



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION
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Flame Retardant Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, March 3, 2011
Meeting/Teleconference

Committee Goal: To provide a means of communications between the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM), 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, Division Chief
James Parsegian, Chair
Diane Arend, Technical Advisor
Jason DeWitt, Technical Advisor
Vikkie Raby, Assistant Program Coordinator
Jeannie Smith, Program Coordinator
Glenn Tong, Technical Advisor

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Wendy Holt, Contract Services Administration Trust Fund
Joe McNally, Mountain View Christmas Tree Farm

MEMBERS ON LINE:

Tom Andrews, Turning Star, Inc.
Ellen Atkins, Delta Pacific Technologies, Flame Retardant/Flameproofing
Benjamin Bagwell, Glen Raven – Custom Fabrics
Juli Case, Industrial Fabrics Association International (IFAI)
Kathy Newman, Firetect Flame Retardants
Pedro Vega, Dazian Fabrics

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Amber Anderson, Cosumnes Community Services District
Chris Bowness, QAI Laboratories
Jonathan Curtsinger, Fabric Flameproofing
Michael Lantier, City of Napa Fire Department
Bobby Puett, Diversified Testing Laboratories

GUESTS ON LINE:

James Bower, Jr., Flame Stop Inc.
Rhonda Byrne, QAI Laboratories
Donna Drover, QAI Laboratories
Kathy Mattson, Industrial Fabrics Association International
Sue Uhler, Seamans Corporation
Douglas Lipp, Govmark Organization

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M., on Thursday, March 3, 2011. Jeannie Smith announced her retirement and appointment of new Chair, James Parsegian, Senior Deputy State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering Division.

The Chair welcomed new member Benjamin Bagwell from Glen Raven – Custom Fabrics representing industry. The Chair noted that there were no more openings on the Committee for industry representatives; however, there was a need for fire service and laboratory representation. Self introductions followed and a roll call was conducted; a quorum was established.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair requested discussion on the November 30, 2010 minutes. Wendy Holt motioned to approve the November 30, 2010 minutes; it was seconded by Joe McNally; and approved by vote.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Flame-Retardant Treatment of Hay

Since Mike Lantier was not in attendance, this issue was tabled.

B. Flame-Retardant Product Transmittal

Jeannie Smith reported that the Flame-Retardant Product Transmittal was being brought back to the Committee for information only. The title and format were changed; but the content remains almost the same. Since the laboratories are the end users, the transmittal was sent to all SFM Approved Laboratories for their review; which received rave reviews. The final document will be posted to the Flame Retardant Program webpage for implementation. After discussion, the Committee will review the final document and provide comments to the Chair by March 11, 2011.

C. Task Group Reports

Laboratories Testing Procedures Task Group - Update

Glenn Tong reported that the Laboratories Testing Procedures Task Group met and it was decided that the “alternate” test be deleted from the proposed regulations. Materials for exterior use will be tested to the small scale in their original state and after accelerated weathering, and to the large scale after water extraction. Currently the laboratories are testing exterior materials to the small scale in their original state, after accelerated weathering, and after water extraction. The accelerated weathering procedure was discussed. The ASTM G 155-05a standard will be used since it is adopted by the California Building Code.

D. Article 7 – Field Testing for Fire Resistance

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2/10/11 Proposed Article 7. Glenn Tong reported that during SFM lab testing, it was found that there was a discrepancy with the placement of the flame to the fabric sample. Title 19 Small Scale: $\frac{3}{4}$ ” above top of burner (embedded into flame); current SFM Field Test: $\frac{1}{2}$ ” above flame; NFPA 705: $\frac{1}{2}$ ” above bottom of flame (embedded into flame); Proposed 1/3/11: $\frac{3}{4}$ ” above

top of flame; and, Proposed 2/10/11: ½” above the bottom of the flame (embedded into flame). QAI volunteered to assist the SFM with sample testing and we thank them for their assistance. The test results were provided and will be sent to the Committee. The Committee also viewed videos of the tests.

After discussion, it was decided to table a decision on Article 7 until the fire service representatives had time to review. This item will be brought back to the Committee at its next meeting.

Tom Andrews brought up the issue of changing the regulations to include certifying General Applicators to become “certified testers.” After discussion, Chief Ho stated that the decision to allow that or not would have to come from the local jurisdiction and cannot be authorized by our office.

E. Article 8. Flameproofing Certification, Labeling and Installation

The Committee reviewed and discussed the 2/10/11 recommended changes to Article 8. It was noted that a processing mechanism for the validation stickers still needs to be developed. It was decided that a requirement needed to be added to Section 1324 Fabric and Material Certification referring to Secondary Registration. Jeannie provided a brief explanation of Secondary Registration, which is used for fabrics and also chemicals. Secondary registration is used when a company desires to have an already-registered product not manufactured by them listed under their own trade or brand name. The manufacture of the product has to give approval and consent in a letter to the SFM stating that the product under the new name shall always be identical in all respects. The applicant would also have to submit a notarized letter that the product sold, distributed, or used under the new name will always be identical in all respects to the manufactured product.

After discussion, Kathy Newman motioned to approve Article 8 with changes; Wendy Holt, seconded the motion; the motion passed after a vote.

Action item: Revise Article 8 to include requirements for Secondary Registration within Section 1324.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

No new business was discussed.

V. OPEN FORUM

There were no open forum items.

VI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next teleconference was scheduled for April 7, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.