

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Log of Meeting**

SUBJECT: Standards Technical Panel meeting for Tools

DATE OF MEETING: February 10-11, 2003

MEETING LOCATION: UL, Research Triangle Park, NC

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Caroleene Paul e.R.

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: March 6, 2003

CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Caroleene Paul

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):

see attached

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

February 10, 2003

CPSC staff did not attend. Introduction to STP process.

February 11, 2003

The table saw guarding work group made a presentation to the STP outlining its conclusion that consumers do not use blade guards because the guards are flimsy and difficult to align and that table saws should have a riving knife to minimize kick back. The working group proposed requirements to UL 987 that would mandate a blade guard that is easy to remove and install without need for adjustment (referred to as a "quick guard") and a riving knife whose specifications are similar to those in the European standard for table saws.

Porter Cable presented their quick guard design. The blade guard is attached to a removable spreader. Removal and installation of the spreader/guard assembly is accomplished by way of a push tab. No tools or alignment is required. Porter Cable proposed requirements to UL 987 that would mandate a quick guard and spreader configuration or a riving knife and conventional guard configuration.

User behavior and root causes of kick back were debated at length. The debate included the function and effectiveness of riving knives, spreaders, and blade guards.

SD3 (SawStop) presented their proposal for a performance requirement in UL 987 that would mandate a detection/reaction system capable of limiting blade penetration upon human contact to 1/8" inch. SD3 acknowledges that their patented system, SawStop, is the only technology that can currently meet the proposed requirement. SD3 offered to make the patent rights available for license at a rate of not more than 8% of the whole sale cost of the table saw.

CPSC Staff Cleared 3/6/03
No Info/Prohibits or
Identify
Exempted
Firms Must
Comments Received.

Much debate ensued on the appropriateness of a standard requirement for a patented technology that has not been thoroughly researched, tested, or developed. Issues of product integrity over the lifetime of the tool were discussed. Patent issues were debated at length in terms of reasonable license costs, economic benefit of one entity from group efforts, and standard governing body (UL and CSA) positions on patented products.

Overall, the general consensus was that the SawStop technology has definite merit as a concept, but requires solid research and development as an end product to fully evaluate its effectiveness and appropriate corresponding standard requirements. UL stated that historically they have been paid by the manufacturer/developer to test and develop the technology, and that their testing usually forms the basis for the standard requirements. CPSC questioned if the current debate is on who would fund the testing.

UL stated that the SawStop proposal in its current form is not ready to move forward for approval. Further research and development is required to support the proposed requirements. Some STP members suggested a field study on SD3's forthcoming production units to form a historical document of the SawStop technology. Suggestions were made to revisit the issue in 2 years when supporting data has been gathered. SD3 welcomes this idea but questions how an independent survey will be set up.

UL moved to vote on the working group's proposal of a quick guard and riving knife configuration for table saws in UL 987. After some debate it was decided that the working group would submit a revised proposal based on comments made during the STP meeting. The proposal would go to ballot in 60 days. This proposal was voted on and passed (12 "yes" votes, "5" no votes).

CONCLUSION

Peter Domeny and Stan Rodrigues will rewrite the working group proposal and submit for ballot in 60 days.

SUMMARY OF STP PROCESS

- just because a proposal moved forward does not mean it will pass
- the idea of competing proposals seemed to be a source of confusion
- the day's decisions did not preclude the ability to comment and disagree with sections of the proposal
- comments will be shared with the entire group, they are circulated and everyone has another chance to vote based on the comments and responses, it is a continuous circulation and consensus process
- if things get really complicated a comment resolution meeting can be called and/or a work group formed if appropriate
- a "no" vote must be supported/explained/substantiated with technical reasons
- non-voting members can comment and those comments will be circulated
- there are no guidelines for how often STPs will meet, some groups are tied to associations and therefore meet annually, some don't meet at all and do all business through correspondence
- at this point no future meeting of the this STP is scheduled

APPENDIX C**ATTENDANCE AT THE FEBRUARY 10 & 11, 2003 MEETING OF THE STP FOR TOOLS, STP 745**

STP Representatives	Representing
Michael Belcher	UL - RTP
Louis Brickner	Self
Robert Carson*	Self
Edward Charkey	Self
David Chung	Specialized Technology Resources (HK) Ltd.
Peter Domeny	Robert Bosch Tool Corporation
Stephen Gass	SawStop, LLC
Michael Gililand	Engineering Systems, Inc.
Ted Gogoli	Black & Decker
Jack Hyde	Self
Jeff Jacumin*	Lowe's Companies Inc.
David Keller	Porter-Cable/Delta
Peter Kwasnik*	Illinois Department of Human Services
Jerome Leeds	Technical Engineered Products
Kelly Mehler	Self
James Montgomery	Milwaukee Electric Tool Corporation
Nickolas Murray	Mount Saint Vincent University
Jerry Oleksiw*	Self
Richard Otterbein	Affiliated Engineering Laboratories
Walter Painter*	Self
Virginia Peart*	Self
David Peot	Ryobi Motor Products Inc.
Suriya Ramachandra*	Colovos Company
Charles Ring*	Woodworker's Website Association
Stan Rodrigues	Makita USA, Inc.
Richard Stavenhagen*	Creative Wooden Products
Robert Stoll	Power Tool Institute
Dan Terpstra	Emerson Tool Company
Robert Zink	Hilti, Inc.
Invited Guests	
Lawrence Crenshaw	Ryobi Motor Products Inc.
John Smith	Porter-Cable/Delta
Kendall Smith	Porter-Cable/Delta
Matt Smith	Porter-Cable/Delta
UL Staff	
Ryan Barger	UL - Santa Clara
Wyatt Brannan - Acting STP 745 Chair	UL - RTP
Sarah Brooks	UL - RTP
Neil Dalmas - STP 745 Secretary	UL - RTP
Joe Musso - STP 745 Chair	UL - Northbrook
Deborah Prince	UL - RTP
Robert Rippy	UL - Camas
Dan Ryan	UL - RTP
John Thompson	UL - RTP
Paul Wordlaw	UL - Northbrook
* Not in attendance	