

MINUTES OF THE MEETING
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
RESPIRATORY PROTECTION EQUIPMENT

13-14 DECEMBER 2011
FT. LAUDERDALE, FL

AGENDA ITEMS 1-2; SELF-INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS AND GUESTS, NFPA COMMITTEE PROCEDURAL STATEMENT AND STAFF LIAISON REPORT

Chairman Rossos called the Committee to order at 09:00 on 13 December 2011. Chairman Rossos welcomed Committee members and guests and asked them to introduce themselves. Staff Liaison David Trebisacci read the NFPA Committee Procedural Statement and asked attendees to sign in on the appropriate Member or Guest sign-in sheet. He reviewed the following: status of Committee documents, Fall 2012 cycle dates, the NFPA Research Foundation, legal issues, re-engineering the codes and standards process, and the TC document info pages on the NFPA web site.

Members Present:

Dan Rossos, Chairman	Portland (OR) Fire & Rescue
Steven H. Weinstein, Secretary	Honeywell Safety Products (rep. ISEA)
David Trebisacci, Staff Liaison	NFPA
Chris Anaya	California State Firefighters Association
David Bernzweig	Columbus (OH) Firefighters
Rodney V. Colbert	Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department
Brian H. Cox	Clovis Fire Department
Kenneth Pravetz	Virginia Beach Fire Department
William Mundy	FDNY
John Kuhn	MSA
David Hodson	Draeger Safety UK Ltd
Robert Sell	Draeger Safety
Jerry Phifer	Scott Safety
Beverly Gullledge	Scott Safety
Stephen T. Miles	NIOSH FFFIPP
Clint Kaller	L.A. County Fire Department
Stephen Sanders	Safety Equipment Institute
Clint Mayhue	ISI
Ira Harkness	U.S. Navy
Jason Allen	Intertek
Orion Goe	Luxfer Gas Cylinders
Robin Gainey	International Association of Fire Fighters
John Jarboe	Grace Industries, Inc.

Jonathan Szalajda
Heinz Ahlers
Ruby Ochoa
Kenton Warner
Timothy Radtke
Ed Golla
Paul Bull

NIOSH/NPPTL
NIOSH/NPPTL
Trace Analytics LLC
KDW Consulting, LLC
U.S. Department of the Interior
TRI/Air Testing
Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Dept. (Retired)

The following guests were present:

Anthony Putorti
Judge Morgan
John Dinning
Angus Donaldson
Stuart Blenkiron
Henry Fonzi
Marco Tekelenburg
Ken Pietrzycki
Luke Hollmann
Steve Mills
Greg Vrablik
Mark Trudgeon
Will Antunes
Tyler Griffith
Todd Keathley

National Institute of Standards & Technology
Scott Safety
Scott Safety
Draeger Safety
Draeger Safety
MSA
MSA
Ultra Electronics—USSI
Ultra Electronics—USSI
Ultra Electronics—USSI
Honeywell Safety Products
Luxfer Gas Cylinders
Structural Composites Industries
Sturges Manufacturing
Portland (OR) Fire and Rescue

AGENDA ITEM 3; CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

Chairman Rossos reviewed the actions taken at the last TCC meeting, as follows:

1. The TCC directed the TC to consider interoperability of EBSS's in the current cycle for NFPA 1981.
2. The TCC directed the TC to attempt to include the partitioning of NFPA 1981 in the current cycle.
3. The TCC directed the TC to consider addressing issues associated with alternate cylinder technology in the current cycle for NFPA 1981.

Chairman Rossos read a request for a Formal Interpretation (FI) submitted for NFPA 1989 regarding testing before the filter is changed when a Securus system has shut down the compressor. David Trebisacci will treat this as an informal interpretation and respond to the person who submitted the request for the FI with the TC's position.

AGENDA ITEM 4; APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES, MISSOULA, MT; JULY, 2011

Chairman Rossos asked the TC to review the Minutes of the Missoula meeting.

MOTION BY CLINT KALLER, SECOND BY JACK JARBOE

To approve the Minutes of the 19-21 July 2011 meeting in Missoula, MT.

MOTION CARRIED.

AGENDA ITEM 5; NIOSH UPDATE

Jon Szalajda reported that NIOSH met with SEI to determine the process for certifying to NFPA 1984. A Federal Register notice should appear around February announcing the availability of the test procedures. Rulemaking is ongoing on the EOSTI changes. The EBSS policy change is going forward and should have Dr. John Howard's approval in January. The official letter rescinding the old policy and stating the new policy should happen around February.

AGENDA ITEM 6; DISCUSSION—FACEPIECE LENSES—COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO NFPA 1981

Facepiece Lens Task Group Chairman Chris Anaya reported that the TG made some minor changes to the Committee Proposal for the two new tests associated with facepiece lenses.

AGENDA ITEM 7; DISCUSSION—COMMUNICATIONS—COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO NFPA 1981

Task Group Chairman Brian Cox introduced Luke Hollmann from USSI, who explained the STI test validation results that came from Embedded Acoustics (a Netherlands testing laboratory) and USSI.

The TG recommends that the C-weighting that is part of the Committee Proposal be changed to A-weighting, because the A-weighting more closely models how the human ear hears sounds. It also makes the test method consistent with other sound pressure level tests already included in NFPA 1981.

The TG recommends an STI pass/fail criterion of .55 for the Non-Electronic Communications Test.

MOTION BY BRIAN COX, SECOND BY CLINT KALLER

To change the STI pass/fail criterion for the Voice Communications System Test to .60 from the .50 specified in the Committee Proposal.

HAND VOTE

Yes: 13 No: 5 Abstain: 3

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY BRIAN COX, SECOND BY CLINT KALLER

To change the STI pass/fail criterion for the Non-Electronic Communications Test to .55 from the .45 specified in the Committee Proposal and to change to A-weighting from the C-weighting specified in the Committee Proposal.

MOTION CARRIED.

AGENDA ITEM 8; DISCUSSION—BUDDY BREATHERS—COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO NFPA 1981

Task Group Chairman Clint Kaller reported on the Task Group's position on responding to the TCC's note. The TC discussed the issues and reiterated its position taken during discussion at previous meetings, as follows:

- There are significant administrative and testing issues with NIOSH certification of interoperable buddy breathers. Each SCBA manufacturer would have to submit every other SCBA manufacturer's SCBA with EBSS for certification. Every time a design change occurred with one of those EBSS's every SCBA manufacturer would have to resubmit for testing.
- There may be significant technical issues to overcome. EBSS's work off intermediate pressure (the pressure after reduction by the first stage pressure reducer). SCBA manufacturers have different intermediate pressure ranges that are not necessarily compatible with each other. It would be design restrictive to tell manufacturers that all second stage regulators must work off the same intermediate pressure range.
- The TC feels that the value added by having EBSS interoperability does not justify the complications created by the above two bullet points. RIC UAC fittings are standardized and can also be used to assist a firefighter who is out of air in a mutual aid scenario.
- While the TC is not prepared to address these issues at this time, the TC has agreed to continue discussing them for future revisions of the standard.

AGENDA ITEM 9; DISCUSSION—PROPOSED DIVISION OF NFPA 1981 (STRUCTURAL FIRE VS. EMERGENCY SERVICES)

Chairman Rossos led a discussion of how the TC should approach the development of an emergency services SCBA standard. He suggested that the TC submit a formal request to the Standards Council to develop a separate standard, rather than partitioning the current one.

MOTION BY RODNEY COLBERT, SECOND BY DAVID BERNZWEIG

To request the Standards Council to approve the development of a separate standard for SCBAs for non-firefighting emergency services.

MOTION CARRIED.

AGENDA ITEM 10; DISCUSSION—FLAT PACK—COMMITTEE PROPOSAL TO NFPA 1981

Chairman Rossos reviewed the TCC's note to the TC to consider the 16 issues associated with the "flat pack" identified by the TC, as described in the Minutes of the Missoula TC meeting.

MOTION BY CLINT KALLER, SECOND BY DAVID BERNZWEIG

To amend 8.22.5.1 to include language that is not design-restrictive.

MOTION CARRIED.

MOTION BY DAVID HODSON, SECOND BY JERRY PHIFER

To create a Committee comment to change 8.22.5.1 to the following:

"The specimen, fitted with the SCBA manufacturer's breathing air cylinder and valve assembly, shall be fixed to the carrying assembly in accordance with the manufacturer's end user instructions provided with the SCBA."

MOTION CARRIED.

The TC felt that many of the other "flat pack" issues described in the Minutes of the Missoula TC meeting required new tests to be developed and validated which could not be completed within the time frame of the current cycle. The TC agreed that NFPA 1981 should not preclude new SCBA technology from being tested for certification to the standard and that the TC will continue to modify appropriate sections of the standard that could prevent such new technology from being tested and certified.

AGENDA ITEM 11; OTHER ISSUES/PROPOSALS

David Bernzweig read proposed language to revise NFPA 1989 to address the issue that led to the request for a Formal Interpretation. The TC will consider this language for a Committee Comment at the March TC meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 12; OLD BUSINESS

Steve Weinstein asked the TC to summarize the changes that need to be made to Section 6.1.10, as discussed at the Missoula TC meeting. Steve Weinstein will send the changes to Dave Trebisacci for inclusion in the Travel File to generate a Committee Comment at the March TC meeting.

AGENDA ITEM 13; NEW BUSINESS

The next TC meeting will be March 26-28, 2012 in San Antonio, TX.

Possible dates were discussed as follows for a July TC meeting: July 18-19, July 24-25 and July 25-26.

AGENDA ITEM 14; ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY CLINT KALLER; SECOND BY RODNEY COLBERT

To adjourn.

MOTION CARRIED.

Chairman Rossos adjourned the meeting at 12.45 on 14 December 2011.

Respectfully submitted,



Steven H. Weinstein, Secretary

Technical Committee on Respiratory Protection Equipment