TO: DAVE CHANDLER
FROM: SHARON VERDUZCO
SUBJ: OSCO DRUG, INC. - VIDEO
DATE: MAY 4, 1978

We have received the attached letter from Osco Drug.

Mike Weinstock said that you should draft a letter of response for me. He will review it prior to our sending it out.

Please let me know if there are any questions.

SV: sl

cc: M. Kuhn
Mattel Sales Corp.
1400 East Touhy
Suite G-10
Des Plaines, IL 60018

Gentlemen:

As indicated in the Federal Trade Commission's release of December 19, 1977, reasonable use of electronic video games should not imprint the game pattern on T.V. screens. The Commission did report, however, that "prolonged use of some games may imprint the game pattern on T.V. screens—in particular, those of black and white sets." Accordingly, the Commission is urging manufacturers and sellers to warn consumers prior to sales that prolonged display of a video game with a fixed pattern is likely to result in imprinting the game on the television screen.

Since the extent of any imprinting effect is a technical question dependent on a number of factors such as brightness of the image, the type of T.V. set used, and how long the game is played, it is our opinion that video game manufacturers are in the best position to determine what imprinting effect, if any, their video games will have on T.V. sets.

We are therefore requesting that you send us your plan for compliance with the F.T.C.'s request that customers be warned of potential damage to their T.V. sets if they should purchase one of your video games.

Sincerely,

Bill Delaney
Video Game Buyer

Answer

Timing circuit which shuts it off
July 26, 1978

TO: BOB MULCAHY

FROM: ED KRAKAUER

SUBJECT: VIDEO ENTERTAINMENT CENTER - LEGAL POSITION

Currently, we are approaching potential licensees regarding the Mattel Video System. It is imperative that we understand . . .

One, Mattel's legal position vis-a-vis Magnavox patents; and,

Two, Mattel's proprietary position with respect to the Graphics ROM, and particularly the Controllers.

Please schedule a review, at which time a firm opinion can be provided on each of the above.

EMK/nlh

cc: Steve King
    Jeff Rochlis
August 2, 1978

John G. Mesaros, Esq.
The Theme Bldg, Suite 214
540 North Golden Circle Drive
Santa Ana, California 92705

Re: Video Entertainment Center
   Our Docket No. 11887

Dear John:

Enclosed are the first five pages of your nine page letter of April 27 on the same subject with Dave Chandler's comments regarding the first seven of the sixteen cited patents. Dave Chandler has assured me that he will attempt to provide you at his earliest possible opportunity with comments regarding the nine other patents cited in this letter as well as the twenty-five additional Sanders (Magnavox) patents discussed in your letter of June 6 (of which you have selected nine as being most pertinent).

Very truly yours,

John M. May
Attorney

JMM:skd

Encls.

cc: Dave Chandler
To: Dave Chandler  
    Jim Kingsbury  
    Richard Chang  

From: Jeff Rochlis  

Date: September 13, 1978  

Subject: Attached clipping regarding fire retardants  

The attached article addresses the United States Consumer Products Commission subpoenas to various television manufacturers concerning their use of fire retardant materials in their television sets.

Please review same and give me your opinions as to whether we should be addressing fire retardant measures for our video complex.

JAR: ewj  

cc: Denis Bosley  
    Ralph Stewart  
    Steve Nelson  

attachment
9 TV Mfrs. Subpoenaed
On Fire-Related Incidents

By ROBERTA WYPER

WASHINGTON (FNS) — Nine television manufacturers have approximately 45 days to comply with a subpoena for additional data on fire-related incidents involving their products.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, as part of its efforts to monitor the effectiveness of a voluntary flammability standard now in effect for the television industry, issued the subpoena last month after the manufacturers indicated they would not provide the information voluntarily.

The subpoena is the third issued by the commission over the past 4 years. In the past, no manufacturer has failed to comply with the order.

According to commission staff members, information collected from industry in the past 4 years indicates a downward trend in the number of fire incidents involving television sets.

In 1973, for example, there were 31.5 fire-related incidents per million sets — occurring within 2 years of manufacture — compared with 19.6 incidents in 1974 and 7.9 incidents in 1975.

These figures, however, noted CPSC analyst Dee Harwood, "do assume the subpenas have been fully complied with by the manufacturers."

This year's subpoena seeks information to help the government agency determine whether the downward trend is continuing. "We have to make sure the voluntary standards are doing the job," said CPSC manager Melvin Spencer.

Specifically, television manufacturers are being asked to submit all documents relating to fire-related incidents and to include information "reported to or otherwise obtained by the manufacturer involving a report of flames, explosion, smoke, overheating or melting occurring during calendar year 1977 in a television receiver, or occurring during 1976 but not previously reported to the commission, even if the television receiver may not be considered to be the cause of the incident.

Commission staffers point out that any information submitted which the manufacturer claims is confidential will not be kept in a public file and will not initially be made available to the public.

If a request is made for this confidential data, the commission will notify the manufacturer and give him the opportunity to submit a detailed claim explaining the nature of the information and the reasons why it should not be released to the public.

If the commission, however, decides the information should not be classified as confidential, it will notify the manufacturer and allow him 10 calendar days to seek judicial relief.

The nine manufacturers subpoenaed are Motorola, Magnavox, Zenith, Panasonic, GTE-Sylvania, RCA, Quasar Electronic, General Electric and Rockwell International (Admiral group).

Last Jan. 12, CPSC staff members met with representatives of the nine manufacturers in an effort to encourage the companies to submit data voluntarily. The manufacturers agreed to provide some of the requested information, but not all of it, as indicated by a letter from the Electronic Industries Association to the CPSC stating, in part: "After careful consideration, a majority of the companies (say they) cannot agree to participate in a voluntary program as the CPSC has outlined it. It is often difficult for manufacturers to voluntarily provide information which might lead to increased costs and expenses for their companies," Mr. Spencer said.

Part of the downward trend in TV-related fire incidents is due to changes in how television sets are now being made. Manufacturers, for example, have been able to develop a type of plastic for cabinets that is less flammable than its predecessor. In addition, improved technology has led to elimination of tubes in television sets and the substitution of printed circuits.

The nine manufacturers have until Oct. 27 to supply the subpoenaed information.