



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, October 29, 2009
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, Division Chief, Fire Engineering Division
Francis Mateo, Deputy State Fire Marshal III, Flame Retardant Program
James Parsegian, Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal, Fire Engineering Division
Diane Arend, Deputy State Fire Marshal III, Code Development and Analysis Division*

MEMBERS PRESENT:

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
Pedro Vega, Dazian Fabrics
Greg Wrona, Quality Auditing Institute

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bobby Puett, Diversified Testing Laboratories
Amber Anderson, Cosumnes Community Services District

GUESTS:

Randy Newman, Firetect Flame Retardants

**Via Conference Call*

I. CALL TO ORDER

Francis Mateo, Flame Retardant Program Coordinator, called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M., at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) Regional Headquarters, Monrovia, California, on Thursday, October 29, 2009.

II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS

Chief Ben Ho asked for self introductions.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. E-Mail Responses to Proposed Regulations

The Email responses concerning the proposed regulation package was discussed. The issue of the Bureau of Home Furnishings Technical Bulletins 117 and 133 for fabrics on furniture were discussed. These bulletins are covered under the Home Furnishings Act and therefore not regulated by the SFM. Several other questions were addressed regarding the Email responses.

B. Small Scale Test vs. NFPA 701

The issue of the NFPA 701 versus Title 19's small scale test was revisited. Committee members were reminded that this issue was voted on at the last meeting and it was approved that the Title 19 Small Scale test be used.

The Committee decided that the SFM small scale test with 4 seconds should be used. Jonathan Curtsinger made a motion to adopt the four second rule and Juli Case seconded the motion. The four second rule was approved.

C. Large Scale Test

The members discussed the large scale test as outlined in Title 19. One of the main comments was that the large scale test was needed because of exterior testing requirements for certified products.

Action Item: Determine the requirements for a large scale test (ALL).

D. ASTM E-84

The committee discussed whether the ASTM E-84 test standard needs to be adopted into Title 19. One of the comments about the ASTM E-84 test standard was that certain materials need to be tested by that standard versus the small or large scale tests. Materials such as decorative wood or louvers were discussed.

E. Accelerated Weathering Test

The final discussion point was on the accelerated weathering test and which standards should be used; however, there was no consensus on the issue.

Action Item: Committee will decide which test should be used at the next meeting.

F. NFPA 701

NFPA 701 was also discussed. Juli Case asked if it was possible to get a copy of the NFPA 701 changes that were being discussed at this time.

Action Item: SFM staff will try to get the information out to everyone before the next meeting.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Examinations

Chief Ho discussed changing the examination process for the General and Limited Applicators. To ensure the integrity of the examination process, the exams in the near future will be administered at two locations: Sacramento and Monrovia. The exam and the exam booklets will no longer be mailed. An applicant will have to appear in person and take the exam at an appointed date and location.

B. Fees

Chief Ho also discussed new testing fees that will be incorporated in a regulatory change for implementation of the new examination process.

V. OPEN FORUM

Juli Case expressed concerns that her organization (IFAI) was not agreeable with the decision not to adopt NFPA 701. Tom Andrews wanted the committee to consider adopting NFPA 701. Unless substantial data is brought to the committee, the committee's decision to approve the use of the small scale test will remain.

VI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for January 14, 2010 in Monrovia. *Note: Due to conflicting schedules the next meeting was rescheduled to February 10, 2010 in Monrovia at the State Fire Marshal Regional Headquarters.*

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 P.M.