

Formal Interpretation

NFPA 12

Carbon Dioxide Extinguishing Systems

2008 Edition

Reference: 4.4.3.3.4.1 and 4.4.4.2

F.I. No.: 12-00-1

Background: In production-type equipment where the fire suppression system, the equipment layout, and the hazard protected are identical, such as gas turbine-generator enclosures, it is common industry practice to perform a discharge and concentration test on only one system and not perform a full acceptance test on the other systems under the premise that the systems are all identical and will therefore perform identically. Section 4.4.3.3.4.1 currently states that “A full discharge test shall be performed on all systems,” but it does not state “each” system.

Question: Is it the intent of the Technical Committee to require a full discharge and concentration test on each system where the fire suppression system, the equipment layout, and the hazard protected are identical, even if a full acceptance test has satisfactorily been conducted on one system?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 2000

Reference: 1.7.3(d) and 1.7.4(b)

Issue Date: July 31, 2002

Effective Date: August 19, 2002

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2008 Edition

Reference: 4.5.4.8 and 4.5.4.8.1

F.I. 85-1

Background: 4.5.4.8 and 4.5.4.8.1 state: “Where the continuing operation of equipment associated with a hazard being protected could contribute to sustaining the fire in that hazard, the source of power or fuel shall be automatically shut off” and “All shutdown devices shall be considered integral parts of the system and shall function with the system operation.”

The paragraphs speak of cutting off power or fuel to equipment that could contribute to sustaining the fire in the hazard.

Question: Is it the intent of NFPA 12 to require items considered cooking equipment such as toasters, coffee urns, blenders, mixers, and other non-grease producing appliances be shut off?

Answer: No.

Issue Edition: 1985

Reference: 1-8.3.8

Date: April 1985

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Reference: 4.5.5.3

F.I. 89-1

Question: Is it the intent of 4.5.5.3 to require supervision of normally nonpressurized pneumatic control lines on low-pressure carbon dioxide systems?

Answer: Yes.

Issue Edition: 1989

Reference: 1-8.4

Issue Date: May 17, 1990

Effective Date: June 5, 1990

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