

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION (CPSC)

Statement of Regulatory Priorities

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of death and injury associated with consumer products. To achieve this goal, CPSC, among other things:

- develops mandatory product safety standards or bans to address safety hazards, including where required by statute;
- obtains repairs, replacements, or refunds for defective products that present a substantial product hazard;
- develops information and education campaigns about the safety of consumer products;
- participates in the development or revision of voluntary product safety standards; and
- follows other statutory mandates.

Unless otherwise directed by congressional mandate, when deciding which of these approaches to take in any specific case, CPSC gathers and analyzes data about the nature and extent of the risk presented by the product. The Commission's rules at 16 CFR section 1009.8 require the Commission to consider the following criteria, among other factors, when deciding the level of priority for any particular project:

- the frequency and severity of injuries;
- the causality of injuries;
- chronic illness and future injuries;
- costs and benefits of Commission action;
- the unforeseen nature of the risk;
- the vulnerability of the population at risk;

- the probability of exposure to the hazard; and
- additional criteria that warrant Commission attention.

Significant Regulatory Actions

Currently, the Commission is considering acting in the next 12 months on three rules -- Regulatory Options for Table Saws (RIN 3041-AC31); Portable Generators (RIN 3041-AC36); and Gas Appliance Carbon Monoxide Sensors (RIN 3041-AD70) -- which would constitute “significant regulatory actions” under the definition of that term in Executive Order 12866, although the Commission’s rulemaking is not subject to EO 12866 review.

These priority levels are included to provide an analogous criterion through which the Commission can provide this information to the public.