

## MINUTES

### HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATIONS TASK FORCE

21 MAY 2002  
HILTON HOTEL  
MINNEAPOLIS, MN

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:10 PM.
2. Members and guests present were:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
John Bausch	Indian Heath Service
Ken Bush*	Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office Representing IFMA
Doug Erickson	ASHE
Ken Faulstich	VA
Tom Jaeger	Gage-Babcock & Associates, Representing AHCA
Phil Jose*	VA
Jim Merrill	CMS
Kim Osborn	Michigan State Fire Marshal's Office Representing IFMA
Dean Samet*	JCAHO
Dale Woodin	ASHE
Robert Solomon	NFPA

\*Eligible to vote on Interpretation Issues.

3. The agenda was reviewed. No other items were added to the agenda.
4. The minutes of the November 2001 meeting were approved.
5. The following issues were addressed and an action was taken as noted:

**VA Request-Fire Extinguishers:** This request centers on the record keeping requirements for tracking portable fire extinguishers. Issues concern the length of time necessary to maintain permanent records and the conditions under which the annual inspection records are necessary to be maintained-i.e. after the annual inspection or for some longer period. The HITF determined that these are clarifications that are more appropriately addressed in NFPA 10. The concern seems to be more centered on revising the requirements of NFPA 10 rather than an interpretation issue.

**VA Request-Access To Fire Dampers :** This request was to ask for clarification of a previous issue ruled on by the HITF concerning inspection, testing and maintenance of certain systems. A specific example was given at this meeting were by up 40 percent of the fire dampers in a facility were 'inaccessible'. When previously addressed by the HITF, the intent of their ruling was that a small percentage of the system or feature might not have been easily reached. The HITF simply stated that 40 percent is not a reasonable number and that that amount is not a reasonable amount to ignore with respect the ITM issues.

6. **New Business.** There was a discussion on the fact that CMS had fallen behind on some of their surveys and that the CMS surveyors typically came in after the JCAHO surveyors. These was a question asked about discrepancies between CMS and JCAHO survey results-are different items being listed on the two surveys? Some differences have been identified by CMS. Both JCAHO and CMS are working on a solution for this. ASHE had volunteered to work with both groups and assist on the identification and situation of any such items.
7. **Old Business.** The HITF members were reminded of the FI that was issued concerning records storage rooms and the NFPA 13 sprinkler clearance criteria.  
A reminder was also given on the handling of existing systems/features for the 2003 Life Safety Code. The wording that had been proposed, and that would be finalized at the upcoming TCC meeting. Proposed wording will center on "...approved, existing wall penetrations..." to address the specific concern that was brought up.
8. **Date and location for next meeting.** The HITF will plan to meet in November of 2002 during the NFPA Fall Education Conference in Atlanta, GA. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 19 May 2002 from 2:00-4:00 PM.
9. **Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 5:10 PM.

Minutes prepared by Robert Solomon, PE NFPA