



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, November 30, 2010
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:

Jeannie Smith, Chair
Diane Arend, Technical Advisor
Glenn Tong, Technical Advisor
Yevonne Costa, Assistant Program Coordinator

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
Michael Lantier, City of Napa Fire Department
Joe McNally, Mountain View Christmas Tree Farm
Kathy Newman, Firetect Flame Retardants
Pedro Vega, Dazian Fabrics

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Chris Bowness, QAI Laboratories
Bobby Puett, Diversified Testing Laboratories

GUEST:

Donna Drover, QAI Laboratories

I. CALL TO ORDER

The teleconference was called to order at 10:02 A.M., on Tuesday, November 30, 2010. A roll call was conducted; and a quorum was established.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Chair requested a motion to approve the October 26, 2010 minutes as submitted. Mike Lantier motioned to approve the October 26, 2010 minutes; it was seconded by Amber Anderson; and with no objections, approved.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Task Groups

1. Laboratories Testing Procedures Task Group - Update

Glenn Tong reported that the Laboratories Testing Procedures Task Group will be discussing the comments received on the proposed test standards in a future teleconference and will report back to the Committee.

2. IFR Fabrics Task Group - Update

Jonathan Curtsinger stated that he did not have an update at this time.

B. Article 7 – Field Testing for Fire Resistance (Page 32)

The Committee reviewed Article 7 (Revised 11/30/10). The flame temperatures of heat sources were provided; butane lighters ranged from 1700-1977 Celsius and matches ranged from 350-800 Celsius. The members discussed the differences of the temperatures and the pros and cons for the usage of each heat source. Also discussed was the specimen size and direction of the test (warp/fill). The following was approved by a majority vote (5 approved/3 disapproved/2 abstained):

Section 1311 (a) Materials: Specimens shall be dry, taken and tested in the same vertical direction as in actual use, and be a minimum of 3 inches wide by 4 inches long. Flame exposure shall be from a butane lighter with a continuously burning flame approximately ¾-inch high.

It was agreed that performance tests be conducted on the new criteria before the proposed regulations are approved. These tests will be conducted in conjunction with the next meeting/teleconference. Therefore, Article 7 was tabled until after the performance tests.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

Page-by-Page Proposed Regulations Review

Article 8 – Flameproofing Certification, Labeling and Installation (Page 32)

The Committee reviewed the revised Article 8. The approved certificate was discussed. The Chair stated that the approved certificate is the template that is on the Flame Retardant webpage.¹ A registered company is authorized to reproduce the approved certificate on the condition that its size and type be identical to the original. The name of the company, address, telephone number, registration number, and company officer shall be printed in the spaces indicated. No other addition or alteration may be made under penalty of Registration Certificate forfeiture. This approved certificate will be revised with the adoption of the new regulations.

The procedures of submitting Certificates of Flame Resistance from a flame-retardant application concern, fabric and material concern, and the use of certified true copies was discussed. It was agreed that further research needs to be done on these procedures before deleting or approving

¹ <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/flameretardant/CertOfFlameRest.pdf>

language. Therefore, the Chair tabled Article 8 until the next meeting. Recommendations from the Committee were requested in writing before the next meeting.

The Chair discussed the complaint process for alerting the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) of illegal activities. The complaint form is on the Flame Retardant webpage.²

Action Item: Staff to re-evaluate Article 8 for clarification and will bring back to the Committee.

Action Item: Committee members to provide written recommendations regarding Article 8 to the Chair before the next meeting.

V. OPEN FORUM

- Amber Anderson noted that she would like to provide input when the OSFM revises the Certificate of Flame Resistance.
- Mike Lantier asked the industry for their input regarding the treatment of non-baled hay. A local church wants to put on a two-week event that includes laying hay along the main street. The organizer has said that to apply a flame retardant is cost prohibited and creates a sticky situation. Since this is an outdoors event, Title 19 does not apply. Ellen Atkins said that she has information regarding this issue and would contact Mike after the meeting. Since other members were interested, Mike will report back to the Committee on his findings.

Action Item: Mike Lantier to report his findings and results of outdoor hay event.

VI. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING

Amber Anderson will be hosting the “Field Tests” and the next meeting/teleconference on Thursday, January 20, 2011, at the Cosumnes Community Services District, Fire Department, 10573 East Stockton Boulevard, Elk Grove, California. The “Field Tests” will be conducted at 10:00 A.M. and the meeting/teleconference will begin at 12:00 Noon-2:00 P.M.

VII. MEETING ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 P.M.

² <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/strucfireengineer/pdf/aes/En17complaint.pdf>