



National Fire Protection Association

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MEMORANDUM

TO: NFPA Technical Committee on Fire Tests

FROM: Tracy Golinveaux, Staff Liaison

DATE: April 22, 2011

SUBJECT: NFPA 275 ROC TC Letter Ballot (**F2011**)

The ROC letter ballot for NFPA 275 is attached. The ballot is for formally voting on whether or not you concur with the committee's actions on the comments. Reasons must accompany all negative and abstention ballots.

Please do not vote negatively because of editorial errors. However, please bring such errors to my attention for action.

Please complete and return your ballot as soon as possible but no later than **Friday, May 13, 2011**. As noted on the ballot form, please return the ballot to Jill McGovern either via e-mail to jmcgovern@nfpa.org or via fax to 617-984-7110. You may also mail your ballot to the attention of Jill McGovern at NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169.

The return of ballots is required by the Regulations Governing Committee Projects.

Attachments: Comments
Letter Ballot

275-1 Log #1
(5.2.3 (New))

Final Action: Accept in Principle

Submitter: Rick Thornberry, The Code Consortium, Inc.

Comment on Proposal No: 275-12

Recommendation: Accept the proposal 275-12 to add new Section 5.2.3 and its associated Annex A note.

Substantiation: I am required to abstain on this proposal in accordance with the NFPA Regulations for Technical Committees since I have a direct client interest in this ballot item.

However, if I could vote, I would vote Negative on this item since I believe it is appropriate to allow such an exception to the testing of thermal barriers where the material used as the thermal barrier would actually cause the material to fail that portion of the thermal barrier test based on the acceptance criteria for the test. The purpose of this part of the acceptance criteria for testing thermal barriers is to determine that the foam plastic insulation or other material being protected by the thermal barrier (such as MCMs) does not become involved in the fire that may be exposing the thermal barrier protecting the material for a minimum duration of 15 minutes. If the thermal barrier material burns, yet still protects the foam plastic insulation or other material so that it does not become involved in the fire, so be it. Such performance should be satisfactory since the concern is to not have the foam plastic insulation involved in the early stages of a fire. Certainly, a visual inspection of the foam plastic insulation at the end of the test after the thermal barrier is removed would indicate if the foam plastic insulation became involved as a result of the fire exposure.

These room corner tests used as part of the thermal barrier fire test for the determination of the ability of the thermal barrier to remain in place during a room corner fire test exposure have acceptance criteria developed for other reasons. The test methods were referenced since they provided the most readily available and referenced test methods for implementing a test to determine the ability of the thermal barrier to remain in place and protect the foam plastic insulation or other material it is intended to protect for the 15 minute fire exposure in the room corner test apparatus. However, these room corner tests have been developed with acceptance criteria for assessing the performance of interior finish materials to satisfy other code requirements which may not be applicable to the material being used as the thermal barrier in actual applications in buildings. Therefore, it seems overly restrictive to require thermal barriers to meet the acceptance criteria for these room corner tests in order to demonstrate that they will remain in place for the duration of the 15 minute fire exposure.

Committee Meeting Action: Accept in Principle

Revise the language developed in ROP 275-12 as follows:

5.2.3 When the fire performance of the thermal barrier does not meet the acceptance criteria described in 5.2.1 or 5.2.2, the thermal barrier shall be acceptable for use if it remains in place and prevents the foam plastic insulation or MCM from contributing to the fire growth for during the 15 minute test period. This shall be determined by conducted ~~through~~ visual inspection of the foam plastic insulation or MCM after the thermal barrier has been completely removed subsequent to the end of the test period.

A.5.2.3 This alternate acceptance criterion recognizes that some materials can meet the Temperature Transmission test but may fail the acceptance criteria in the Integrity Fire test. Even though the thermal barrier protects the foam plastic insulation or MCM, its own nature may cause excessive flame-spread or flashover to occur, prior to any involvement of the foam plastic insulation or MCM. One example of this type of material is 19 mm (0.75 inch) thick plywood.

Committee Statement: Revising the language in the proposed text clarifies that the test includes MCM and shall be conducted for the full 15 minute testing period.