. Comments were made by panel members and fabric manufacturers points of view on concerns for passing this test. Further discussion was on national flammability standards and concerns, and what it regulates.

The floor was yielded to David Bell. Hugh Talley in place of Patty Adair, who was unable to attend, gave the ATMI report. He stated that he doubts if future ATMI reports will be given. David Ryan gave a brief report on The ATMI and the current intellectual property rights concerns. David Ryan gave ASTM report and updates. There were no questions concerning these areas.

David Bell gave the Tiered Standards Ballot Report. It had already been voted on and approved by his committee. Handouts were passed out. This hand out is the item that will be placed in the standard booklet.

David Pettey gave the Report on Ballot on Standardization Guideline for Pattern Repeats update. It had been approved by ballot and will be put in the booklet. Hugh Talley wants AFMA to get a copy of David Pettey's report. The electronic version in Word is on the laptop. The standard starts at 14.3. Bill Perdue displayed the electronic version on the screen. Ballots should be trying to get 75% majority. The electronic version will be put into the standard booklet.

David Bell gave the Report on Dynamic Seam Fatigue Work. Judy Fay was not present, and there was not much to be added. Data is to be postponed until the fall meeting. Replacement Test for Dynamic Seam Fatigue updates were presented by David Pettey. He did an overhead presentation of "Seam-Slippage Test Methods" was done. The objective is to improve repeatability and foam seemed to have been the element of concern. Quaker has developed a test to simulate old tests in a quicker time frame. They are looking for a commitment to testing. La-Z-Boy will participate with Quaker. Preliminary test results indicate that this lower density foams caused more seam slippages.

Hugh Talley gave the Report on Marking Flaws. From Last meetings it was decided issues in marking flaws to seam flaws occur at less frequent manners. He referred to item 12.5 in the agenda. This will be put in the standard.

Bill Reichel introduced the Chenille Group, who then did a presentation. David Pettey for AFMA/JIFSCD Chenille Task Team gave a PowerPoint presentation, which included concerns on Seam Slippage, pile direction/reverse pile, pile, loss and color uniformity. References to this presentation are on the website. Each are of a concern discussed problem definition, problem scope and location potential solutions (informational) and action item(s). Hugh Talley suggested it be covered in break out sessions and said it should be written up for the booklet for chenille and commended David Pettey on a wonderful job of the task force. It is currently on the website. Some other suggested improvements were made.

Jose Reyes from Schmetz make a presentation on needle manufacturing and uses for different sizes and precautions. For any questions on needle technology contact him at his address.

The committee adjourned for lunch at 11:45 A.M.

After lunch the attendees went into their break out groups. The groups covered (1) Needle Technology (David Pettey)(2) Condition of the roll (Bill Reichel), (3) Plaid Pattern Repeats.

Group 1 provided supplemental information on post finishing cautionary statements on needle punching sewing side increasing stitches one inch, follow up tests on abrasion loss of chenille (5-6 labs), and a test that predicts seam unraveling (Berkline Test).

Group 2 covered roll condition. A survey was sent to upholstery companies and mills. The results were presented in PowerPoint presentation. In the survey 24 of the 27 companies responded. See survey results for further details, questionnaire, summary and recommendations. It will be submitted to the joint industries as a ballot to vote on as a guideline (not a standard) to be adopted.

Group 3 covered plaid repeat. Repeat information on a roll via EDI or bar code upon receipt of shipment was discussed. A request was made of AFMA to send out an email concerning this.

Other new business discussions included a suggestion to outline the top ten problems we are not addressing, a convention and trade show, standards are on the website that can be printed out.

With no further questions or business the meeting was adjourned.

Submitted by Gail Stricklin