

MINUTES

HEALTHCARE INTERPRETATIONS TASK FORCE

13 NOVEMBER 2001

HYATT HOTEL

DALLAS, TX

1. The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.
2. Members and guests present were:

NAME	ORGANIZATION
Ken Bush*	Maryland State Fire Marshal's Office Representing IFMA
Doug Erickson	ASHE
Ken Faulstich	VA
Tom Gardner	Gage-Babcock & Associates, Representing AHCA
Greg Harrington	NFPA
Phil Hoge*	US Army Corps of Engineers
Tom Jaeger	Gage-Babcock & Associates, Representing AHCA
Phil Jose*	VA
Dean Samet*	JCAHO
Dale Woodin	ASHE
Robert Solomon	NFPA

*Eligible to vote on Interpretation Issues.

3. The agenda was reviewed. Items included discussion on several requests from the VA and an update on an FI request to the NFPA TC on Automatic Sprinklers.
4. The minutes of the May 2001 meeting were approved with two corrections: Mr. Erickson's name was mis-spelled and Mr. Jose should have been identified as the voting rep for VA.
5. The following issues were addressed and an action was taken as noted:

VA Request-Door Locking: This request centers on the clinical needs criteria per NFPA 101-2000 ed (18/19.2.2.2.4). The question is basically if this condition applies to other than application to patients in psychiatric care units. The HITF notes that NFPA 101 simply states that 'a clinical need must be demonstrated-that determination is up to the medical staff and not the code per se. The medical staff must determine the criteria for clinical need, thus the HITF took no action on this item.

VA Request-Exit Sign Illumination: This request centers on the continuous illumination of various exit signs configurations-internally illuminated signs that also have an external source of illumination. The question is if the sign

can still be given credit as an exit sign even when the internal illumination source is not available, as long as the external source provides the required level. The HITF was reluctant to address the issue. Although the intent appears to be that the sign would otherwise meet all of the basic external illumination criteria, the requirements of NFPA 101:4.6.12.2 would seem to dictate that the bulbs or led source would have to be replaced, unless an equivalency was granted. The HITF procedures do not allow the group to evaluate 'equivalencies' thus the HITF took no formal action on this request.

VA Request-Penetrations in Fire and Smoke Barriers: This request centers on the application of NFPA 101:18/19.3.7.3 and their relation to NFPA 101:8.2.3.2.4 and 8.3.6. The basic requirements in NFPA 101 would appear to only require a smoke barrier to be capable of resisting the passage of smoke, thus by default seeming to rule out an actual requirement to apply the provisions of 8.2.3.2.4. The related item is that the chapters for healthcare occupancies also require the smoke barriers to have a fire resistance rating, but not necessarily compliance with 8.2.3.2.4. Given the nature of the intent of the requirements, it was recommended that this item be taken to the NFPA TC on Healthcare Occupancies (BLD/SAF-HEA) at their May 2002 meeting thus the HITF took no action on this request.

6. New Business. There was no new business.
7. Old Business. The HITF members were given an update on the FI request submitted to the NFPA TC on Automatic Sprinklers concerning records storage rooms and the NFPA 13 sprinkler clearance criteria. An FI will be processed and should be completed in the first part of 2002. (NB: This FI was processed and issued in January 2002)
8. Date and location for next meeting. The HITF will plan to meet in May of 2002 during the NFPA WSCE Minneapolis, MN. The meeting will be held on Tuesday, 21 May 2002 from 4:00-6:00 PM.
9. Adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:15 PM.

Minutes prepared by Robert Solomon, PE NFPA