Appendix G: IRB consent– cognitive interview

Consent to Participate in Research

You are invited to participate in a research study that has been approved by the Rensselaer Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB reviews and approves all human subject research in accordance with applicable state law and federal law governing human subject research.

Research study title: Warning Label Safety Symbol Research

Principal investigator: Michael J. Kalsher, Ph.D., Cognitive Science Department, 301-F Carnegie Bldg., kalshm@rpi.edu, (518) 276-8267.

Purpose of the research study: The purpose of this research is to assess the extent to which safety symbols effectively communicate hazards associated with the use of or exposure to products and equipment. The project is being carried out in cooperation with staff of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CSPC). The overall goal is to develop a family of safety symbols that can be used to effectively communicate safety-related information to diverse audiences. Given the growing diversity of the U.S. population, in concert with the rapid expansion in global trade, this is an important goal. The safety symbols that you will be asked to evaluate were selected based on injury data associated with consumer products and equipment and the severity of the non-obvious hazards that threaten consumers.

What you will do in the study: You will be asked to evaluate a set of 10 safety symbols, depicted as they might look on an actual product. You will write answers to the following three questions for each symbol: (1) "Exactly what do you think this symbol means?" (2) "What actions should you take in response to seeing the symbol?" (3) "What might happen if the action(s) is not taken?" It is important to remember—it is the symbols that are being evaluated—not you. You will also be asked to answer some basic demographic questions.

Time required: The symbol evaluation task should take no more than 1 hour to complete.

Risks: The risks associated with this study are minimal, as your answers are a matter of your own experience or opinion.

Benefits: You will receive a $45 Visa gift card for completing the symbol evaluation task. If you choose to terminate your participation before completing the evaluation task, you will be paid for the portion of the task you have completed.

Confidentiality/Anonymous data: The information you give in the study will be handled confidentially. Your rating data will be anonymous, which means that your name will not be linked to the data you provide.

Right to withdraw from the study: Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or stop participating at any time and for any reason. If you choose to stop participating before completing the symbol evaluation task, you will be paid on a pro-rata basis for the portion of the task you have completed up to that point.

If you have questions about the study, contact:

Michael J. Kalsher
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301-F Carnegie Bldg.
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Telephone: 518-276-8267
kalshm@rpi.edu

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Institutional Review Board
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
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Telephone: 518-276-4873
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Appendix H: IRB consent– focus group

Consent to Participate in Research

You are invited to participate in a research study that has been approved by the Rensselaer Institutional Review Board (IRB). The IRB reviews and approves all human subject research in accordance with applicable state law and federal law governing human subject research.

Research study title: Warning Label Safety Symbol Research

Principal investigator: Michael J. Kalsher, Ph.D., Cognitive Science Department, 301-F Carnegie Bldg., kalshm@rpi.edu, (518) 276-8267.

Purpose of the research study: The purpose of this research is to assess the extent to which safety symbols effectively communicate hazards associated with the use of or exposure to products and equipment. The project is being carried out in cooperation with staff of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CSPC). The overall goal is to develop a family of safety symbols that can be used to effectively communicate safety-related information to diverse audiences. Given the growing diversity of the U.S. population, in concert with the rapid expansion in global trade, this is an important goal. The safety symbols that you will be asked to evaluate were selected based on injury data associated with consumer products and equipment and the severity of the non-obvious hazards that threaten consumers.

What you will do in the study: You will be asked to look over a set of 10 safety symbols, depicted as they might look on an actual product, and then participate in a focus group to discuss the symbols in greater detail. The purpose of the focus group session is to gather detailed information about each symbol to guide efforts to re-design symbols that perform poorly, or conversely, to help us understand why certain symbols perform well. It is important to remember—it is the symbols that are being evaluated—not you. You will also be asked to answer some basic demographic questions.

Time required: The focus group session should take no more than 1 hour of your time.

Risks: The risks associated with this study are minimal, as your answers are a matter of your own experience or opinion.

Benefits: You will receive a $45 Visa gift card for your participation in the focus group. If you choose to terminate your participation before the focus group session has ended, you will be paid for the portion of the session you have completed.

Confidentiality/Anonymous data: The information you give in the study will be handled confidentially, which means that your name will not be linked to the data you provide.

Right to withdraw from the study: Your participation in this research is completely voluntary. You may refuse to participate or stop participating at any time and for any reason simply by leaving the online focus group session (closing your browser). If you choose to stop participating before the focus group session has ended, you will be paid on a pro-rata basis for the portion of the session you attended.

If you have questions about the study, contact:

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Appendix I: IRB approval notice

To: Kalsher, Michael J

Wednesday, January 13, 2021 1:51 PM

To: Michael Kalsher
From: Rensselaer IRB, IRB Chair
Subject: IRB 1822 Protocol Changes Approved HHSP233201860070A
Date: 01/08/2021

The Protocol Changes to **IRB 1822: Warning Label Safety Symbol Research** have been reviewed and approved by the IRB on 01/08/2021 subject to the COVID-19 restrictions stated below.

Consent Forms
As consent for the study and focus group will be conducted online, no stamped copies of the approved consent forms are provided with this Protocol Change approval. The investigator is required to use the approved versions of the revised consent forms in the online media in which the study is conducted.

COVID-19 COMPLIANCE: The IRB and the Office of Research have determined that all RPI IRB approved research that involves face to face contact with research subjects is suspended until further notice. This policy is in response to the COVID-19 public health crisis and New York State emergency declarations. Further, all IRB approved research must be conducted in conformity with current RPI policy regarding on campus use and contact between research staff. Investigators are invited to submit Protocol Changes if they believe that they can conduct their human subjects research through online means or other non-face to face means.

Continuing Review
This approval expires **05/30/2021.** Protocols are subject to Continuing Review on an annual basis. You will be notified of the Continuing Review requirements several weeks prior to the protocol expiration date.

Protocol Changes
Should you wish to modify this protocol at any point, please upload a **markup of the original protocol**(preferably with the Revisions tool in Word) via the **Protocol Changes** tab at the bottom of the protocol record.

Jurisdiction
The review of this protocol and consent form has been made only with regard to HHS regulations and New York State law. If a part of this project is to be conducted under another jurisdiction, the Board cautions that it may be necessary to determine if the protocol conforms to the requirements of that jurisdiction.

Rensselaer Institutional Review Board (IRB)