



SEP 8 2005

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20207

September 1, 2005

Mr. Joseph M. Mattingly
Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel
GAMA
2107 Wilson Blvd., Suite 600
Arlington, VA 22201

Dear Mr. Mattingly:

I have been asked to respond to your May 27, 2005 letter requesting information about whether the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff is aware of any fatal carbon monoxide (CO) poisonings attributed to unvented gas space heaters equipped with an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS).¹

Since 1984, when the Commission revoked its mandatory standard for these products to rely on the voluntary standard, *American National Standard for Gas-Fired Room Heaters, Volume II, Unvented Room Heaters; ANSI Z21.11.2*, we have continued to collect incident data. CPSC staff assigns investigations for all fatal CO poisonings, and then reviews the completed investigation reports. CPSC staff is not aware of any documented incident in the CPSC In-Depth Investigation (IDI) database of fatal CO poisoning associated with an ODS-equipped unvented gas space heater. However, given the lack of technical detail in many IDI's, CPSC staff can not say that no fatal poisonings have occurred; only that none are readily identifiable in the IDI database.

I hope this information is helpful. If you have any questions, or if I can be of further assistance, please contact me by phone (301-504-7534) or e-mail (dswitzer@CPSC.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald W. Switzer".

Donald W. Switzer
Directorate for Engineering Sciences

¹ These comments are those of the CPSC staff, have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.