



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION  
OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL  
FIRE ENGINEERING DIVISION

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**CALFIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL**  
**Fire Alarm Advisory Committee**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**August 29, 2018**

**COMMITTEE GOAL**

To advise the State Fire Marshal on proposed regulations and technical issues by providing views and comments from members of industry, the public, and the fire service.

**STAFF**

David Castillo, Committee Chairperson, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Daniel Berlant, Assistant Deputy Director, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Kevin Chan, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Nickell Mosely, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal  
Dan Scott, CAL FIRE Office of the State Fire Marshal

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

\* John McMann attended as proxy for Howard Hopper, Underwriters Laboratories, LLC  
Sagiv Weiss-Ishai, San Francisco Fire Department  
\*Rick Cortina, Apple Valley Communications  
Wendy Gifford, Nest Laboratories  
John Guhl, NoFireOne  
\*Andrew Thul, SLS Fire Inc. - Los Angeles  
Richard Roberts, Honeywell Security & Fire  
Jay Levy, Saf-Com Supply

*\*Via Conference Call*

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Nanci Timmins, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development  
Rick Lewis, Sabah International  
David Meyers, City of Los Angeles  
Shane Clary, Bay Alarm Company

**I. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER**

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson David Castillo at 10:04 AM on August 29, 2018.

**II. ROLL CALL AND INTRODUCTIONS**

David Castillo conducted a roll call and it was determined that there was a quorum of members present.

**III. OLD BUSINESS**

At the previous meeting, Wendy raised two TIAs. One reconciled the date of the cooking nuisance between the 2016 and the 2019 code. The second concerned the date to implement nuisance-proof alarms. Both passed the standards council.

David Castillo and Greg Anderson are discussing putting this into code. There currently are no products on the market which can do this. Current standard is UL 217 and 268. It is possible that there is a typo in 268, this should be checked. Wendy will send copies of the TIA documents to David.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**Code Interpretation for Hearing Impaired Devices in R-2.1 occupancies**

After a long discussion about code interpretation, the committee agreed to move on from several areas of disagreement, including over what occupants are considered temporary and what are permanent. The creation of a logic model to determine what facilities require what types of hearing impaired devices would be helpful in guiding future discussion on this topic

**Replacing DACTS with other Technology**

Jay reports that CAFAA is getting questions about the permitting for DACT replacement due to POTS lines becoming obsolete. There is no consistency across jurisdictions as to how to process this, the permitting in some areas is burdensome and costly. Can the State standardize the plan review for DACT replacement?

Sagiv says that San Francisco has a process in place which is efficient. He will bring this plan to committee for discussion and a possible vote at the next meeting.

OSFM has a bulletin on this already. The committee recommends creating guidance and adding to an existing bulletin or create a new one. The bulletin should include language to encourage property owners and alarm installers to educate them about this as an impending issue.

## **Unlicensed Fire Alarm Contractors**

The City of Beverly Hills Fire Department has asked CAFAA about the license requirements for fire alarm system inspections. Jay checked with CSLB, they said that they do not license inspectors for fire alarm systems. NFPA 72 gives recommended qualifications for inspectors, but mandating qualifications is only done locally through the JHA. City of Los Angeles is the only JHA who does this.

Should OSFM consider licensing inspectors for fire alarm systems? Can OSFM mandate qualifications this without it being put in the Health and Safety Code, or does it have to be legislative? Chief Berlant says that OSFM can likely do so under current authority, but industry should be consulted to determine support and feasibility. OSFM also does not have resources to staff another licensing program. Can this be managed under an existing licensing program or must it be a new license? Should OSFM define “qualified” as under current code without a new license or certification, but having other requirements?

OSFM will discuss internally and report back.

## **Delay in BML Listings**

Manufacturers have questioned the time in approving listings and want direction on anything they can do on their part to help OSFM expedite it. A fast track process was in place for part of the past decade, which was well received by the industry. The 2019/2020 product requirements will result in an increase in new products to be listed. NEMA polled members, some reported issues with timely approval. Some issues are due to manufacturer error in submissions, some issues are due to OSFM delays.

Chief Berlant addressed these issues on the OSFM side with our plans for new leadership, growing staff, and a new database systems to streamline and simplify OSFM processes. Online payments will be in place in the next year.

David has a list of guidelines to help industry avoid delays through submission errors. CAFAA can share this information. Can OSFM have webinars to share this information?

An informal workgroup can be put together to address this. OSFM will send a Doodle Poll to schedule a teleconference to get this process going.

## **Open Forum Item #1 – Code Interpretation 17-003**

Sagiv points out that there is no definition for an “Automatic Fire Alarm System” yet it is referred to in both the CBC and the CFC. Should these codes be amended to be “Automatic Smoke Detection System” instead?

David has discussed this with Greg Anderson, they agree that this needs to be changed. A motion is made by Sagiv to remove Code Interpretation 17-003 from the OSFM website, Jay seconds.

**AYE- Sagiv, Richard, Rick C., Wendy, Jay, John G., John M.**  
**NAY – none**

The committee votes 7-0 to pass the motion to remove Code Interpretation 17-003 from the OSFM website.

### **Open Forum Item #2 – 2019 Code Updates**

Sagiv reports that the Code Advisory Committee, Building Fire & Other met in May, 2018. The voted to recommend to the state Building Standards Commission to recommend the OSFM proposal on Class A. It will be in the 2019 edition.

### **Open Forum Item #3 – Electrically Locked Egress Doors**

In the CBC, there are three references to Electrically Locked Egress Doors. There is inconsistency between the three with regards to fire alarm systems unlocking the door when activated. John Guhl says that this originates with the UL 294 listing. This item will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

### **Open Forum Item #4 – Unisex Restrooms and Strobe Lights**

Rick reports that schools are retrofitting restrooms to be unisex with individual, fully enclosed stalls and asks what the requirements are to have strobe lights. Sagiv says that there is guidance regarding this. This item will be discussed at the next meeting.

### **Public Comments**

None

## **V. AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETING**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 6, 2019.

Items to be discussed as decided at this meeting:

Code Interpretation for Hearing Impaired Devices in R-2.1 occupancies

Electrically Locked Egress Doors

Unisex Restrooms and Strobe Lights

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned by Chairperson David Castillo at 12:51 PM.

Meeting Minutes developed by:  
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