

# Code Call



On June 4 -5, 2008 the National Fire Protection Association held their 2008 Technical Meeting for the public review of NFPA codes, standards, recommended practices, and guides. Under NFPA's rules for the processing of technical committee documents, persons wishing to make an amending motion at an NFPA Technical Meeting must declare their intention to do so by filing, within the published deadlines, a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion (NITMAM) providing information about the intended motion. In accordance with NFPA rules, these NITMAMs are reviewed by the NFPA Motions Committee to determine whether such proposed motions are proper. Through the NFPA process, the Motions Committee determined that fifteen documents had at least one Certified Amending Motion that could be presented at the 2008 NFPA Technical Meeting. For the documents that had NITMAMs reviewed at this meeting, any actions that overturned Committee action must be balloted by the Technical Committee for acceptance and suitability of the amendment. If the Technical Committee does not accept the amendment or finds the resultant wording unsuitable, the wording of the affected section will return to the wording in the previous edition of the document. The Committee vote on these floor actions will then be reviewed by the NFPA Standards Council for final disposition prior to publication of the document.

For any document in the Annual 2008 Revision Cycle that did not receive any NITMAMs resulting in a Certified Amending Motion, the document is considered a "Consent Document." Consent Documents are not presented at the Association Technical Meeting and are forwarded directly to the Standards Council for issuance.

The following is a presentation of all of the documents processed at the 2008 NFPA Technical Meeting. Comments provided include actions taken on the floor on NITMAMs and some of the salient changes from the previous edition of the document:

## Annual 2008 Revision Cycle Documents

### **DOCUMENTS THAT RECEIVED NITMAMS**

#### **NFPA 1 Fire Code™**

There was one NITMAM for this document. The motion was accepted by the floor to add annex material to Section 10.5.3 to explain that in a defend-in-place occupancy, the occupants are not required to leave the building upon the sounding of the fire alarm.

The name of this document has been changed from the NFPA 1, Uniform Fire Code™ to NFPA 1, Fire Code™.

#### **NFPA 101 Life Safety Code®**

There were eighteen NITMAMs for this standard. One motion was withdrawn by the proponent and eleven were defeated.

Two of the defeated motions will likely be appealed to the Standards Council. One deals with increasing the minimum width of an exit stair from 44 inches to 56 inches. The second issue deals with the requirement for new highrise buildings to have video cameras in exit stairs to monitor egress usage.

*The six motions that were accepted are as follows:*

- In the Committee deliberation process a new section to the code had been accepted to preclude the use of automatic sprinklers or other active fire protection system from being used to meet the required fire resistive rating of exit enclosures. The floor action removed this proposed new section.
- New Section 7.2.2.5.5 addresses the requirements for exit stair path markings. This section presents the requirements for path marking when required by Chapters 11 through 42. The floor action modifies this new section to permit the use of adhesive backed tape for path marking in areas not subject to foot traffic.
- A change to Section 31.3.5.12 would have removed the provisions to provide alternative protection for sprinkler protection in high-rise buildings. The floor action reverts the text of this section to that of the 2006 edition.

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- A change to the requirements for sprinkler requirements in Board and Care Facilities would have required sprinkler protection unless the facility has staff on duty whenever there is one or more occupants. Concerns for this change included the prospect of this section mandating retrofit of sprinklers in existing facilities (essentially single family dwellings) and in cases where the occupants are capable of self-preservation without the assistance of staff. This change was overturned by the floor.
- Changes to the egress requirements for bulk merchandising retail buildings would have required that not less than 50 percent of required egress to be located independent of the main entrance/exit doors. The floor action rejected the change and the egress requirements for these facilities will revert to the requirements of the 2006 edition.
- In the Committee deliberation process a new Annex B was adopted that provides guidance on the use of elevators for occupant evacuation prior to Phase I emergency recall operation. *Floor action changes to this new Annex B included:*
  - reduction of the fire protection enclosure rating for the power wiring from 2 hours to 1 hour
  - omission of elevator lobby separation on grade level and exit discharge level
  - reduction of the fire resistance rating of the elevator evacuation shaft from 2 hours to 1 hour
  - reduction of the fire resistance rating of the openings into the elevator evacuation shaft system from 1½ hours to ¾ hour

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## **NFPA 5000 Building Construction and Safety Code®**

There were nine NITMAMs for this code. One was withdrawn by the proponent and five were defeated. *The following are the motions that were accepted:*

- A motion was accepted to update the “ANSI/IESNA/ASHRAE 90.1, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Lowrise Residential” to the 2007 edition.
- In the Committee deliberation process a new section to the code had been accepted to preclude the use of automatic sprinklers or other active fire protection system from being used to meet the required fire resistive rating of exit enclosures. The floor action removed this prohibition.

- In the Committee deliberation process a new Annex E was adopted that provides guidance on the use of elevators for occupant evacuation prior to Phase I emergency recall operation. *Floor action changes to this new Annex E included:*
  - reduction of the fire protection enclosure rating for the power wiring from 2 hours to 1 hour
  - omission of elevator lobby separation on grade level and exit discharge level
  - reduction of the fire resistance rating of the elevator evacuation shaft from 2 hours to 1 hour
  - reduction of the fire resistance rating of the openings into the elevator evacuation shaft system from 1½ hours to ¾ hour

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## **NFPA 17 Standard for Dry Chemical Extinguishing Systems**

This document received a single motion that was defeated on the floor. As a result, the document will be forwarded to the Standards Council as a consent document.

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## **NFPA 17A Standard for Wet Chemical Extinguishing Systems**

This document had three NITMAMs. Two of these motions were defeated by floor action. The accepted motion deals with the frequency of inspection, cleaning, and testing of heat detectors (other than fusible links) used to initiate operation of a wet chemical extinguishing system. In the ROP cycle the committee changed the frequency from annual to semiannual. The accepted motion returns the required frequency back to an annual basis. The new standard will require fusible links used to initiate operation of a wet chemical extinguishing system to be replaced as a part of the semiannual servicing of these systems.

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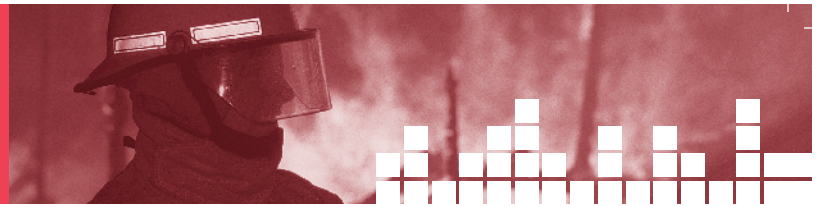
## **NFPA 54 National Fuel Gas Code**

Three of the five NITMAMs to this standard were defeated by the floor. Two motions regarding means of low water cutoff for hot water boilers were accepted.

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## **NFPA 59A Standard for the Production, Storage, and Handling of Liquefied Natural Gas**

Four of the six NITMAMs to this standard were defeated by the floor. Two motions regarding thermal radiation distance calculations and spacing of LNG impoundment were accepted.



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### ***NFPA 70E Standard for Electrical Safety in the Workplace®***

Three of the five NITMAMs to this standard were defeated by the floor. A motion regarding the scope for Chapter 1 was accepted. *This scope will now read:*

“110.1 Scope. Chapter 1 covers electrical safety-related work practices and procedures for employees who are exposed to an electrical hazard in workplaces covered in the scope of this standard. Electric circuits and equipment not included in the scope of this standard might present a hazard to employees not qualified to work near such facilities. Requirements have been included in Chapter 1 to protect unqualified employees from such hazards.”

A motion regarding battery layout was accepted that will require batteries over 250 volts to have cells installed in groups in accordance with NFPA 70 section 480.7.

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### ***NFPA 75 Standard for the Protection of Information Technology Equipment***

A motion to change the requirement for when automatic protection is required for under-floor space was accepted. The previous edition of the standard required automatic protection for all under-floor spaces. The accepted change will require such protection “where the risk warrants it”.

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### ***NFPA 76 Standard for the Fire Protection of Telecommunications Facilities***

A motion was accepted to address the issue of the criticality of facilities to be protected under the standard. The change limits the applicability of the prescriptive requirements of Chapter 6 to telecommunications facilities with more than 46.5 m<sup>2</sup> (500ft<sup>2</sup>) of signal-processing equipment areas.

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### ***NFPA 90A Standard for the Installation of Air-Conditioning and Ventilating Systems***

There were thirteen NITMAMs for this standard. Five motions were withdrawn by the proponent and six were defeated. The two motions that were accepted were to reverse the Committee’s action to require “fire/smoke dampers” at the penetration of a duct into a shaft. If this action on this motion is upheld by Committee balloting and the Standards Council review, the damper requirement at shafts will revert to the NFPA 90A - 2002 edition wording to require “fire” dampers only at these locations.

### ***NFPA 275 Standard Method of Fire Tests for the Evaluation of Thermal Barriers Used Over Foam Plastic Insulation***

There were eight NITMAMs for this document. Two motions were withdrawn and five were defeated. The motion that was accepted dealt with aspects of the test protocol for composite assemblies.

### ***NFPA 318 Standard for the Protection of Semiconductor Fabrication Facilities***

Of the four NITMAMs for this standard, three were defeated and the fourth was withdrawn. As a result, the document will be forwarded to the Standards Council as a consent document.

### ***NFPA 720 Standard for the Installation of Carbon Monoxide (CO) Warning Equipment in Dwelling Units***

The NITMAM for this document was defeated. As a result, the document will be forwarded to the Standards Council as a consent document.

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## ***CONSENT DOCUMENTS TO BE EFFECTIVE JULY 18, 2008***

### ***NFPA 12A Standard on Halon 1301 Fire Extinguishing Systems***

### ***NFPA 42 Code for the Storage of Pyroxylin Plastic (Recommended for Withdrawal)***

### ***NFPA 90B Standard for the Installation of Warm Air Heating and Air-Conditioning Systems***

### ***NFPA 92A Standard for Smoke-Control Systems Utilizing Barriers and Pressure Differences***

### ***NFPA 92B Standard for Smoke Management Systems in Malls, Atria, and Large Spaces***

### ***NFPA 256 Standard Methods of Fire tests of Roof Covering (Recommended for Withdrawal)***

### ***NFPA 260 Standard Methods of Tests and Classification System for Cigarette Ignition Resistance of Components of Upholstered Furniture***

### ***NFPA 261 Standard Method of Test for Determining Resistance of Mock-Up Upholstered Furniture Material Assemblies to Ignition by Smoldering Cigarettes***

### ***NFPA 274 Standard Test Method to Evaluate Fire Performance Characteristics of Pipe Insulation***

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**NFPA 289** *Standard Method of Fire Test for Individual Fuel Packages*

**NFPA 290** *Standard for Fire Testing of Passive Protection Materials for Use on LP-Gas Containers*

**NFPA 306** *Standard for the Control of Gas Hazards on Vessels*

**NFPA 412** *Standard for Evaluating Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Foam Equipment*

**NFPA 450** *Guide for Emergency Medical Services and Systems*

**NFPA 610** *Guide for Emergency and Safety Operations at Motorsports Events*

**NFPA 703** *Standard for Fire-Retardant Treated Wood and Fire-Retardant Coatings for Building Materials*

**NFPA 705** *Recommended Practice for a Field Flame Test for Textiles and Films*

**NFPA 1002** *Standard for Fire Apparatus Driver/Operator Professional Qualifications*

**NFPA 1021** *Standard for Fire Officer Professional Qualifications*

**NFPA 1026** *Standard for Incident Management Personnel*

**NFPA 1031** *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Inspector and Plan Examiner*

**NFPA 1033** *Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Investigator*

**NFPA 1143** *Standard for Wildland Fire Management*

**NFPA 1901** *Standard for Automotive Fire Apparatus*

## Fall 2008 Revision Cycle Documents

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### **CONSENT DOCUMENTS TO BE EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 5, 2008**

**NFPA 51B** *Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work*

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### **CONSENT DOCUMENTS TO BE EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 10, 2008**

**NFPA 220** *Standard on Types of Building Construction*

**NFPA 221** *Standard for High Challenge Fire Walls, Fire Walls, and Fire Barrier Walls*

**NFPA 403** *Standard for Aircraft Rescue and Fire-Fighting Services at Airports*

**NFPA 484** *Standard for Combustible Metals*

**NFPA 555** *Guide on Methods for Evaluating Potential for Room Flashover*

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*Reported by:  
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