



## **THE STORY BEGINS!**

### **THE FIRST MEETING IN 1993**

*This is the story of an organization  
brought together on the  
Atlantic coast of Florida on a  
winter's day 25 years ago...*

It was February 18, 1993, and 24 individuals from  
across the U.S., Canada and Europe  
had gathered in West Palm Beach, Florida,  
for the initial meeting to organize what would  
eventually become the

***International Consumer Product  
Health and Safety Organization!***



## THE FIRST MEETING IN 1993... *continued*

Twenty four individuals attended the first meeting, representing regulators, the regulated industry, and consumers. Two international representatives, from Great Britain and Canada respectively, also attended the meeting. The two-day meeting was spirited and productive, concluding in a vote to create a new organization focused on consumer product safety issues.

Tom Messenger, representing the State of Colorado, was elected first President of the organization; Mike Brown, a product safety attorney, was chosen to be Vice President. Product safety consultant Joan Bergy acted as facilitator.

Twenty four state, industry, government and international representatives attended the First meeting:

Dennis Baker | Texas

Charles Branton | Texas

Jack Kelly | Iowa

Mary Logan | Tennessee

Edsel Moore | Kentucky

Jim Shelby | Arkansas

Gloria Schaffer | Connecticut

Merry Fran Tryon | Wisconsin

Tom Messenger | Colorado

Irving Bell | The Coca Cola Company

Steve Kelner | Chemical Specialties Manufacturers Association

John Langmead | Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association

John Liskey | Outdoor Power Equipment Institute

David Miller | Toy Manufacturers of America

Ross Koeser | U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Mark Long | Centers for Disease Control

David Schmeltzer | U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Richard Swackhammer | U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Iris Liskey | U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Michael Drewry | Scotland

Dr. Elizabeth Nielsen | Consumer and Corporate Affairs of Canada

Joan Bergy | Product Safety Consultant

Mary Heslin | Association of Food and Drug Officials



## 1994-1996

### **IN 1994, ICPHSO HELD ITS FIRST ANNUAL SYMPOSIUM IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA**

The Symposium was attended by 137 people from across the globe. Over the following two years, the symposiums were regularly attended by an average of 150 people. The organization was continuing to grow and establish itself both within the United States, and on a global scale.



25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
SILVER JUBILEE



## 1998

### COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

The first Compliance Workshop was held one day prior to the 1998 Annual Meeting and Symposium, and proved to be highly successful. Over 90 people attended the half-day session, including representatives from manufacturers, importers, retailers, trade associations, international, state and local government, media and special interest groups. The workshop focused on various aspects of the CPSC Compliance Program, and featured discussions around the industry's reporting obligations, CPSC expectations for voluntary recalls, and how compliance activities relate to voluntary product safety standards.



## 1999

### INCREASING INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT:

Several members of the Product Safety Enforcement Forum of Europe (PROSAFE) attended the 1999 Annual Symposium in February, and international attendance was increasing. The International Caucus held during the Symposium underscored the importance of greater collaboration on enforcement worldwide.



## 2003

### 2003 MARKED ICPHSO'S 10th ANNIVERSARY

As a unique organization dedicated to addressing health and safety issues related to consumer products on a global scale. The Annual Meeting drew 300 attendees, including 32 international representatives from 10 countries. Half of those international participants were from non-government agencies, the largest number to attend an ICPHSO meeting to date.



## 2004

### FOLLOWING THROUGH WITH ITS STRATEGIC PLAN TO BECOME INCREASINGLY GLOBAL...

ICPHSO held its first meeting outside of the United States in London, England. The symposium represented a unique opportunity to facilitate discussion and share views with decision makers in the formulation and enforcement of product safety issues around the world. The event served to open a dialogue on consumer safety regulation and helped lay the groundwork for future discussions.



## 2006

### **THE BETHESDA DECLARATION:**

Participants at the 2006 meeting drew up and signed the “Bethesda Declaration”, outlining the shared values and developed plans for the future international cooperation in the field of consumer product safety. The Declaration outlined three shared values of ICPHSO’s members:

1. To improve the safety of products and thereby foster the health and safety of consumers.
2. To improve the confidence of consumers in the products they buy.
3. To encourage compliance with safety standards and requirements in order to achieve these improvements in the most cost effective way whilst building global trade to the benefit of consumers and business alike.



## 2013

### **ICPHSO’s 20th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION IN ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA...**

Featured over 600 attendees and a performance by the local political satire group known as the Capitol Steps who performed at our evening dinner and included several members and the safety theme in their skits. ICPHSO has come a long way from its earliest days.



## 2014

### **ICPHSO RETURNED TO ORLANDO IN FEBRUARY WITH A RECORD NUMBER OF ATTENDEES**

We experienced some logistical hiccups when the ICPHSO hotel apparently gave away most of our rooms to other groups. We were able to add on an additional hotel and accommodate attendees. The Symposium again was heavy in useful content needed by stakeholders and featured for the first time an introduction and panel of CPSC Commissioners during the highly successful CPSC day session.

Our one-day Midwest Regional Product Safety Training Workshop was hosted by Best Buy in Minneapolis, Minnesota and was well attended and focused on practical information to ensure product safety. Panels featured safe design of product, reporting requirements, market surveillance and international enforcement.

We once again returned to Brussels to participate in the European Commission’s International Product Safety Week and as a result, our international presence again increased. The two-day Symposium was very well attended by stakeholders including global manufacturers, retailers, importers, test labs, regulators, consumers, and others.



25<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY  
SILVER JUBILEE

## 2015

### **THIS YEAR BROUGHT US TO A NEW FLORIDA VENUE —THE HYATT REGENCY GRAND CYPRESS**

Nearly 600 attendees found a new and welcoming venue to continue ICPHSO's presence in Orlando, Florida in February. From Tutorials to Break-out sessions this well attended event featured the latest information involving emerging hazards, voluntary standards, data sharing, new technology and interactive regulator participation. The Annual Symposium was the kick off event for our Northeast Regional Product Safety Training Workshop hosted by Toys R' Us in Wayne, NJ and our International Symposium in Billund, Denmark, hosted by Lego. The year was a busy one for ICPHSO and all three events continued ICPHSO's mission of bringing all stakeholders together for training and education purposes.

The year was also one of transition for ICPHSO as we welcomed a new management company, Drohan Group to provide administrative and back office support and as Ross Koeser retired as a Founding Member and first Executive Director. Ross' position was assumed by Marc Schoem, who retired from the CPSC after a nearly 41-year career. Marc joined ICPHSO in October and continued the role he has played for many years, bringing together stakeholders in a bi-partisan effort to enhance product safety.

## 2016

### **ICPHSO RETURNED TO WASHINGTON, D.C AT A NEW VENUE —THE RENAISSANCE DOWNTOWN**

ICPHSO welcomed more than 700 attendees from 20 countries. Nearly 200 first timers were at this Symposium. At this meeting, we had to enlist several other hotels to keep up with the number of attendees requiring room reservations. Since we were in Washington, D.C., we were able to provide registered attendees several outside event options. Included were several CPSC lab visits, a night time tour of DC monuments and restaurant dine arounds. All first-time events for ICPHSO. These were undertaken with ICPHSO subsidizing most of the cost to enhance the ICPHSO experience at our annual symposium. Content was again compelling, and a must attend event. Being in DC, we had the added benefit of interacting with many different regulators we don't always get to see or hear from in Florida. We will be returning to the Renaissance in 2019.

## 2017

### **THIS WAS ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR FOR ICPHSO**

We returned to Florida and the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Orlando, having been at the hotel previously. It's always good to be able to go back to where we have been. Despite our best plans in contracting this hotel and the ICPHSO room block (generally done about 3 years in advance), we again ran out of rooms at the Hyatt and had to enlist the aid of several overflow hotels nearby. Nearly 750 registered attendees were at the 2017 Annual Symposium. Once again showing that if you put on a compelling content filled symposium with expert speakers, valued sponsors and exhibitors, the attendees in the product safety community will come. We increased the number of Associated meetings being held around ICPHSO to include ASTM, RILA and Canada Retail Council. We also hosted with ASTM a special Friday afternoon session focused on the Poison Prevention Packaging Act Requirements which continued our association with co-sponsoring specialized training workshops with ASTM that began in 2016. More such events are being planned.

Our regional training workshop was held in Toronto, Canada and was branded as the 2017 North America Regional Product Safety Training Workshop. We worked cooperatively with regulators from Health Canada and CPSC to develop a one-day workshop that drew over 200 people and reaffirmed our commitment to working closely with Health Canada to bring stakeholders information on requirements from North America and not just the U.S. Our International Symposium was held in Tokyo, Japan our first entry into Japan and was very well attended with over 240 people. Many neighboring countries sent representatives and we had a great turnout from the three Japanese regulatory agencies which gave all attendees an opportunity to network with regulators they might not normally interact and meet. Our first event held in Tokyo was a resounding success and certainly built up the momentum for continued high level global training and education on emerging consumer product safety issues as we head to Florida to kick off ICPHSO's 25th Anniversary year.

## 2018 – 25th Anniversary Year

In February we return to the Hyatt Regency Grand Cypress to begin the kick-off of ICPHSO's 25th year anniversary celebration. The 2018 Annual Meeting and Training Symposium's theme is, "Accelerated Change in the Exponential Age: Learning from History to Make Safer Products in the Future." While we will certainly be celebrating our 25 years and looking back – our focus will be the here and now and how we can be best prepared to address the emerging issues that face all our stakeholders in the future. Amazon on June 19, 2018 in Seattle will host our Regional Workshop, Washington and we will again return to Brussels to participate in the European Commission's International Product Safety Week (week of November 12, 2018) with our two-day International Symposium. Check the ICPHSO website at [www.icphso.org](http://www.icphso.org) for updated information in 2018 and beyond.

**THANKS FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF ICPHSO!**

