

NFPA® 1963-2014

Standard for Fire Hose Connections

TIA Log No. 1148

Reference: 6.6.3 (New)

Comment Closing Date: July 18, 2014

Submitter: Greg Kozey, Kocheck Company, Inc.

1. Add a new subsection 6.6.3 to read as follows:

6.6.3 All nonthreaded caps with a pressure gasket for use on hydrant and fire department connections shall have a force to connect and disconnect no greater than 312 in.-lb (35.3 N × m) on both the Type A and Type B metal face test gauges when measured as described in 6.5.3 and under the conditions described in 6.5.4.

Submitter's Substantiation: The caps on hydrant and fire department connections serve to protect the connection from damage and prevent tampering by placing foreign objects into the connection which could impair the operation at the time of an emergency. The cap on a threaded connection can be tightened to the point where it cannot be easily removed. However, with a nonthreaded connection, the cap basically tightens with less than a half turn and needs to tighten enough that it cannot be removed by hand.

AWWA C503, "Wet-Barrel Fire Hydrants," requires nonthreaded outlet nozzles and the caps for those nozzles to meet Section 6.8 of NFPA 1963 but allows Dimension L to be modified for the cap as necessary to increase friction between the cap and the outlet nozzle to provide protection from tampering. A third party testing company is interpreting the current text as requiring nonthreaded caps on hydrant and fire department connections to meet the requirements of 6.5.1 of NFPA 1963. The force to connect and disconnect required by 6.5.1 is based on the connection having a lock to hold it closed and caps are not required to have a lock nor are locks practical in field applications as they will not deter tampering and in fact could increase vandalism. A cap required to meet 6.5.1 could pose a safety hazard as it has no lock to prevent sudden disconnection. There does, however, need to be an upper limit on the force to connect and disconnect so that force remains within a manageable range. The value stated in the proposed 6.6.3 is the upper end of the force to connect and disconnect for a suction connection. The wording does allow for a lower force to connect and disconnect if the customer desires it.

Adding the proposed 6.6.3 will clarify the testing requirement for nonthreaded caps for hydrant and fire department connections.

Emergency Nature: Without this amendment, manufacturers of caps for nonthreaded hydrant and fire department connections will not be able to provide a listed or approved cap with a force to connect and disconnect great enough to prevent tampering if the cap is required to be tested to the requirements of 6.5.1. The modification allowed by AWWA in C503 would not be permitted to a listed non-threaded cap. It is important for safety as well as the prevention of tampering that a higher force to connect and disconnect the caps be permitted on nonthreaded hydrant and fire department connections and that the integrity of those caps is achieved through the third party listing process.

Anyone may submit a comment by the closing date indicated above. To submit a comment, please identify the number of the TIA and forward to the [Secretary, Standards Council](#), 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.