



BHFTI

Bureau of Home Furnishings
& Thermal Insulation

**BHFTI Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

ATTENDANCE:

Advisory Council Members:

Sharron Bradley, Vice Chair, Western Home Furnishings Association
James C. Albers, *Public Member*
Burt Grimes, Pacific West Furniture Manufacturing, Inc.
John McCormack, *Public Member*
Kathleen Newman, Firetect
Neil S. Puro, Pacific Coast Feather Cushion Company
Gene Valcke, Hanes Fabrics Company

BHFTI Staff Members:

Rick Fong, Bureau Chief
Rick Diamond, Field Operations Manager
Sean Faro, Staff Services Analyst
Sue Xu, Test Engineer
Shalom Rojas, Staff Services Analyst
Diana Godines, Staff Services Analyst
Leo Virata, BHFTI Field Inspector

Public/Other Meeting Attendees:

None

Agenda Items:

- I. Opening Remarks and Introductions
 - Chief Rick Fong opened the meeting at 1:30 P.M., welcoming the attendees.
 - Field Operations Manager Rick Diamond led the Advisory Council members and Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) staff in the Pledge of Allegiance.
 - Advisory Council members and DCA staff introduced themselves following Chief Fong's remarks.

- II. Department Update
 - Chief Fong announced Carrie Lopez, Director of DCA, and Rosario Marin, Secretary for the State and Consumer Services Agency (SCSA), have both resigned.
 - Chief Fong added that Scott Reid, Chief Deputy Director moved to SCSA, and that Patty Harris accepted the position of Acting Chief Deputy Director for DCA.

- Chief Fong noted DCA has had no cutbacks in staffing, but is still implementing self-directed furloughs, and that management and staff are working together to minimize effect to all units.

III. Bureau Update

- Chief Fong expressed thanks for the work that is done in the lab.
- Enforcement Update:
 - Field Operations Manager, Rick Diamond provided a statistical report/handout on Enforcement and Compliance activity. (handout available upon request)
 - Rick Diamond discussed how telephone disconnects are an effective deterrent to bring licensees into compliance.
 - Chief Fong commented on the benefits of/reason for telephone disconnects.
 - Vice Chair and Council Member Sharron Bradley talked about providing monthly listings of individuals setting up at home shows and doing business under a company name (i.e., "doing business as," or "DBA's").
- Licensing Update:
 - Rick Diamond gave report/handout on Licensing activity (handout available upon request)
 - Rick Diamond stated Licensing fees have not increased.
 - Rick Diamond confirmed all importers, including importers overseas, are required to be licensed, noting that as a result of the economy, a large number of importers are going out of business.
 - Rick Diamond talked about DCA's new "Take Charge" campaign, aimed at empowering consumers and licensees.
- Lab Updates:
 - Sue Xu, Lab Engineer, gave a brief summary on work being done toward planning the move to a new facility.
 - Chief Fong commented that lab staff are dedicated to inspecting labels and explained that it is a priority of the lab to increase its volume of testing
 - Sue explained that the new facility will be able to test king size mattresses, as well as conduct testing for Technical Bulletin (TB) 106, TB 133, and Thermal Insulation products.
 - Neil Puro expressed concerns regarding TB 133 and the furniture that is used by hotels.
 - John McCormack explained that if hotel has less than ten cushions in public seating area, then it is exempted from meeting the TB 133 standard.

IV. Legislative Updates

- Chief Fong noted that no new information is available regarding TB 604, and that it remains currently under review by the department.
- Chief Fong stated Senate Bill (SB) 772 would exempt juvenile products from the Bureau's flammability standards.

V. Going Out of Business (GOB) Sales/Advertising

- Chief Fong asked Advisory Council members for input on GOB sales in their locales.
- Chief Fong suggested establishing a partnership with the industry to help assist consumers.

VI. Roundtable Discussion

- Neil Puro, John McCormack and Kathleen Newman suggested more research be done on the definition of the word "synthetic" in reference to down pillows.
- John McCormack commented on the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) workshop and explained that a report will be available on the internet in September 2009.

- The Council discussed having the next Advisory Council meeting in Sacramento. A date will be set later.

VII. Public Comment

- No Public Comment

*Closing Remarks:

- Chief Fong thanked Council Members for attending the meeting and for providing valuable insight and information.
- Meeting adjourned at 4:50 P.M.