

**DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**

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**ATTACHMENT 11**

**Date:** August 21, 2014

**To:** **State Board of Fire Services**

**From:** Kevin Reinertson, Division Chief  
Code Development and Analysis

**SUBJECT/AGENDA ACTION ITEM:**

Flammability Standards for Building Insulation Materials Working Group (AB127):  
Update on the working group's possible implementation recommendations to the State Fire Marshal

**Recommended Actions:**

None, information and discussion only

**Background Information:**

Legislation was passed in 2013 that added Section 13108.1 to the Health and Safety Code (AB 127, Skinner Fire safety: fire retardants: building insulation), that requires the State Fire Marshal, in consultation with the Bureau of Electronic and Appliance Repair, Home Furnishings, and Thermal Insulation, to review the flammability standards for building insulation materials, including whether the flammability standards for some insulation materials can only be met with the addition of chemical flame retardants. The State Fire Marshal has convened a working group to assist in the review and provide recommendations regarding the flammability standards for building insulation materials.

**Analysis/Summary of Issue:**

The working group began meeting in January 2014 with monthly meetings following. The workgroups goal is to complete their report and recommendations at their September meeting. The current draft report summarizes existing studies and technical reports that have been reviewed. Further, the working group has developed several assemblies that are to be tested utilizing insulation materials without fire retardants. The working group is reviewing current and existing testing criteria (e.g. UL-E119, NFPA 285) to determine the most suitable test to compare non fire resistive (FR) insulated assemblies vs. FR insulated assemblies.

The SFM received one-time funding through a BCP in the 2014/15 Governor's budget to assist with having assembly testing conducted and/or potentially fund consulting services to move forward recommendations.