



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION
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Flame Retardant Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Wednesday, February 10, 2010
Office of the State Fire Marshal, Monrovia, California

Committee Goal: To provide a means of communications between the Office of the State Fire Marshal, representatives of industry, the public and the fire service; and to seek comments and specific views on proposed regulations and intended future action.

SFM STAFF:

Ben Ho, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Francis Mateo, Office of the State Fire Marshal
James Parsegian, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Jeannie Smith, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Helen Brockenbrough, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Diane Arend, Office of the State Fire Marshal*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber Anderson, Cosumnes Community Services District*
Ellen Atkins, Delta Pacific Technologies*
Juli Case, Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI)*
Jonathan Curtsinger, Fabric Flameproofing*
Wendy Holt, Contract Services Administration Trust Fund
Joe McNally, Mountain View Christmas Tree Farm*
Kathy Newman, Firetect Flame Retardants
Bobby Puett, Diversified Testing Laboratories*
Pedro Vega, Dazian Fabrics
Greg Wrona, Quality Auditing Institute

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tom Andrews, Turning Star, Inc.

**Via Conference Call*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Francis Mateo, Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 A.M., at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Regional Headquarters, Monrovia, California, on Wednesday, February 10, 2010.

II. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

Francis Mateo provided logistics and self introductions followed.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the October 29, 2009 meeting were discussed. Jonathan Curtsinger suggested that the minutes should reflect which members were present and which were present via conference call. The committee agreed that the minutes should so reflect. Ellen Atkins discussed the issue of Item B. Small Scale Test vs. NFPA 701. The committee agreed that the second paragraph regarding material drip and after flame be deleted.

Juli Case motioned to approve the minutes with corrections. It was seconded and passed unanimously to approve as corrected.

Action Item: SFM staff will make the changes and distribute and post revised minutes.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

A. Test Standards

1. Large Scale Test

The committee discussed where and when the large scale test is used and also whether it is needed in Title 19. Juli Case discussed a survey that she had sent out to IFAI members regarding the necessity of the large scale test. She found that 77% of the responses agreed that it was not necessary due to the costs. Jonathan Curtsinger motioned to strike the large scale test from Title 19. The committee discussed the use of the test for heavier weight fabrics and the need for weathering. The committee agreed that an observation field needs to be added for all fabrics. Jonathan withdrew his motion. Chief Ho stated that the large scale test will remain in the regulation and that the committee needs to identify when it will be used. There was discussion on when the labs tell customers they need the large scale test and when industry requests their products be tested using the large scale test. Chief Ho requested SFM staff to report back to the committee with information regarding where and when the large scale test is used.

Action Item: Juli Case said she will go back to industry to see when the large scale test is used.

Action Item: SFM staff to research where and when the large scale test is used and report back to committee.

2. ASTM E-84 Follow-up

The committee discussed when ASTM E-84 applies and that the regulations do not require ASTM E-84 tests. As there was no consensus, this item will be brought back to the next meeting.

Action Item: The committee will decide whether ASTM E-84 needs to be in Title 19 and report back at next meeting.

3. Accelerated Weathering Test

The committee discussed the requirements for weathering of fabrics for testing. There were questions regarding the need for weathering of fabrics for indoor use. Also discussed was which tests, when and where should they be used, the duration and leaching. Chief Ho suggested that all labs should be invited to participate on this issue.

Action Item: Greg Wrona will provide proposed regulatory language regarding weathering and bring back to the committee.

There was a general discussion on all tests needing to be noted on the SFM webpage. Chief Ho reported on the development of the Flame Retardant Program's new database. The database will be similar to the Building Materials Listing. Samples of two Building Materials Listings were handed out. The new database will enable the program to produce a new certificate for Fabric, Chemical, General Applicator and Limited Applicator. The certificate will include more information, i.e., fabric/chemical name, manufacturer name, product description, rating, installation, approval and duration.

Action Item: SFM staff will bring back to the committee a prototype certificate.

B. Examination Process

Jeannie Smith updated the committee regarding the examination process for flame retardant companies and certified flame retardant applicators. Effective July 1, 2010, written examinations will be proctored by SFM staff at two locations, Sacramento and Monrovia. This will improve the methods of service and standardize procedures for the Flame Retardant Program. Staff will be scheduling the examinations for each location at regular intervals throughout the year. The committee discussed the need to have more than two locations for testing due to the travel aspects for small operators, especially the Christmas tree applicators.

Action Item: SFM staff will bring back to the committee other options regarding expanding test locations.

The committee discussed the need to update the test questions for general and limited applicators. It was decided that a work group be put together to review the test questions and develop new test questions/answers.

Action Item: SFM staff to put together task group on updating current tests and report back to the committee.

B. Fees

Jeannie Smith reported that in order to facilitate the revised examination process, regulatory changes are being proposed to include a fee for \$85 for an original or annual renewal of a Certified Flame Retardant Applicator. Chief Ho stated that state law allows the SFM to make administrative changes to the regulations. This fee will cover the costs incurred for carrying out this new procedure; staff time, travel and added paperwork management. The committee agreed that the fee was warranted.

V. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Timeline for Regulations Package

Francis Mateo reported that the goal is to have the proposed regulatory package ready to be submitted to the Office of Administrative Law by the end of the year. Diane Arend stated that if the package is submitted by January 2011, the new regulations could become effective by July 2011.

Action Item: SFM staff to set up goals/objectives for regulatory package submission timeline.

B. Approval of Chemicals

The committee discussed whether we need to change the requirements for chemical registration. Kathy Newman suggested that a product data sheet should be included along with the other information already required. Ellen Atkins stated that they provide a product data sheet with their products and that it includes more information than just the Material Safety Data Sheet.

Action Item: Ellen Atkins will send a copy of product data sheet to the committee.

It was recommended that the regulations spell out exactly what is required, and if the product data sheet is included as a requirement, that it list what should be included on that sheet.

Action Item: Bring back as an agenda item for the next meeting – “Determine Criteria for Product Data Sheet”.

There was discussion regarding the effect of chemicals on different color fabric. It was suggested that manufacturers provide the lab with a description of what materials each chemical should be tested on and rated for.

Action Item: Juli Case will check with the industry regarding the effect of chemicals on different colored fabrics and report back to the committee.

C. Interior/Exterior Flame Retardant Chemicals

This item was carried over to the next meeting.

VI. OPEN FORUM

No items discussed.

VII. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be a conference call scheduled for March 25, 2010 at the SFM Headquarters, 1131 S Street, Sacramento. The teleconference number is (877) 536-5793, participant code 458731.

VIII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 P.M.