AHAM
ASSOCIATION OF HOME APPLIANCE MANUFACTURERS

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Memo

to:	Joint Task Force on Safety Regulations Joint Task Force on Product Liability Recent Attendees to AHAM Product Safety & Liability Conferences
from:	Wayne Morris, Vice President, Division Services
date:	August 7, 2012
subject:	AHAM 2012 Product Safety & Liability Conference

AHAM will be holding the 10th Bi-Annual Product Safety & Liability Conference on October 9, 2012 at the Beacon Hotel in Washington, DC. This one-day conference of professionals in the appliance industry will focus on product safety, product liability prevention and defense, regulations on product safety and topics that you, the members and attendees, have selected as important to your business.

Who:

The seminar is designed to assist:

1. **Company risk management personnel** with training in product liability and safety issues.
2. **Engineers,** who act as investigators or expert witnesses, to enhance their effectiveness.
3. **Defense attorneys,** who manage manufacturer's risk management programs or represent manufacturers in product liability defense, with the latest information and trends. Note: Attorneys must be "sponsored" by a member company.
4. **Safety and standards engineers** with training essential for development of internal company safety requirements.

When, Where:

The seminar will be held **October 9, 2012** (Tuesday beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding at approximately 5:30 p.m.) at the Beacon Hotel in Washington, DC.

What:

The program has been designed to assist companies in developing the finest internal programs for product safety, meet applicable regulations and to successfully defend product liability litigation. The latest developments in hazard prevention, safety systems, risk management, fire investigation, and product liability defense will be discussed. The open discussion format will allow for questions and dialogue so that each company may gain from the benefits of the others.

How:

The Seminar will be open to AHAM Portable, Major, Floor Care and Supplier Division appliance companies and to members of the Air Conditioning Heating and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) and members of the Consumer Electronics Association (CEA). In order to ensure a quality program, we will be placing a cap of 70 on the number of participants…therefore, register early to ensure your company has space. If it becomes necessary for a person to relinquish their reservation, every effort will be made to return at least a portion of the registration fee, and it will be possible to substitute a different person at no additional cost. However, within 2 weeks of the actual date of the seminar, it will not be possible to return 100% of the fees. Cancellations received after Tuesday 8am, October 2, 2012 will not receive any refund.

Note for AHAM Members:

We have planned for additional events during the week of October 9. The Annual AHAM-UL Partnership meeting will take place at the Beacon Hotel, Wednesday, October 10 from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. This is open to AHAM members. On Thursday, October 11, the Portable Appliance Engineering Council will meet at the AHAM Offices from 8:30 am to Noon and the Major Appliance Engineering Council will meet at the AHAM Offices from Noon to 5pm. The Beacon Hotel has made a few additional rooms available for Tuesday and Wednesday nights, October 9 and 10. If you are planning to stay for the PAEC/MAEC meetings, please book your hotel room **early.**

REGISTRATION ON-LINE AT AHAMPL2012

The registration tuition for the seminar is **$425**. This will cover printed materials, a flash drive with the presentations, speakers, hotel costs, and lunch on Tuesday, coffee breaks, etc. We are able to offer a benefit this year to AHAM members. If there are multiple people from the same company, the first registration will be at $425 and subsequent registrations at $250 each. We have already received tremendous interest in this seminar and there is a maximum attendance in the room of 70 people, so early registration is highly encouraged as seats are limited.

At the time you register, please register on the web site or include a check made payable to "AHAM" for the registration amount for each person from your company you are registering**.** Registration is on a first come, first serve basis for this seminar. We do expect to "sell out" the seminar, so we urge you to send the registration in **early.**

Hotel Registration:

Individuals are to make their own hotel reservations. You may make a hotel reservation by calling the Beacon Hotel

Location: Beacon Hotel Washington DC
1615 Rhode Island Ave NW

Washington, DC 20036
(202) 296-2100
Hotel Room Cut Off Date: Monday, September 17, 2012
Reservations Phone Number: (202) 296-2100; (800) 821-4367
Rate: Monday night, October 8, 2012: $149.00 (+14.5%)
Tuesday and Wednesday, October 9 and 10, 2012: $219.00 (+14.5%)

Remember to mention you are attending the "AHAM Seminar" so that you are given the special, reduced AHAM rate of $149.00 for the night of Monday, October 8 and $219.00 for Tuesday and Wednesday, October 9 and 10; tax of 14.5% not included (single or double occupancy). This rate is below the normal for peak season and will remain in effect until **Monday, September 17, 2012**. The hotel does NOT provide complimentary shuttle to and from the Washington Reagan National Airport. You could use the generic Super Shuttle service but a taxi ride is reasonable, and the hotel is 4 blocks from the Farragut North Metro Station (red line) and about 5 blocks from the AHAM offices.

The hotel will make available several rooms for the weekend before, beginning Friday night, October 5. October is a wonderful time to visit Washington DC and some people may wish to bring family. The Beacon Hotel is an excellent location for access to the city.

Dress:

The dress code will be business casual.

Program:

Included below is a preliminary program of topics. Adjustments to the program topics or speakers may be necessary. This preliminary list of topics is not an agenda and the order of the topics may change.

Preliminary List of Topics:

1. North American Safety Agency Notification and Compliance. A panel discussion based around a number of topics with regard to CPSC—Health Canada—ESA. We have invited staff from CPSC, Health Canada and ESA, along with practicing attorneys that represent clients before these agencies.
    a. What are the major differences between notification of the 3 agencies
    b. Notification of when a consumer seeks medical attention.
    c. Once a decision has been made to recall a product, what is the best way to work between the agencies to expedite a recall? In Canada, how does the manufacturer work between ESA and Health Canada? How do manufacturers work with the other provinces beyond Ontario?
2. Recalls in the Electronic Age.
    a. A panel of members and experts in recalls would review:
        i. This panel would discuss recalls in the social media age, joint notifications, reverse logistics in North America,
        ii. Is there such a thing as "recall fatigue"? How can companies avoid this or move past this phenomena?
3. Product Liability and No-Injury Class Action Litigation
    a. A panel would explore no injury class action litigation:
        i. How can companies prevent class action litigation?
        ii. How can defense attorneys work to block certification of the class?
        iii. What are successful strategies for defending no-injury class action litigation
    b. A panel would also explore ways to defend product liability litigation
        i. How can companies use Daubert challenges to block unscientific testimony?
        ii. What are the best methods to train employees to respond to video or telephone depositions?
        iii. Trends in product liability litigation
4. The CPSC in 2013.
    a. A panel of members and practitioners would explore
        i. How is the CPSC database being used by consumers?
        ii. How are companies responding to the Database?
        iii. What trends are emerging after 1.5 years into the Database? What does the data tell us?
        iv. Are consumers using the Database to research products?
5. Designing Safety Into the Product
    a. A panel of AHAM members and risk management experts will look at
        i. How are companies using experience, data, six-sigma and other techniques to design safer products?
        ii. How do companies view age of the product, normal life of the product, differences between use and abuse, forced failure, or in-warranty data to review "normal" versus "abnormal" lifespan of the product?

iii. What Risk Management tools can be used to predict whether a report rises to the level of a defect, or substantial product hazard?

Topics

2012 AHAM Product Safety & Liability Seminar

AHAM PRODUCT LIABILITY SEMINAR REGISTRATION FORM

Register Online at AHAMPL2012

Tuesday, October 9, 2012

Name: _____

Company: _____

Affiliation: ☐ AHAM ☐ AHRI ☐ CEA

Address: _____
City, State, Zip _____
Phone: _____ Email:_____

Enclosed is a check for:
☐ $425/person for registration ☐ $250/person for additional people from company

Meals - Lunch is provided (please indicate attendance):

☐ Lunch, October 9, 2012 ☐ Specific Dietary Needs (***you will be contacted)***
Note: Lunch Wednesday, October 10 is for AHAM members only. This will be part of the AHAM – UL Partnership Meeting.

If the seminar is canceled or the person is not able to attend, every effort will be made to return the registration amount to the registrants. Cancellations after 8:00 a.m. Tuesday, October 2, 2012 will not be able to receive any returned amount.

Individuals are to make their own hotel reservations. Please make your reservations on line at Beacon Hotel Washington DC. You may also telephone the hotel by calling (202) 296-2100 or (800) 821-4367. Remember to mention you are attending the "AHAM Product Safety Conference" so that you are given the special, reduced AHAM rate of $149.00 for the night of Monday, October 8 and $219.00 for Tuesday and Wednesday, October 9 and 10; tax of 14.5% not included (single or double occupancy). This rate will be held until 5:00 PM **September 17, 2012**.

Mail registration form and check to:

AHAM
1111 19th Street NW, Suite 402
Washington, DC 20036
Attention: AHAM PL Seminar
Fax: (202) 872-9354

Please use a separate registration form for each person registering for the seminar.