



National Fire Protection Association

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MEMORANDUM

TO: NFPA Technical Committee on Electronic Computer Systems

FROM: Elena Carroll, Administrator, Technical Projects

DATE: December 20, 2011

SUBJ: NFPA 75 Proposed TIA No. 1042 **FINAL TC BALLOT RESULTS**

According to 5.4 in the NFPA Regs, the final results show this TIA **HAS** achieved the $\frac{3}{4}$ majority vote needed on both Question 1 (**Technical Merit**) and Question 2 (**Emergency Nature**).

28 Eligible to Vote

10 Not Returned (Brown, Carman, Pikula, Polasko, Powell, Rawson, Saba, Suski, Zolotar, and Puig)

Technical Merit:

0 Abstentions
18 Agree (Langer w/comment)
0 Disagree

Emergency Nature:

0 Abstentions
18 Agree
0 Disagree

There are two criteria necessary to pass ballot [(1) affirmative $\frac{3}{4}$ vote and (2) simple majority] with both questions needed to pass ballot in order to recommend that the Standards Council issues this TIA.

- (1) The number of affirmative votes needed for the report to be published is **14**.
(28 eligible to vote - 10 not returned - 0 abstentions = $18 \times 0.75 = 13.5$)
- (2) In all cases, an affirmative vote of at least a simple majority of the total membership eligible to vote is required. This is the calculation for simple majority:
[28 eligible \div 2 = 14 + 1 = **(15)**]

Final ballot comments are attached for your review. Ballots received from alternate members are not included, unless the ballot from the principal member was not received.

Attachments

**TECHNICAL COMMITTEE LETTER BALLOT
PROPOSED TENTATIVE INTERIM AMENDMENT LOG NO. 1042**

To Delete subsection 10.4.4 and Annex A.10.4.4 of the 2009 Edition of NFPA 75,
Standard for the Protection of Information Technology Equipment

Question 1: I agree with the **TECHNICAL MERITS** of the Proposed TIA to delete subsection 10.4.4 and Annex A.10.4.4.

 X AGREE _____ DISAGREE* _____ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments: **See Attached**

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.

Question 2: I agree that the subject is of an **EMERGENCY NATURE**.

 X AGREE _____ DISAGREE* _____ ABSTAIN*

EXPLANATION OF VOTE - Please type or print your comments: **See Attached**

*An explanation must accompany a disagreement or abstaining position.



Signature

Robert Langer
Name (Please Print)

December 16, 2011
Date

Please return the ballot on or before **December 16, 2011**.

PLEASE RETURN TO:

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The following sentence in subsection 10.4.4 will create unsafe conditions in IT facilities:
“The ventilation system shall be so arranged, with approved smoke detection devices, that upon the detection of fire or products of combustion in the underfloor space, the circulation of air will cease.”

There is a need to issue this TIA based on the emergency nature of the request. Specifically, there is a potential negative impact to the overall safety of a facility and its occupants if the underfloor ventilation system is prematurely shut down. The current verbiage in NFPA 70, which was extracted and placed in NFPA 75, is out of date and doesn't contemplate current fire protection technology. Please consider the following:

Many IT facilities are protected by automatic gaseous extinguishing systems. These fire suppression systems are installed with detection systems to detect a fire during its incipient stage. The detection systems serve two functions. The first function is to notify people of a potential emergency fire situation while allowing cooling air to continue to flow through the facility and the IT servers remain operating. The second purpose of the smoke detection system is to automatically actuate the gaseous agent system.

The actuation of the gaseous agent system is accomplished with a second detector located remotely from the one that signals an emergency fire situation. These detectors are typically spaced at one half of the permitted coverage area, providing a higher level of confidence that the system accurately reports the fire/smoke condition. Some jurisdictions are interpreting the requirement to mean that ventilation systems must be shut down upon initial detector activation, which defeats the overall purpose of cross-zoned systems, air aspirating systems, and other technologically advanced detection schemes.

Many, if not most buildings depend upon servers to operate building systems, including smoke control systems, evacuation alarms, ventilation systems, security systems, and other building components that provide for the safety of occupants. Shutting down the ventilation system for the servers may create a greater hazard to building occupants than leaving them running.

These facilities need a higher level of flexibility than is permitted by the arbitrary requirement to shut down the ventilation system upon activation of a smoke alarm. A nominal risk assessment will provide all of the information necessary to determine the safest and most appropriate response to a detection system's readings.

Although there were good intentions for the editorial update of the extracted material, the potential negative impact to life safety and business continuity outweighs the need to conform to an update policy. I strongly urge the Standards Council to issue this TIA based on the emergency nature of the request and the concerns outlined above.