



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION
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Flame Retardant Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Tuesday, April 27, 2010
Teleconference

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:

Jeannie Smith, Chair
Glenn Tong, Technical Advisor

MEMBERS ON LINE:

Amber Anderson, Cosumnes Community Services District
Tom Andrews, Turning Star, Inc.
Ellen Atkins, Delta Pacific Technologies, Flame Retardant/Flameproofing
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
Pedro Vega, Dazian Fabrics
Greg Wrona, Quality Auditing Institute

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bobby Puett, Diversified Testing Laboratories

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the teleconference to order at 10:03 A.M., on Tuesday, April 27, 2010. A roll call was given and a quorum established.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the March 25, 2010 meeting.

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

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Test Standards

1. Section 1273.3 (Current Regulation – Page 88)

At the last meeting, staff was assigned to research the possibilities of keeping, changing, relocating, or eliminating Section 1273.3. Glenn Tong explained to the Committee that Section 1273.3 is the test method for unsupported film, synthetic fabrics and coated fabrics and also for fabrics for exterior use that is noted in Section 1272(c). This test method is different than both the large scale and small scale as it is more rigorous; there is no exposure time limitation and every effort must be made to initiate sustained combustion. After discussion, the Committee agreed that the test method should be grouped with the other test standards in Section 1176 (Proposed Regulation – Page 2). They also agreed that a time limit should be included.

Action Item: Greg Wrona and Glenn Tong will discuss these issues and report back to the Committee.

2. Accelerated Weathering Test

At the last meeting the issue of UV concerns for interior fabric was brought up; whether UV degrades the flame retardancy of interior fabric. Greg Wrona was asked to report back to the Committee regarding if UV testing for inherently and/or lifetime flame resistant interior fabrics is needed. Greg briefed the Committee on AATCC 16, which is a standard used for UV exposure of interior materials, fabrics, etc. After discussion, the Committee agreed that UV testing should be included for interior fabrics that are inherently flame resistant and that the AATCC 16 should be the guideline for the testing procedure.

Action Item: In the testing standards, include UV testing for interior inherently flame resistant fabrics using AATCC 16 as the guideline for testing procedures.

The Committee discussed the need for retesting of treated interior fabrics; fabrics that are not inherently flame resistant. Currently there are no provisions for retesting after the fabric has been registered. It was agreed that this issue should be addressed. The Chair agreed, and the issue of retesting will be brought back to the Committee at a subsequent meeting.

Action Item: Add to a subsequent meeting an agenda item on the issue of retesting interior fabrics that are not inherently flame resistant.

B. Task Groups

1. Product Data Sheet Task Group

At the last meeting, it was recommended that a Task Group be put together to develop a format and standardize the information for a Product Data Sheet to be posted on the website. The Chair asked for volunteers to participate on the Task Group. Ellen Atkins, Amber Anderson, and Wendy Holt agreed to form the Group with Ellen as the Chair.

The Chair referred to Jonathan Curtsinger's suggestion at the last meeting to put together other Task Groups for testing, proposed regulatory language, and agenda. After a discussion, it was decided that a Proposed Language Task Group be formed later in the regulation review process.

Action Item: A Proposed Language Task Group will be developed at a later date.

2. Laboratories Testing Procedures Task Group

The Committee agreed that a Laboratories Testing Procedures Task Group be formed. After discussion it was agreed by all that the Task Group be composed of Glenn Tong (Chair), Greg Wrona, and possibly Bobby Puett. The charge of the Task Group would be to reformat and clarify the test standards in Section 1176(b) and (c) to be user friendly, integrate the criteria in Section 1264.6 into Section 1176, review/clarify Section 1264.5, review passing criteria, and integrate UV requirements into the regulations.

After discussion it was agreed that an Agenda Task Group would not be needed; however, the Task Group Chairs would report to the Committee Chair with their agenda items and the Chair would develop the agenda.

3. Test Revision Task Group

The Test Revision Task Group met on March 30 to rewrite the General and Limited Applicator tests. Kathy Newman reported that the Group, (Kathy – Chair, Glenn Tong, and Jeannie Smith) started going through the General Applicator's test. The goal is to update the questions, making it more geared toward what General Applicators need to know, while tying it to the current Title 19 Flame Retardant Laws and Regulations. After Title 19 has been revised, the Task Group will revisit the tests to make sure that the questions correlate with the revised regulations. It is anticipated that the tests will be completed by July 1, 2010.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Validation Stickers – Section 1323 (Proposed Regulation – Page 34)

The issue of the validation sticker was referenced at the last meeting when the Committee discussed the appropriate use of the Certificate of Flame Resistance and the Seal of Registration. Glenn Tong briefed the Committee on the proposed usage of the validation sticker. The registered company/applicator will purchase a roll of stickers, which are sequentially numbered, and will affix one on each original flame-retardant or fabric certificate. This in turn will provide validation that the certificate is true and correct and also provide a way of tracking the certification process. After discussion, it was suggested that a Validation Task Group be set at a later date to review possible implementation procedures.

Action Item: At a later date, develop a Validation Sticker Task Group.

**B. Page-by-Page Proposed Regulations Review – Articles 1-2
(Proposed Regulations – Page 1-7)**

The Committee agreed with the proposed changes; however, some items were deferred to Task Groups and/or other staff action. Items to be deferred:

- *1173. Scope – “Materials” is a generalization; should it be a different term maybe “component”
- **1176. Test Standards – Metric or feet; pass criteria
- *1177.1. Change in Address or Ownership – Adding electronic communication; procedure for notification
- ***1179. Fees – Need to rework
- *1193. Chemical – Possibly change to “product”
- *1196. Flame-Retardant Application Concern – Wording
- *1202. Nonflammable Material – Wording (inherently flame-resistant)
- *Add: Definition for Secondary Registration

Action Item: Refer the above items to the appropriate Task Groups: *Proposed Language, **Laboratories Testing Procedures, ***Staff

Tom Andrews had to leave the teleconference; however, provided his comments in writing to the Committee.

Since the Committee already reviewed Article 3 at the March 25, 2010 meeting, the Page-by-Page review for the next meeting will be Articles 4-5 (Proposed Regulations – Pages 21-29)

V. OPEN FORUM

- Jonathan Curtsinger discussed the issue of certification of inherently flame resistant fabric. His concern is that there seems to be an unwritten law that all certificates expire after 5 years. There have been many times when local inspectors request current certification or recertification of registered inherently flame resistant items. After a lengthy discussion, Glenn Tong explained that statute and regulations state that all of these materials must be registered by the SFM; however, there are no time restrictions which we may want to address. The Chair stressed that inspection and enforcement of these issues are not within the purview of the SFM Flame Retardant Program, but within the California Fire Code and the local fire authorities.
- Tom Andrews proposed that the teleconferences be briefer, but more often. The Committee discussed this issue and it was agreed that with the addition of the Task Groups, the meetings would be streamlined. The Chair agreed and it was decided that the meetings would run no more than two hours.

VI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next teleconference was scheduled for Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON.

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:22 P.M.