



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 25, 2010
Teleconference
Office of the State Fire Marshal, Sacramento, 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
Jeannie Smith, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Glenn Tong, Office of the State Fire Marshal
Diane Arend, Office of the State Fire Marshal*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amber Anderson, Cosumnes Community Services District
Tom Andrews, Turning Star, Inc.*
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*
Greg Wrona, Quality Auditing Institute*

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bobby Puett, Diversified Testing Laboratories
Pedro Vega, Dazian Fabrics

**Via Conference Call*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Ben Ho called the teleconference to order at 10:05 A.M., at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Headquarters Office, Sacramento, California, on Thursday, March 25, 2010. Chief Ho announced the appointment of Jeannie Smith as Chair of the Flame Retardant Advisory Committee, replacing Francis Mateo. Jeannie has permanently assumed the position of Program Coordinator for the Flame Retardant Program.

A roll call was given and a quorum was established.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2010 meeting.

Kathy Newman motioned to approve the minutes; it was seconded by Wendy Holt, and approved as written.

Note: For purposes of clarification within these minutes, the initial "P" will stand for Proposed Regulations and the letter "C" will stand for Current Regulations.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Test Standards

1. Large Scale Test (P-Section 1176 et seq., Pages 2-4; C-Section 1237.3 Page 86)

It was determined at the February 10, 2010 meeting that the large scale test would remain in Title 19 and that the committee would identify when it will be used.

Report from Industry (Current Regulation)

Juli Case reported that in February she sent out a survey to industry. Those requesting certification for the large scale test responded that it was primarily for fabric used for tents, canopies and/or free-standing structures; mainly exterior applications.

Report from SFM Staff (Current Regulation)

The Chair reported that current regulations Section 1230 et seq. (C-Pages 85-86) specify that both the large and small scale test standards are to be used for exterior fabrics.

Chief Ho referred to Section 1273.3 (C-Page 88), the test method for unsupported film, synthetic fabrics and coated fabrics. This test method is different than both the large scale and small scale. Chief Ho questioned whether this test method is needed or whether these types of fabrics should be tested under the large scale test, Section 1237.2.

Jonathan Curtsinger motioned to refer everything under Section 1273.3 to the large scale test Section 1237.2 and 3. After discussion, Jonathan amended his motion to change the specimen size to conform to 1237.3.

The committee discussed the need, relocation, and/or elimination of Section 1273.3. Since there was no consensus, the Chair suggested that staff research further and bring issue back at the next meeting.

The motion on the floor to change the specimen size to conform to 1237.3, the large scale test, was tabled.

Action Item: SFM staff to research the possibilities of keeping, changing, relocating, or eliminating Section 1273.3.

The Chair referred to the pass criteria for the large scale test; after flame time 2 seconds – char length 10 inches. The Committee agreed that this would remain the criteria.

2. ASTM E-84 Follow-up Current Regulation

For clarification of the use of ASTM E-84, the Chair reported that current regulation refers to ASTM E-84 as the “tunnel test” in Section 1216.1 (C-Page 84) and Section 1264.1 (C-Page 88). The committee discussed the need for the ASTM E-84 testing criteria and also its application. Glenn Tong clarified that Section 1264.1 (P-Page 18) in the proposed regulations will refer to “ASTM E-84” instead of the “tunnel test”.

Action Item: Jonathan Curtsinger proposed that a separate summary document be prepared of the codes and how they apply.

The Committee discussed Section 1264.1. It was agreed that the word “dip” be added as a way to apply flame retardant treatment to achieve required coverage.

Action Item: Staff to change the wording of Section 1264.1 to add other ways to achieve required coverage.

Section 1264.1 (P-Page 18) was discussed regarding the testing procedure for nonsolid wooden decorative materials, such as sawdust, shavings, and excelsior being tested in accordance with Section 1264.4 Flock (P-Page 19). Glenn explained that using an armature would be the test method due to the like composition of the materials being tested. It was suggested that Section 1264.4 be retitled and reworded to specify not just flock but other non-seasonal items such as sawdust, shavings, and excelsior.

Action Item: Staff to retitle and reword Section 1264.4 to specify not just flock but other non-seasonal items; and also rework Section 1264.1.

The Committee agreed that ASTM E-84 will remain referenced in the regulations.

3. Accelerated Weathering Test

Greg Wrona discussed his proposed language reflecting changes in Section 1264.5 (P-Page 19) Materials and Chemicals for Exterior Use and Section 1264.7 (P-Page 20) Cleaning and Water Leaching Procedures.

Jonathan Curtsinger motioned to accept Greg Wrona’s proposal and language as written, changing Sections 1264.5 and 1264.7. Wendy Holt seconded; motion passed.

Glenn Tong brought up the issue of interior fabrics and UV concerns. The Committee discussed the need for UV testing for inherently and/or lifetime flame resistant interior fabrics. The main question was whether UV degrades the flame retardancy of the fabric.

Action Item: Greg Wrona will get back to the Committee regarding UV testing for inherently and/or lifetime flame resistant interior fabrics.

Action Item: Include the definition of inherently flame resistant fabric to new summary document.

B. Approval of Chemicals (P-Article 3, Page 7)

1. Determine Criteria for Product Data Sheet

At the last meeting, it was recommended that the regulations spell out exactly what information is required from a company applying for chemical registration. This information would be added to Section 1210 (P-Page 7).

Ellen Atkins and Kathy Newman reviewed their sample product data sheets. Glenn Tong clarified that the product data sheet will be created by the company and validated by the laboratory. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the format and content of the Product Data Sheet be developed and posted on the Flame Retardant Program website. A Task Group will be put together to work on this project and report back to the Committee.

Action Item: Put together a Task Group to develop a format and standardize the information for a Product Data Sheet to be posted on the website.

2. Effect of Chemicals on Different Color Fabric (P-Section 1216, Page 9)

At the last meeting it was suggested that manufacturers provide the lab with a description of what materials each chemical should be tested on and rated for. After discussion, it was the consensus of the Committee that there was no difference in the flame spread for different colored fabrics if the fiber content or the weight of the fabric is not changed. Chief Ho reiterated that any limitations must be reported on the Product Data Sheet, and then the lab would incorporate that information into their report. For reference, Kathy Newman noted that Section 1300 (P-Page 30-31) Flame-Retardant Application Requirements, Pretreatment Examination, refers to printed or dyed interior fabrics.

C. Timeline for Regulations Package

The Chair reviewed the Timeline that was prepared. The goal is to have the proposed regulatory package ready for submission to the Office of Administrative Law by December 31, 2010 with an effective date of July 1, 2011, and if possible, try for an effective date of March 1, 2011. The Committee agreed that the timeline and objectives were obtainable.

D. Certificates of Registration

The Chair reported that the SFM is still progressing on the development of the new database for the Flame Retardant Program. The sample Certificate of Registration was reviewed.

Amber Anderson brought up the requirements for use of the Certificate of Flame Resistance and the Seal of Registration.

Action Item: The issue of the appropriate and standardized use of the Certificate of Flame Resistance and the Seal of Registration will be brought back to the Committee at a subsequent meeting after SFM staff review.

The Committee discussed the validation sticker, which will be discussed further at the next meeting.

Action Item: Add to next Agenda under New Business Section 1323 (P-Page 34) Validation Stickers.

E. Examination Process

1. Test Locations

The Chair reported that the notice for the test procedures were mailed with the renewal notices on March 22, 2010. Effective July 1, 2010, written examinations for Flame Retardant Application Concern and Certified Flame Retardant Applicator (General & Limited Applicators) will be proctored by SFM staff at two locations, Sacramento and Monrovia; however, other areas of the state may be included to coincide with Fire Extinguisher and Fireworks testing. Joe McNally discussed the possibility of other testing locations especially for the Christmas Tree Limited Applicators.

2. Test Revision Task Group

The Chair reported that the Test Revision Task Group was set up and a meeting was scheduled to review the existing General Applicator and Limited Applicator tests. The group will be rewriting and reworking existing tests to be more challenging to prove the applicants abilities and knowledge.

IV. **NEW BUSINESS**

A. Chapter 7. Flammable Fabrics Standards – Proposed Regulatory Change

The Chair reviewed the proposed regulatory changes for Chapter 7. Flammable Fabrics Standards. These regulations deal with the flammability standards for fabric or fabric-like material in hospital examination gowns and sleepwear, sheets and pillowcases, and children's sleepwear and robes. These revisions are necessary since the NFPA 702 testing standard was withdrawn. NFPA now defers to the federal flammability standards adopted in Title 16, Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Chapter II, Subchapter D. The proposed regulatory amendments are necessary to reflect this change.

Amber Anderson motioned to approve the proposed regulatory package as written for submittal to OAL. Kathy Newman seconded; motion approved.

B. Laboratory Report – Sample Technical Data

Ben Ho discussed the draft request for technical data from the Approved Testing Laboratories. This is being proposed since there is no set format for the labs for submitting their reports. This information will be used in conjunction with the Product Data Sheet. The requested information is needed for consistency with all CSFM Approved Labs. This will also aid in the CSFM's review, approval, and validation. It was suggested that other limitations should be added.

Action Item: Add limitations to the draft Laboratory Reports – Technical Data Format.

C. Interior/Exterior Flame Retardant Chemicals (P-Section 1230-1264, Pages 11-21)

The Committee reviewed the above sections of the proposed regulations. The Committee approved the changes as written and made other minor changes, which will be reflected on the next draft of the Proposed Regulations and submitted to the Committee.

V. OPEN FORUM

- Jonathan Curtsinger had to leave the teleconference early; however, had the following suggestions. Subcommittees should be put together for: testing, proposed regulatory language, and agenda.
- Amber Anderson went over grammatical corrections for the Proposed Regulations. She also discussed the use of either metric or feet within the document, whatever is used should be consistent.
- Kathy Newman suggested that the entire Proposed Regulations document be reviewed. Amber Anderson added that at the next meeting the Committee should go over each section starting at the beginning. The Chair agreed and will add an item under New Business for subsequent meetings.

Action Item: For the next meeting, and subsequent meetings, add Page by Page Review of Proposed Regulations; Articles 1-2 (P-Pages 1-7) at next meeting.

VI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

It was agreed that the Committee will still meet monthly. The next meeting will be a teleconference on Tuesday, April 27, 2010, at 10:00 A.M.

Note: Since no meeting room is available for this date, this meeting will be a call-in meeting only. The conference line number is (877) 536-5793, participant code 458731.

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:22 P.M.