"SEC. 3. (a) There is established the Technical Study Group on Cigarette and Little Cigar Fire Safety (hereinafter in this Act referred to as the ‘Study Group’) which shall consist of—

"(1) one scientific or technical representative each from the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the Center for Fire Research of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the National Cancer Institute, the Federal Trade Commission, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the appointment of whom shall be made by the heads of those agencies;

"(2) four scientific or technical representatives appointed by the Chairman of the Interagency Committee, and with the advice and consent of the Interagency Committee, from a list of individuals submitted by the Tobacco Institute;

"(3) two scientific or technical representatives appointed by the Chairman of the Interagency Committee, and with the advice and consent of the Interagency Committee, who are selected from lists of individuals submitted by the following organizations: the American Burn Association, the American Public Health Association, and the American Medical Association;

"(4) two scientific or technical representatives appointed by the Chairman of the Interagency Committee, and with the advice and consent of the Interagency Committee, who are selected from lists of individuals submitted by the following organizations: the National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the International Association of Fire Fighters, the International Society of Fire Service Instructors, and the National Volunteer Fire Council; and

"(5) one scientific or technical representative appointed by the Chairman of the Interagency Committee, and with the advice and consent of the Interagency Committee, from lists of individuals submitted by the American Furniture Manufacturers Association.

"(b) The persons appointed to serve on the Study Group may designate, with the advice and consent of the Interagency Committee, from among their number such persons to serve as team leaders, coordinators, or chairpersons as they deem necessary or appropriate to carry out the Study Group’s functions under section 4.

"SEC. 4. The Study Group shall undertake, subject to oversight and review by the Interagency Committee, such studies and other activities as it considers necessary and appropriate to determine the technical and commercial feasibility, economic impact, and other consequences of developing cigarettes and little cigars that will have a minimum propensity to ignite upholstered furniture or mattresses. Such activities include identification of the different physical characteristics of cigarettes and little cigars which have an impact on the ignition of upholstered furniture and mattresses, an analysis of the feasibility of altering any pertinent characteristics to reduce ignition propensity, and an analysis of the possible costs and benefits, both to the industry and the public, associated with any such product modification.

"SEC. 5. The Interagency Committee shall submit one year after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 1984] a status report to the Senate and the House of Representatives describing the activities undertaken under section 4 during the preceding year. The Interagency Committee shall submit a final technical report, prepared by the Study Group, to the Senate and the House of Representatives not later than thirty months after the date of enactment of this Act [Oct. 30, 1984]. The Interagency Committee shall provide to the Congress, within sixty days after the submission of the final technical report, any policy recommendations the Interagency Committee deems appropriate. The Interagency Committee and the Study Group shall terminate one month after submission of the policy recommendations prescribed by this section.

"SEC. 6. (a) Any information provided to the Interagency Committee or to the Study Group under section 4 which is designated as trade secret or confidential information shall be treated as trade secret or confidential information subject to section 552(b)(4) of title 5, United States Code, and section 1905 of title 18, United States Code, and shall not be revealed, except as provided under subsection (b). No member of the Study Group or Interagency Committee, and no person assigned to or consulting with the Study Group, shall disclose any such information to any person who is not a member of, assigned to, or consulting with, the Study Group or Interagency Committee unless the person submitting such information specifically and in writing authorizes such disclosure.

"(b) Subsection (a) does not authorize the withholding of any information from any duly authorized subcommittee or committee of the Congress, except that if a subcommittee or committee of the Congress requests the Interagency Committee to provide such information, the Chairman of the Interagency Committee shall notify the person who provided the information of such a request in writing.

"(c) The Interagency Committee shall, on the vote of a majority of its members, adopt reasonable procedures to protect the confidentiality of trade secret and confidential information, as defined in this section.

"SEC. 7. As used in this Act, the terms ‘cigarettes’ and ‘little cigars’ have the meanings given such terms by section 3 of the Federal Cigarette Labeling and Advertising Act (15 U.S.C. 1332)."

§ 2055. Public disclosure of information
(a) Disclosure requirements for manufacturers or private labelers; procedures applicable

(1) Nothing contained in this Act shall be construed to require the release of any information described by subsection (b) of section 552 of title 5 or which is otherwise protected by law from disclosure to the public.

(2) All information reported to or otherwise obtained by the Commission or its representative under this Act which information contains or relates to a trade secret or other matter referred to in section 1905 of title 18 or subject to section 552(b)(4) of title 5 shall be considered confidential and shall not be disclosed.

(3) The Commission shall, prior to the disclosure of any information which will permit the public to ascertain readily the identity of a manufacturer or private labeler of a consumer product, offer such manufacturer or private labeler an opportunity to mark such information as confidential and therefore barred from disclosure under paragraph (2). A manufacturer or private labeler shall submit any such mark within 15 calendar days after the date on which it receives the Commission’s offer.

(4) All information that a manufacturer or private labeler has marked to be confidential and barred from disclosure under paragraph (2) may be disclosed because it is not confidential information as provided in paragraph (2), the Commission shall notify such
person in writing that the Commission intends
to disclose such document at a date not less
than 10 days after the date of receipt of notifica-
tion.
(6) Any person receiving such notification
may, if he believes such disclosure is barred by
paragraph (2), before the date set for release of
the document, bring an action in the district
court of the United States in the district in
which the complainant resides, or has his prin-
cipal place or business, or in which the docu-
ments are located, or in the United States Dis-
trict Court for the District of Columbia to re-
strain disclosure of the document. Any person
receiving such notification may file with the ap-
propriate district court or court of appeals of
the United States, as appropriate, an applica-
tion for a stay of disclosure. The documents
shall not be disclosed until the court has ruled
on the application for a stay.

(7) Nothing in this Act shall authorize the
withholding of information by the Commission
or any officer or employee under its control
from the duly authorized committees or sub-
committees of the Congress, and the provisions
of paragraphs (2) through (6) shall not apply to
such disclosures, except that the Commission
shall immediately notify the manufacturer or
private labeler of any such request for informa-
tion designated as confidential by the manufac-
turer or private labeler.

(8) The provisions of paragraphs (2) through (6)
shall not prohibit the disclosure of information
to other officers, employees, or representatives
of the Commission (including contractors) con-
cerned with carrying out this Act or when rel-
evant in any administrative proceeding under
this Act or in judicial proceedings to which the
Commission is a party. Any disclosure of rel-
evant information—
(A) in Commission administrative proceed-
ings or in judicial proceedings to which the
Commission is a party, or
(B) to representatives of the Commission (in-
cluding contractors),
shall be governed by the rules of the Commis-
sion (including in camera review rules for con-
fidential material) for such proceedings or for
disclosures to such representatives or by court
rules or orders, except that the rules of the
Commission shall not be amended in a manner
inconsistent with the purposes of this section.

(b) Additional disclosure requirements for manu-
facturers or private labelers; procedures ap-
plicable

(1) Except as provided by paragraph (4) of this
subsection, not less than 15 days prior to its
public disclosure of any information obtained
under this Act, or to be disclosed to the public
in connection therewith (unless the Commission
publishes a finding that the public health and
safety requires a lesser period of notice), the
Commission shall, to the extent practicable, no-
ify and provide a summary of the information
to, each manufacturer or private labeler of any
consumer product to which such information
pertains, if the manner in which such consumer
product is to be designated or described in such
information will permit the public to ascertain
readily the identity of such manufacturer or pri-
vate labeler, and shall provide such manufac-
turer or private labeler with a reasonable oppor-
tunity to submit comments to the Commission
in regard to such information. The Commission
shall take reasonable steps to assure, prior to its
public disclosure thereof, that information from
which the identity of such manufacturer or pri-
ivate labeler may be readily ascertained is accu-
rate, and that such disclosure is fair in the cir-
cumstances and reasonably related to effectuat-
ing the purposes of this Act. In disclosing any
information under this subsection, the Commiss-
ion may, and upon the request of the manufac-
turer or private labeler shall, include with the
disclosure any comments or other information
or a summary thereof submitted by such manufac-
turer or private labeler to the extent per-
mitted by and subject to the requirements of
this section.

(2) If the Commission determines that a docu-
ment claimed to be inaccurate by a manufac-
turer or private labeler under paragraph (1)
should be disclosed because the Commission be-
lieves it has complied with paragraph (1), the
Commission shall notify the manufacturer or
private labeler that the Commission intends to
disclose such document at a date not less than
5 days after the date of the receipt of notifica-
tion. The Commission may provide a lesser pe-
riod of notice of intent to disclose if the Com-
mission publishes a finding that the public
health and safety requires a lesser period of no-
tice.

(3)(A) Prior to the date set for release of the
document, the manufacturer or private labeler
receiving the notice described in paragraph (2)
may bring an action in the district court of the
United States in the district in which the com-
plainant resides, or has his principal place of
business, or in which the documents are located
or in the United States District Court for the
District of Columbia to enjoin disclosure of the
document. The district court may enjoin such
disclosure if the Commission has failed to take
the reasonable steps prescribed in paragraph (1).

(B) If the Commission determines that the
public health and safety requires expedited con-
sideration of an action brought under subpara-
graph (A), the Commission may file a request
with the District Court for such expedited con-
sideration. If the Commission files such a re-
quest, the District Court shall—
(i) assign the matter for hearing at the earli-
est possible date;
(ii) give precedence to the matter, to the
greatest extent practicable, over all other
matters pending on the docket of the court at
the time;
(iii) expedite consideration of the matter to
the greatest extent practicable; and
(iv) grant or deny the requested injunction
within 30 days after the date on which the
Commission’s request was filed with the court.

(4) Paragraphs (1) through (3) of this sub-
section shall not apply to the public disclosure
of (A) information about any consumer product
with respect to which product the Commission
has filed an action under section 2061 of this
title (relating to imminently hazardous prod-
ucts), or which the Commission has reasonable
cause to believe is in violation of any consumer
product safety rule or provision of this Act or similar rule or provision of any other Act enforced by the Commission; or (B) information in the course of or concerning a rulemaking proceeding (which shall commence upon the publication of an advance notice of proposed rulemaking or a notice of proposed rulemaking), an adjudicatory proceeding (which shall commence upon the issuance of a complaint) or other administrative or judicial proceeding under this Act.

(2) In addition to the requirements of paragraph (1), the Commission shall not disclose to the public information submitted pursuant to section 2064(b) of this title respecting a consumer product unless—

(A) the Commission has issued a complaint under section 2064(c) or (d) of this title alleging that such product presents a substantial product hazard;

(B) in lieu of proceeding against such product under section 2064(c) or (d) of this title, the Commission has accepted in writing a remedial settlement agreement dealing with such product;

(C) the person who submitted the information under section 2064(b) of this title agrees to its public disclosure; or

(D) the Commission publishes a finding that the public health and safety requires public disclosure with a lesser period of notice than is required under paragraph (1).

The provisions of this paragraph shall not apply to the public disclosure of information with respect to a consumer product which is the subject of an action brought under section 2061 of this title, or which the Commission has reasonable cause to believe is in violation of any consumer product safety rule or provision under this Act or similar rule or provision of any other Act enforced by the Commission, or information in the course of or concerning a judicial proceeding.

(6) Where the Commission initiates the public disclosure of information that reflects on the safety of a consumer product or class of consumer products, whether or not such information would enable the public to ascertain readily the identity of a manufacturer or private labeler, the Commission shall establish procedures designed to ensure that such information is accurate and not misleading.

(7) If the Commission finds that, in the administration of this Act, it has made public disclosure of inaccurate or misleading information which reflects adversely upon the safety of any consumer product or class of consumer products, or the practices of any manufacturer, private labeler, distributor, or retailer of consumer products, it shall, in a manner equivalent to that in which such disclosure was made, take reasonable steps to publish a retraction of such inaccurate or misleading information.

(8) If, after the commencement of a rulemaking or the initiation of an adjudicatory proceeding, the Commission decides to terminate the proceeding before taking final action, the Commission shall, in a manner equivalent to that in which such commencement or initiation was publicized, take reasonable steps to make known the decision to terminate.

(c) Communications with manufacturers

The Commission shall communicate to each manufacturer of a consumer product, insofar as may be practicable, information as to any significant risk of injury associated with such product.

(d) “Act” defined; coverage


(2) The provisions of this section shall apply whenever information is to be disclosed by the Commission, any member of the Commission, or any employee, agent, or representative of the Commission in an official capacity.

(e) Disclosure of information regarding civil actions involving consumer product alleged to have caused death or injury

(1) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 552 of title 5, subsection (a)(7) of this section, or of any other law, except as provided in paragraphs (2), (3), and (4), no member of the Commission, no officer or employee of the Commission, and no officer or employee of the Department of Justice may—

(A) publicly disclose information furnished under subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2)(A) of section 2084 of this title;

(B) use such information for any purpose other than to carry out the Commission’s responsibilities; or

(C) permit anyone (other than the members, officers, and employees of the Commission or officers or employees of the Department of Justice who require such information for an action filed on behalf of the Commission) to examine such information.

(2) Any report furnished under subsection (c)(1) or (c)(2)(A) of section 2084 of this title shall be immune from legal process and shall not be subject to subpoena or other discovery in any civil action in a State or Federal court or in any administrative proceeding, except in an action against such manufacturer under section 2069, 2070, or 2071 of this title for failure to furnish information required by section 2084 of this title.

(3) The Commission may, upon written request, furnish to any manufacturer or to the authorized agent of such manufacturer authenticated copies of reports furnished by or on behalf of such manufacturer in accordance with section 2084 of this title, upon payment of the actual or estimated cost of searching the records and furnishing such copies.

(4) Upon written request of the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member of either of the appropriate Congressional committees or any subcommittee thereof, the Commission shall provide to the Chairman or Ranking Minority Member any information furnished to the Commission under section 2084 of this title for purposes that are related to the jurisdiction of such committee or subcommittee.

(5) Any officer or employee of the Commission or other officer or employee of the Federal Gov-
ernment who receives information provided under section 2064 of this title, who willfully violates the requirements of this subsection shall be subject to dismissal or other appropriate disciplinary action consistent with procedures and requirements established by the Office of Personnel Management.


REFERENCES IN TEXT


AMENDMENTS

2008—Subsec. (a)(3). Pub. L. 110–314, §211(1), inserted “A manufacturer or private labeler shall submit any such mark within 15 calendar days after the date on which it receives the Commission’s offer.” after “paragraph (2).”

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 110–314, §211(2)–(4), substituted “15 days” for “30 days”, “publishes a finding that the public”, and “notice.” for “notice and publishes such a finding in the Federal Register”,

Subsec. (b)(2). Pub. L. 110–314, §211(5)–(7), substituted “5 days” for “0 days” for “finds that the public”, “finds that the public”, and “notice.” for “notice and publishes such a finding in the Federal Register”,

Subsec. (b)(3). Pub. L. 110–314, §211(8), designated existing provisions as subpar. (A) and added subpar. (B).

Subsec. (b)(4). Pub. L. 110–314, §211(9), which directed substitution of “any consumer product safety rule or provision of this Act or similar rule or provision of any other Act enforced by the Commission.” for “section 2066 of this title (related to prohibited acts);” was executed by making the substitution for “section 2066 of this title (related to prohibited acts);” to reflect the probable intent of Congress.

Subsec. (b)(5). Pub. L. 110–314, §211(10)–(13), added subpar. (D) and substituted “any consumer product safety rule or provision under this Act or similar rule or provision of any other Act enforced by the Commission,” for “section 2066(a) of this title,” in concluding provisions.

Subsec. (e)(4). Pub. L. 110–314, §235(c)(2), substituted “either of the appropriate Congressional committees or any subcommittee thereof,” for “the Committee on

COMMERCES, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION OF THE SENATE OR THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OR ANY SUBCOMMITTEE OF SUCH COMMITTEE.”

1990—Subsec. (a)(8). Pub. L. 101–608, §106, amended par. (8) generally. Prior to amendment, par. (8) read as follows: “The provisions of paragraphs (2) through (6) shall not prohibit the disclosure of information to other officers or employees concerned with carrying out this Act or when relevant in any administrative proceeding under this Act, or in judicial proceedings to which the Commission is a party. Any disclosure of relevant information in Commission administrative proceedings, or in judicial proceedings to which the Commission is a party, shall be governed by the rules of the Commission (including in camera review rules for confidential material) for such proceedings or by court rules or orders, except that the rules of the Commission shall not be amended in a manner inconsistent with the purposes of this section.”


1981—Subsec. (a)(1). Pub. L. 97–35 amended par. (1) generally, substituting “shall be construed” for “shall be deemed”..

Subsec. (a)(2). Pub. L. 97–35 amended par. (2) generally, substituting “title 18, or subject title 552(b)(4) of title 5, shall be considered confidential and shall not be disclosed” for “title 18 shall be considered confidential and shall not be disclosed, except that such information may be disclosed to other officers or employees concerned with carrying out this chapter or when relevant in any proceeding under this chapter.”

Nothing in this chapter shall authorize the withholding of information by the Commission or any officer or employee under its control from the duly authorized committees of the Congress.”

Subsec. (a)(3) to (8). Pub. L. 97–35 added pars. (3) to (8).

Subsec. (b)(1). Pub. L. 97–35 amended par. (1) generally, substituting “notice and publishes such a finding in the Federal Register),” for “notice,);”, and “In disclosing any information under this subsection, the Commission may, and upon the request of the manufacturer or private labeler shall, include with the disclosure any comments or other information or a summary thereof submitted by such manufacturer or private labeler to the extent permitted by and subject to the requirements of this section” for “If the Commission finds that, in the administration of this chapter, it has made public disclosure of inaccurate or misleading information which reflects adversely upon the safety of any consumer product, or the practices of any manufacturer, private labeler, distributor, or retailer of consumer products, it shall, in a manner similar to that in which such disclosure was made, publish a retraction of such inaccurate or misleading information”.

Subsec. (b)(2) to (4). Pub. L. 97–35 added pars. (2) and (3), redesignated former par. (2) as (4) and substituted “Paragraphs (1) through (3) of this subsection” for “Paragraph (1) (except for the last sentence thereof) and “a rulemaking proceeding (which shall commence upon the publication of an advance notice of proposed rulemaking or a notice of proposed rulemaking), an adjudicatory proceeding (which shall commence upon the issuance of a complaint) or other administrative or judicial proceeding under this chapter” for “any administrative or judicial proceeding under this chapter”.

Subsec. (b)(5) to (8). Pub. L. 97–35 added pars. (5) to (8).

Subsecs. (c), (d). Pub. L. 97–35 reenacted subsec. (c) without change and added subsec. (d).

EFFECTIVE DATE OF 1981 AMENDMENT

§ 2055a. Publicly available consumer product safety information database

(a) Database required

(1) In general

Subject to the availability of appropriations, the Commission shall, in accordance with the requirements of this section, establish and maintain a database on the safety of consumer products, and other products or substances regulated by the Commission, that is—

(A) publicly available;

(B) searchable; and

(C) accessible through the Internet website of the Commission.

(2) Submission of detailed implementation plan to Congress

Not later than 180 days after August 14, 2008, the Commission shall transmit to the appropriate Congressional committees a detailed plan for establishing and maintaining the database required by paragraph (1), including plans for the operation, content, maintenance, and functionality of the database. The plan shall detail the integration of the database into the Commission’s overall information technology improvement objectives and plans. The plan submitted under this subsection shall include a detailed implementation schedule for the database, and plans for a public awareness campaign to be conducted by the Commission to increase consumer awareness of the database.

(3) Date of initial availability

Not later than 18 months after the date on which the Commission submits the plan required by paragraph (2), the Commission shall establish the database required by paragraph (1).

(b) Content and organization

(1) Contents

Except as provided in subsection (c)(4), the database shall include the following:

(A) Reports of harm relating to the use of consumer products, and other products or substances regulated by the Commission, that are received by the Commission from—

(i) consumers;

(ii) local, State, or Federal government agencies;

(iii) health care professionals;

(iv) child service providers; and

(v) public safety entities.

(B) Information derived by the Commission from notice under section 2064(c) of this title or any notice to the public relating to a voluntary corrective action taken by a manufacturer, in consultation with the Commission, of which action the Commission has notified the public.

(C) The comments received by the Commission under subsection (c)(2)(A) to the extent requested under subsection (c)(2)(B).

(2) Submission of information

In implementing the database, the Commission shall establish the following:

(A) Electronic, telephonic, and paper-based means of submitting, for inclusion in the database, reports described in paragraph (1)(A) of this subsection.

(B) A requirement that any report described in paragraph (1)(A) submitted for inclusion in such database include, at a minimum—

(i) a description of the consumer product (or other product or substance regulated by the Commission) concerned;

(ii) identification of the manufacturer or private labeler of the consumer product (or other product or substance regulated by the Commission);

(iii) a description of the harm relating to the use of the consumer product (or other product or substance regulated by the Commission);

(iv) contact information for the person submitting the report; and

(v) a verification by the person submitting the information that the information submitted is true and accurate to the best of the person’s knowledge and that the person consents that such information be included in the database.

(3) Additional information

In addition to the reports received under paragraph (1), the Commission shall include in the database, consistent with the requirements of section 2055(a) and (b) of this title, any additional information it determines to be in the public interest.

(4) Organization of database

The Commission shall categorize the information available on the database in a manner consistent with the public interest and in such manner as it determines to facilitate easy use by consumers and shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that the database is sortable and accessible by—

(A) the date on which information is submitted for inclusion in the database;

(B) the name of the consumer product (or other product or substance regulated by the Commission);

(C) the model name;

(D) the manufacturer’s or private labeler’s name; and

(E) such other elements as the Commission considers in the public interest.

(5) Notice requirements

The Commission shall provide clear and conspicuous notice to users of the database that the Commission does not guarantee the accuracy, completeness, or adequacy of the contents of the database.

(6) Availability of contact information

The Commission may not disclose, under this section, the name, address, or other con-