



Amy Beasley Cronin  
Secretary, Standards Council

10 August 2009

To: Interested Parties

Subject:

Standards Council Decision (Final):	<b>D#09-6</b>
Standards Council Agenda Item:	<b>SC#09-8-1-f</b>
Date of Decision*:	6 August 2009
NFPA 13, <i>Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems</i> , 2010 edition	

Dear Interested Parties:

At its meeting of 4-6 August 2009, the Standards Council considered an appeal on the above referenced matter.

Attached is the final decision of the Standards Council on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Beasley Cronin".

Amy Beasley Cronin  
Secretary, NFPA Standards Council

c: D. Berry, M. Brodoff, L. Fuller, J. Lake, J. Moreau-Correia  
Members, TC on Sprinkler System Installation Criteria (AUT-SSI)  
Members, TCC on Automatic Sprinkler Systems (AUT-AAC)  
Members, NFPA Standards Council (AAD-AAA)  
Individuals Providing Appeal Commentary

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\*NOTE: Participants in NFPA's codes and standards making process should know that limited review of this decision may be sought from the NFPA Board of Directors. For the rules describing the available review and the method for petitioning the Board for review, please consult section 1-7 of the NFPA Regulations Governing Committee Projects and the NFPA Regulations Governing Petitions to the Board of Directors from Decisions of the Standards Council. Notice of the intent to file such a petition must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Directors within 15 calendar days of the Date of Decision noted in the subject line of this letter.



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At its meeting of 4-6 August 2009, the Standards Council considered an appeal from Leonard Swantek of Victaulic, requesting that Comment 13-34 be rejected for NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*. Specifically, the appeal requests the rejection of the following new requirements:

6.5.3.1\* Pipe joined with grooved couplings shall be joined by a listed combination of couplings, gaskets and groove dimensions.

A.6.5.3.1 It is not the intent to require a listed combination of couplings, fittings or valves.

6.5.3.2 Grooved connections on fittings and valves, and grooves cut or rolled on pipe shall be dimensionally compatible with the couplings.

A.6.5.3.2 Material strength and pressure rating should be considered when determining compatibility.

6.5.3.3 Grooved couplings, including gaskets used on dry-pipe, preaction, and deluge systems, shall be listed for dry pipe service.

As background, Proposal 13-65 recommended revisions to sections 6.5.3.1, 6.5.3.2 and 6.5.3.3 and associated annex material, and was rejected by the Technical Committee on Sprinkler System Installation Criteria (TC) and the Technical Correlating Committee on Automatic Sprinkler Systems (TCC). Subsequently, Comment 13-34 recommended further revisions. This comment was accepted-in-principle by the TC and the TCC, and alternate language written by the TC was accepted. A Certified Amending Motion (CAM 13-1) seeking rejection of Comment 13-34 was made at the 2009 Association Technical Meeting (Tech Session). The motion failed to obtain the support of the general NFPA membership in attendance, which under NFPA rules, the default recommendation of the codes and standards development process is that the text modified in Comment 13-34 will be included in the 2010 edition of NFPA 13.

The appeal requests that the Standards Council overturn the action that was recommended by the full NFPA codes and standards development process. This recommendation represents the consensus judgment of the responsible technical committee and technical correlating committees, a judgment that was also supported by a vote of the NFPA membership at the 2009 Tech Session. The appellant has had the opportunity to advocate his position at each stage of the full codes and standards process, and failed to persuade the consensus process to adopt his position.

On appeal, the Standards Council accords great respect and deference to the NFPA codes and standards development process. In conducting its review, the Council will overturn

the result recommended through that process, only where a clear and substantial basis for doing so is demonstrated. The Council has reviewed the entire record concerning this matter and has considered all the arguments put forth in this appeal. In the view of the Council, this appeal does not present any clear and substantial basis on which to overturn the results recommended by the NFPA codes and standards development process. Accordingly, the Council has voted to deny the appeal. The effect of this action is that the 2010 edition of NFPA 13 will include the text as modified in Comment 13-34 thereby adding requirements for grooved couplings and their dimensional compatibility with the grooves on pipe, fittings and valves.

Without attempting to review each argument that the Council has considered and rejected as part of this appeal, the Council noted that the appellant has expressed concern that NFPA 13 not evolve going forward toward rigid dimensional requirements that may limit product designs. The appellants or others should seek to address this concern by engaging with the TC during the document revision process.