

apparatus for the monitoring of a column chromatography separation process includes a segmented column with a seal positioned at the joint defined by the segments of the column. A connector is provided for connecting the segments of the column together. The apparatus further includes a sensor for monitoring an analyte in an eluant within a separation zone of the column. The sensor includes a mesh grid made of optical fibers of metal wires which is placed so as to extend through the separation zone of the column. The metal wires of optical fibers extend through the seal of the joint in the segmented column and connect to signal processing and data analysis equipment for purposes of monitoring the movements and concentration of an analyte in an eluant at various locations within the column. Certain segments of the optical fibers or metal wires which make up the mesh grid are coded so as to be desensitized and other segments are uncoded for sensing the analyte. This provides an effective apparatus to monitor in detail the cross-section of a column chromatography process in-situ.

*NIST Docket Number:* 96-020.

*Title:* Spatial Ram For High Precision Data Acquisition Systems.

*Abstract:* For data acquisition in any high-precision instrument, such as a scanning tunneling microscope (STM), the Spatial RAM uses the concept of spatial, not temporal, clocking to match sensor readings along the scanning path with values preloaded into a simple RAM circuit. A data latching pulse sent to the data acquisition system at each match minimizes data latency. The device improves accuracy and cost.

*NIST Docket Number:* 97-030.

*Title:* Lead-Based Solders For High Temperature Applications.

*Abstract:* This invention is jointly owned by the U.S. Government, as represented by the Secretary of Commerce, and Indium Corporation of America. A high lead solder exhibiting improved wettability to metal substrates, an advantageously controlled melting range, and excellent thermal fatigue properties. It comprises about 98-100% lead and a minor amount, typically about 0.0005-0.1 wt%, based on the weight of the solder composition, of an alkali metal selected from the group consisting of Na, K, and Li. Additional embodiments additionally comprised an amount of a grain-size controlling additive, e.g., 0.0001-0.5 wt% (based on the total weight of all the components in the solder composition) selected from the group consisting of Ce, Ba, La, Pr, Nd, Sm, Eu, Gd, Th, Dy, Ho, Er, Tm, Yb, Y, Lu, Sc, Mg, Na, Se, Te, oxides thereof and mixtures thereof, in

amount effective to control the Pb grain size; and 0-1 wt% of an element selected from the group consisting of Sn, In, Bi, Sb, Ag, Au, and Ga, and mixtures thereof.

Dated: April 10, 1998.

**Robert E. Hebner,**

*Acting Deputy Director.*

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## CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

### Flame Retardant Chemicals That May Be Suitable for Use in Upholstered Furniture; Extension of Comment Period

**AGENCY:** Consumer Product Safety Commission.

**ACTION:** Notice of extension of comment period.

**SUMMARY:** The Commission is extending its comment period to receive information concerning toxicity issues related to flame retardant treatment of upholstered furniture. On March 17, 1998, the Commission announced that it will conduct a public hearing on May 5 and, if necessary, May 6, 1998 on this issue. In response to a request, the Commission is extending the comment period to allow submission of written comments 45 days after the hearing. The date of the hearing and the date for submissions of prepared texts by persons who plan to testify at the hearing remain unchanged (see March 17, 1998 **Federal Register** notice for details concerning testifying at the hearing).

**DATES:** Written comments that are in place of, or in addition to oral presentations, must be received by the Office of the Secretary no later than June 19, 1998. Written comments must include the author's affiliation with, or employment or sponsorship by, any professional organization, government agency, or business firm. All data analyses and studies should include substantiation and citations.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be captioned "Flame Retardant Chemicals" and mailed to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207, or delivered to that office, room 502, 4330 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Maryland 20814. Comments may also be filed by telefacsimile to (301) 504-0127 or by e-mail to cpssc-os@cpssc.gov.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** For information about the purpose or subject matter of this hearing call or

write Michael A. Babich, Ph.D., Directorate for Epidemiology and Health Sciences, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; telephone (301) 504-0994, extension 1383; fax (301) 504-0079. For information about the schedule for submission of written comments call or write Rockelle Hammond, Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207; telephone (301) 504-0800, extension 1232; fax (301) 504-0127.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** On March 17, 1998, the Commission published a notice announcing a public hearing to consider various toxicity issues related to flame retardant chemicals that may be suitable for use in upholstered furniture. 63 FR 1301. That notice announced that the hearing would begin at 10 a.m. on May 5, 1998, and if necessary, conclude on May 6, 1998. The notice provided a detailed list of the issues about which the Commission would like to receive information. The notice requested that people wishing to make oral presentations at the hearing submit copies of their remarks no later than April 21, 1998. The notice also provided that persons may submit written comments in place of or in addition to oral presentations, and that these written comments must be received by May 5, 1998.

After publication of this notice, Chairman Ann Brown received a letter from the National Cotton Council requesting that the Commission postpone the hearing and reschedule it at least 60-90 days later and extend the comment period to reflect a new hearing date.

In response to this request, the Commission declined to reschedule the hearing date, but has decided to allow written comments 45 days after the hearing. Thus, written comments in place of, or in addition to oral presentations, must be received by the Commission no later than June 19, 1998.

Dated: April 9, 1998.

**Sadye E. Dunn,**

*Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.*

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## DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

### Office of the Secretary

#### Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request

**ACTION:** Notice.

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