

22—Non-Employee Accident Prevention

accessibly located at the top and the bottom landing. These must stop, but not start the escalator. Placement of a STOP button at the base of a newel (Fig 22-10), with either recessed design or provision of a cover, will help protect the button from being activated unnecessarily. Selected employees should be trained in the location and use of emergency switches.

Product Safety

Today, attention is being given to the subject of "total safety engineering." To this end, federal legislation is becoming more and more encompassing. Liability now extends to non-employees beyond the boundaries of property lines. "Caveat emptor" (let the buyer beware) has been changed to "protect the buyer" by providing safe-operating products. The Consumer Product Safety Act has been enacted to reach out and protect almost everyone, everywhere, all the time.

Major provisions of the Act

Congress passed the Consumer Product Safety Act on October 12, 1972. Provisions of this act provide the authority to implement it in an independent five-member regulatory agency known as the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Purpose. The fundamental purposes of the act are fourfold:

- 1 To protect the public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products,
- 2 To assist consumers in evaluating the comparative safety of consumer products,
- 3 To develop uniform safety standards for consumer products,
- 4 To promote research and investigation into the causes and prevention of product-related injuries and illnesses.

Consumer product. A consumer product is defined as any article or component part that is produced or distributed for sale to a consumer for use in or around a household or residence, a school, in recreation or otherwise, or for the personal use, consumption, or en-

joyment of a consumer in the same places. The act specifically excludes from coverage tobacco products, motor vehicles, pesticides, aircraft, boats, food, drugs, medical devices or cosmetics, and firearms and ammunition.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission has, among other things, the authority to

- 1 Maintain an injury information clearing-house
- 2 Conduct studies and investigations resulting from accidents
- 3 Conduct studies on improving safety of products
- 4 Test consumer products
- 5 Develop product safety test methods and testing devices
- 6 Develop and promulgate product safety standards
- 7 Declare a product a "banned hazardous product"
- 8 Inspect areas such as factories and warehouses
- 9 Require manufacturers to establish and maintain certain records
- 10 Develop product defect notification procedures for manufacturers, distributors, and retailers

In addition, the commission is to administer the existing federal Hazardous Substances Act, the Poison Prevention Packaging Act, the Flammable Fabrics Act, and the Refrigerator Safety Act.

Notable in the Flammable Fabrics Act is the establishment of standards for carpets and rugs, children's sleepwear, and mattresses. Also considered among other items are mattresses.

Some of these standards are extremely important to people in the hotel and motel business since the fire rating of a building is the extent of its fire-sustaining load. By this is meant the quantity and quality of flammable items such as bed clothing, linens, rugs, mattresses, and the like.

The Product Safety Advisory Council. A Product Safety Advisory Council composed of