

Special Accommodations

These meetings are physically accessible to people with disabilities. Requests for sign language interpretation or other auxiliary aids should be directed to Kathy Pereira at the Council (see **ADDRESSES**) at least 5 working days prior to the meeting.

Dated: October 3, 2011.

Tracey L. Thompson,

Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service.

[FR Doc. 2011-25840 Filed 10-5-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-22-P

COMMISSION OF FINE ARTS

Notice of Meeting

The next meeting of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts is scheduled for 20 October 2011, at 10 a.m. in the Commission offices at the National Building Museum, Suite 312, Judiciary Square, 401 F Street, NW., Washington DC 20001-2728. Items of discussion may include buildings, parks and memorials.

Draft agendas and additional information regarding the Commission are available on our Web site: <http://www.cfa.gov>. Inquiries regarding the agenda and requests to submit written or oral statements should be addressed to Thomas Luebke, Secretary, U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, at the above address; by e-mailing staff@cfa.gov; or by calling 202-504-2200. Individuals requiring sign language interpretation for the hearing impaired should contact the Secretary at least 10 days before the meeting date.

Dated: September 27, 2011 in Washington DC.

Thomas Luebke,

Secretary

[FR Doc. 2011-25408 Filed 10-5-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6330-01-M

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

[Docket No. CPSC-2011-0070]

Alternative Testing Requirements for Small Batch Manufacturers

AGENCY: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

ACTION: Notice of public hearing.

SUMMARY: Section 14(i)(4)(A)(i) of the Consumer Product Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. 2063(i)(4)(A)(i), provides that the Commission, in implementing third party testing requirements, under

certain circumstances, may allow small batch manufacturers to use alternative testing requirements in lieu of testing prescribed in an applicable consumer product safety rule, ban, standard, or regulation. If, however, the Commission determines that no alternative testing requirement is available or economically practicable, it shall exempt eligible small batch manufacturers from third party testing requirements. Through this notice, the Commission is announcing that it will conduct a public hearing to receive views from all interested parties about whether such alternative testing requirements are available or economically practicable or, in the absence of economically practicable alternatives, whether an exemption from third party testing is appropriate.

DATES: The public hearing will begin at 10 a.m. EST on October 26, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The public hearing will be held in the Hearing Room, 4th Floor of the Bethesda Towers Building, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814.

Online Registration and Webcast: Members of the public who wish to attend the public hearing are requested to preregister online at: <http://www/cpsc.gov>. You may preregister until 5 p.m. EST on October 25, 2011. This public hearing also will be available live via webcast on October 26, 2011, at: <http://www/cpsc.gov/webcast>. Registration is not necessary to view the webcast. A transcript will be made of the proceedings of the public hearing.

Oral Presentations and Written Comments: To make oral presentations, participants must preregister online. Presenters must also submit a request to make an oral presentation, and the written text of such presentation, captioned "Alternative Testing Requirements for Small Batch Manufacturers Public Hearing," by electronic mail (e-mail) to: cpsecos@cpsecos.gov, or mailed or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814, no later than 5 p.m. EST on October 21, 2011. Commenters should limit their presentations to 15 minutes, exclusive of questioning by the Commissioners or CPSC staff. We may limit the time further for any presentation and impose other restrictions to avoid excessive duplication of presentations.

Participants who are unable to make an oral presentation may submit written comments regarding the issues outlined under **SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION** captioned, "Alternative Testing Requirements for Small Batch

Manufacturers Public Hearing" by electronic mail (e-mail) to: cpsecos@cpsecos.gov, or mailed or delivered to the Office of the Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814, no later than 5 p.m. EST on October 21, 2011. Any information submitted in writing or presented orally to the CPSC at the public hearing will become part of the public record.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Concerning requests and procedures for oral presentations of comments, contact: Rockelle Hammond, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone: (301) 504-6833; e-mail: cpsecos@cpsecos.gov. For all other matters, contact: Robert Howell, Deputy Executive Director, Safety Operations, Consumer Product Safety Commission, Bethesda, MD 20814; telephone: (301) 504-7621; e-mail: rhowell@cpsecos.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 14(a)(2)(A) of the Consumer Product Safety Act, 15 U.S.C. 2063(a)(2)(A), provides that every manufacturer of a children's product that is subject to a children's product safety rule shall submit sufficient samples of the children's product, or samples that are identical in all material respects to the product, to a CPSC-approved third party conformity assessment body to be tested for compliance with such children's product safety rule. Further, section 14(i)(2) requires continued testing of children's products, directing the Commission to, by regulation, establish protocols and standards—

(i) For ensuring that a children's product tested for compliance with an applicable children's product safety rule is subject to testing periodically and when there has been a material change in the product design or manufacturing process, including the sourcing of component parts;

(ii) For the testing of representative samples to ensure continued compliance;

(iii) For verifying that a children's product tested by a conformity assessment body complies with applicable children's product safety rules; and

(iv) For safeguarding against the undue influence on a third party conformity assessment body by a manufacturer or private labeler. The Commission has been working to adopt a testing and certification rule that sets forth the continued testing requirements mandated by section 14(i). In this context, we have explored possible alternatives for small batch manufacturers to reduce the burden and cost of third party testing on such

entities. However, as originally adopted, section 14 imposed third party testing on all manufacturers of children's products that are subject to a children's product safety rule, irrespective of the size of the business or the number of units produced, thereby limiting the Commission's ability to provide such relief. As recently amended by H.R. 2715, however, section 14(i)(4) provides special rules for small batch manufacturers through which the Commission is required, in implementing third party testing requirements, to take into consideration any economic, administrative, or other limits on the ability of small batch manufacturers to comply with such requirements. In addition, small batch manufacturers of covered products, under certain circumstances, may use alternative testing requirements, if such alternatives are available. Under section 14(i)(4)(E)(i), a "covered product" means a consumer product manufactured by a small batch manufacturer where no more than 7,500 units of the same product were manufactured in the previous calendar year. Section 14(i)(4)(E)(ii) defines the term "small batch manufacturer" to mean a manufacturer that had no more than \$1,000,000 in total gross revenue from sales of all consumer products in the previous calendar year.

In light of this new authority, the Commission seeks to hear from interested stakeholders about whether such alternatives are available and what such alternatives would entail. For example, alternatives for a particular rule may include different screening techniques, sampling procedures, or a first party testing regime. Staff has also been exploring the idea of co-op approaches to testing expense. However, if the Commission determines that no such alternative testing requirement is available or economically practicable for a particular rule, ban, regulation, or standard, section 14(i)(4)(ii) permits the Commission to exempt small batch manufacturers from third party testing requirements. Thus, in addition to seeking information about alternative testing requirements, the Commission also wants to hear from interested

parties about whether they seek exemption from third party testing requirements because alternatives are not available or are not economically practicable. The Commission will explore at the hearing whether exemptions are appropriate with regard to any and all children's product safety rules for which small batch manufacturers may need relief. We note, however, that in some cases, even if alternatives are available and economically practicable, we may not allow the use of such an alternative (or, if it is determined that no alternative is available, the Commission may not permit an exemption) where the Commission determines that full compliance with the third party testing requirements is reasonably necessary to protect public health or safety. Moreover, sections 14(i)(4)(C)(i) and (ii) prohibit the Commission from providing alternative testing requirements or exemptions for any of the third party testing requirements contained in clauses (i) through (v) of section 14(a)(3)(B) (lead paint, full-size or non-full-size cribs, pacifiers, small parts, children's metal jewelry, baby bouncers, walkers, and jumpers) or durable infant or toddler products, as defined in section 104(f) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008, 15 U.S.C. 2056(a)(f).

In seeking information about possible alternative testing requirements, we stress that any such alternative must satisfy the underlying objectives prescribed in the children's product safety rule for which the alternative is sought, and must provide reasonable methods to ensure compliance. Every rule, ban, standard, or regulation issued by the Commission is the result of careful analysis, review, and research through which alternatives are evaluated and certain standard criteria are met. In that process, Commission staff has considered possible alternative testing requirements to minimize the burden of testing since passage of the CPSIA. With regard to chemical testing, for example, staff has approved the use—in appropriate circumstances—of XRF screening techniques for lead. In addition, staff has been following

closely the development of screening techniques for phthalates. Where appropriate, and when the screening methods are reliable and reproducible, staff would be open to allowing the use of screening techniques to mitigate testing costs for chemical content testing of children's products and toys or the heavy metals content of the paints and surface coatings used on toys.

Screening techniques, however, are not appropriate alternative testing requirements for all children's product safety rules. For example, staff is not aware of any screening technique that would detect the flammability of a child's carpet and rug. In addition, many of the performance standards and tests in our rules have particularized test methods for which an alternative simply does not appear to be practicable. The bicycle standard, for example, contains rigorous performance standards to reduce unreasonable risks of injury, including exacting and well-documented test procedures that are analyzed to ensure the reproducibility of the results and minimize interlaboratory variability.

Therefore, as a threshold matter, any alternative testing requirement submitted to the Commission for consideration, in addition to satisfying the fundamental purpose of the rule for which an alternative is presented, must demonstrate acceptable performance in the areas of:

- Accuracy;
- Precision;
- Repeatability;
- Reproducibility;
- Range;
- Sensitivity (to test setup and/or test environment);
- Relevance (usefulness in predicting consumer product performance); and
- Correlation between the proposed alternative and existing regulatory testing requirements.

Using these criteria, stakeholders should submit specific and well-documented information on the availability and economic practicability of alternative testing requirements for the following children's product safety rules:

16 CFR Part No. (or Test Method or Standard)	Description
1420	All-Terrain Vehicles.
1203	Bicycle Helmets.
1512	Bicycles.
1513	Bunk Beds.
1500.86(a)(5)	Clacker Balls.
1500.86(a)(7) and (8)	Dive Sticks and Other Similar Articles.
1505	Electrically Operated Toys or Articles.
1615	Flammability of Children's Sleepwear, Sizes 0 through 6X.
1616	Flammability of Children's Sleepwear, Sizes 7 through 14.

16 CFR Part No. (or Test Method or Standard)	Description
1610	Flammability of Clothing Textiles.
1632	Flammability of Mattresses and Mattress Pads.
1633	Flammability (Open-Flame) of Mattress Sets.
1611	Flammability of Vinyl Plastic Film.
1215	Infant Bath Seats.
Sec. 101 of CPSIA (Test Method CPSC-CH-E1001-08 or CPSC-CH-E1001-08.1).	Lead Content in Children's Metal Products.
Sec. 101 of CPSIA (Test Method CPSC-CH-E1002-08 and/or CPSC-CH-E1002-08.1).	Lead Content in Children's Non-Metal Products.
Sec. 108 of CPSIA (Test Method CPSC-CH-C1001-09.3)	Phthalate Content of Children's Toys and Child Care Articles.
1510	Rattles.
1630	Surface Flammability of Carpets and Rugs.
1631	Surface Flammability of Small Carpets and Rugs.
1217	Toddler Beds.
(ASTM F963)	Toys.

Stakeholders seeking an exemption from one of the above-listed rules should submit information to the Commission demonstrating that an alternative testing requirement is not available or economically practicable. In addition, because the Commission cannot grant an exemption where it determines that full compliance with the third party testing provisions of the CPSIA "is reasonably necessary to protect the public health and safety," the Commission is accepting comments on this issue. The Commission intends this hearing to fulfill all of the notice and hearing requirements of HR 2715 with regard to the amendment of Section 14(i)(2)(B)(ii)(4) of the CPSA, "Special Rules for Small Batch Manufacturers."

Any information submitted in writing or presented orally to the CPSC at the public hearing will become part of the public record. Access to the docket to read background documents, including a transcript of the public meeting, or comments received, will be made available at: <http://www.regulations.gov> under Docket No. CPSC-2011-0070.

Dated: October 3, 2011.

Todd A. Stevenson,
Secretary, Consumer Product Safety Commission.

[FR Doc. 2011-25876 Filed 10-5-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 6355-01-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Defense Science Board; Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD).

ACTION: Notice of Advisory Committee Meetings.

SUMMARY: The Defense Science Board will meet in closed session on October

26 and October 27, 2011; at the Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723.

The mission of the Defense Science Board is to advise the Secretary of Defense and the Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology & Logistics on scientific and technical matters as they affect the perceived needs of the Department of Defense. At this meeting, the Board will discuss interim finding and recommendations resulting from ongoing Task Force activities. The Board will also discuss plans for future consideration of scientific and technical aspects of specific strategies, tactics, and policies as they may affect the U.S. national defense posture and homeland security.

DATES: October 26 and October 27, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory, 11100 Johns Hopkins Road, Laurel, MD 20723.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Debra Rose, Executive Officer, Defense Science Board, 3140 Defense Pentagon, Room 3B888A, Washington, DC 20301-3140, via e-mail at debra.rose@osd.mil, or via phone at (703) 571-0084.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: In accordance with section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, Public Law 92-463, as amended (5 U.S.C. App. 2) and 41 CFR 102-3.155, the Department of Defense has determined that these Defense Science Board Quarterly meeting will be closed to the public. Specifically, the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics), with the coordination of the DoD Office of General Counsel, has determined in writing that all sessions of these meetings will be closed to the public because they will be concerned throughout with matters listed in 5 U.S.C. 552b(c)(1).

Interested persons may submit a written statement for consideration by

the Defense Science Board. Individuals submitting a written statement must submit their statement to the Designated Federal Official at the address in **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT**, at any point, however, if a written statement is not received at least 10 calendar days prior to the meeting, which is the subject of this notice, then it may not be provided to or considered by the Defense Science Board. The Designated Federal Official will review all timely submissions with the Defense Science Board Chairperson, and ensure they are provided to members of the Defense Science Board before the meeting that is the subject of this notice.

Dated: September 30, 2011.

Aaron Siegel,
Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense.

[FR Doc. 2011-25744 Filed 10-5-11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 5001-06-P

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

Office of the Secretary

Membership of the Performance Review Board

AGENCY: Department of Defense (DoD), Defense Finance and Accounting Service.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces the appointment of the members of the Performance Review Board (PRB) of the Defense Finance and Accounting Service (DFAS). The publication of PRB membership is required by 5 U.S.C. 4314(c)(4).

The Performance Review Board (PRB) provides fair and impartial review of Senior Executive Service performance appraisals and makes recommendations regarding performance ratings and