



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION
1131 S Street
Sacramento, California 95811
Web Site: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov>
(916) 445-8200



Flame Retardant Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Wednesday, June 30, 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
Yevonne Costa, Assistant Program Coordinator
Diane Arend, 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

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bobby Puett, Diversified Testing Laboratories

GUESTS ON LINE:

Chris Bowness, QAI Laboratories
Greg Banasky, QAI Laboratories
Donna Drover, QAI Laboratories

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the teleconference to order at 10:03 A.M., on Wednesday, June 30, 2010.

The Chair was saddened to report the sudden passing of Member Greg Wrona, representing QAI Laboratories. Greg was a valuable member of the Committee and will be greatly missed.

Yevonne Costa conducted a roll call; and a quorum was established.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2010 meeting.

Wendy Holt motioned to approve the May 26, 2010 minutes; it was seconded by Jonathan Curtsinger, and approved as written.

III. OLD BUSINESS

Task Groups

1. Laboratories Testing Procedures Task Group

The Chair provided a brief update, since Glenn Tong was not present. On June 11, 2010, a proposed test standards document was emailed to the Members for their review. A few comments have been received and are being reviewed. Juli Case wanted to relay her concern regarding the lack of an ignition time on the alternate test. Amber Anderson commented that it is still unclear when and where each test standard should be used.

2. Product Data Sheet Task Group

The Chair reminded the Committee that the product data sheet will be included with the other required information for CSFM registration of products. The product data sheet would be prepared by the Chemical/Fabric Concern, submitted to the laboratory along with the other items necessary for a product to be tested, the lab would return and validate the product data sheet along with their test report. The product data sheet, approved test report, and completed Application for Registration would be mailed to the CSFM for registration.

A draft Product Data Sheet was emailed to the members for review. Among several items, lab verification, toxicity, format and purpose were discussed. The Chair stated that Chief Ho had stressed the need to track toxicity so this issue will be deferred based on his availability at a future meeting. The Chair stated that the end user of the Product Data Sheet would be the CSFM. This information would be inserted into the new database; which in turn would produce a Certificate of Registration that would include all the information that the authority having jurisdiction would need to know about a particular product. The goal is to have these certificates available on the CSFM webpage similar to the BML Program so everyone would have access.

The Committee agreed on the intent and also that one Product Data Sheet for both fabric and chemical is sufficient; however, they would like to see sample language inserted into the topic areas. The Product Data Sheet Task Group will put together another draft document for discussion at the next Committee meeting. Amber Anderson asked if other industry members could email samples of their Product Data Sheets to the Task Group (Ellen Atkins – Chair, Wendy Holt, and Amber Anderson).

Action Item: Schedule briefing with Chief Ho regarding toxicity issue.

Action Item: Staff to clarify who would do clarification.

Action Item: Product Data Sheet Task Group will put together another draft document for the Committee's review.

3. Test Revision Task Group

Kathy Newman updated the Committee. The Test Revision Task Group has completed the revision of the General Applicator test; however, will continue to make enhancements as the need arises.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Inherently Flame Resistant Fabric/Material

The Chair briefed the Committee regarding the issue: At the May 26, 2010 meeting Jonathan Curtsinger stated that Chief Ho had discussed previously the possibility of grandfathering inherently flame resistant (IFR) fabric that was already approved but no longer registered with the CSFM. Chief Ho, Jonathan, and the Chair, in a conference call, discussed the problems that develop with an IFR fabric that is defined as flame retardant "for the life of the fabric." After discussion, it was decided to bring the issue of existing IFR fabric back to the Committee for discussion.

Jonathan discussed the issue of registration of IFR fabrics. He brought up the following issues/concerns:

- Retesting fabric every four years to make sure fabrics are identical.
- Manufacturers changing yarns and fabric without retesting fabric.
- Lack of quality control.
- State cannot guarantee how the fabric is used.
- Registration issue is still unclear; need to decide how to approach.
- Enforcement at what level; what is State's responsibility?
- Not making compliance too stringent.

Pedro discussed a manufacturer changing the fiber content of a registered IFR fabric and not knowing until a random check was made. QAI commented that they deal with similar problems dealing with building products. The California Building Code for fire-rated roofing materials, for instance, requires that an agency go back periodically to the factory where the products are made and check that they are being made consistently with the original products that were tested, using the same materials and specifications.

After discussion, the Chair suggested that a Task Group be put together to try to solve the myriad of issues. The Committee agreed and the IFR Fabrics Task Group was created. Membership consists of Jonathan Curtsinger as Chair, Pedro Vega, and a representative from QAI Laboratories.

B. Page-by-Page Proposed Regulations Review – Article 5
(Proposed Regulations – Page 25-29)

The Committee discussed Article 5 – Registration of Flame-Retardant Application Concerns and Certified Flame-Retardant Applicators. There was a lengthy discussion regarding Section 1280(a). There was concern that registration as an Applicator only applies to persons or firms that provide a service for a fee. Diane Arend noted that Health and Safety Code Section 13127 is the authority for this regulation. After deliberation the Chair deferred Section 1280(a) for a future meeting.

The Committee continued review of Article 5. The following are the Committee's recommendations, comments, and/or amendments:

- 1280(e) – Since not all local communities issue business licenses, should replace or delete “business license” with some other form of identification
- 1280(f) – Need to clarify property damage and liability insurance; is property included under liability insurance
- 1280(f)(1) – Should cancellation of policy be more than fifteen days
- 1282(a) – Undelete struck out wording
- 1285(c) – Testing for Limited Applicators; concern for proctored testing

Further review of Article 5 was carried over to the next meeting. Any comments and concerns regarding Article 5 should be sent to the Chair for review.

Action Item: Continue discussions of Limited Applicator testing procedures.

Action Item: Members to send comments and concerns regarding Article 5 to the Chair for review.

V. **OPEN FORUM**

In a previous meeting it was suggested that the teleconferences be briefer, but more often. With this in mind, the Chair stressed the need for members to be prepared to discuss agenda items. Jonathan Curtsinger revisited the issue of having the teleconferences more often. The Chair and Members agreed with this recommendation.

VI. **SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING**

The next teleconference was scheduled for Tuesday, July 20, 2010, at 10:00 A.M. – 12:00 NOON.

VII. **MEETING ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 12:03 A.M.