Dear Interested Parties:

At its meeting of August 17-19, 2015, the Standards Council considered an appeal from Dr. Marcelo M. Hirschler of GBH International regarding the issuance of NFPA 520, *Standard on Subterranean Spaces*, 2016 Edition. Dr. Hirschler sought Standards Council action to overturn the Association action on CAM 520-1 (which failed on the floor at the 2015 NFPA Technical Meeting) and Accept Public Comment Nos. 1 and 2. Specifically, the appeal seeks the following text for inclusion in NFPA 520:

3.3.8 Noncombustible (Material). (See 4.1)
A material that, in the form in which it is used and under the conditions anticipated, will not ignite, burn, support combustion, or release flammable vapors, when subjected to fire or heat. Materials that are reported as passing ASTM E 136, Standard Test Method for Behavior of Materials in a Vertical Tube Furnace at 750°C, shall be considered noncombustible materials.

Chapter 4 Construction Features
4.1* Noncombustible Material [NFPA 5000, 2015]
4.1.1 A material that complies with any one of the following shall be considered a noncombustible material:
(1)*The material, in the form in which it is used, and under the conditions anticipated, will not ignite, burn, support combustion, or release flammable vapors when subjected to fire or heat

*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 Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards 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.
(2) The material is reported as passing ASTM E 136, Standard Test Method for Behavior of Materials in a Vertical Tube Furnace at 750 Degrees C.

(3) The material is reported as complying with the pass/fail criteria of ASTM E 136 when tested in accordance with the test method and procedure in ASTM E 2652, Standard Test Method for Behavior of Materials in a Tube Furnace with a Cone-shaped Airflow Stabilizer, at 750 Degrees C [NFPA 5000-2015]

**A.4.1** The provisions of 4.1 do not require inherently noncombustible materials to be tested in order to be classified as noncombustible materials. [NFPA 5000, 2015]

**A.4.1.1** (1) Examples of such materials include steel, concrete, masonry and glass. [NFPA 5000, 2015]

*Renumber subsequent Sections & their corresponding Annexes*

**2.3 Other Publications.**

**2.3.1 ASTM Publications.**


The Council, having reviewed the entire record concerning this matter and having considered all the arguments put forth in this appeal, has voted to deny the appeal. The Council further voted to issue NFPA 520, *Standard on Subterranean Spaces*, 2016 Edition in accordance with the recommendation of the Technical Committee.

All Standards Council members participated in the consideration, deliberation, and vote on this issue.

**Notice on Short Decisions:** This is a “Short” decision, briefly stating the action on the appeal. A full Final Decision, containing further detail, will be issued in due course, and will automatically be sent to all interested parties as soon as it becomes available. Note that any Petition to the NFPA Board of Directors (see “*NOTE*” in the footer on the first page of this letter) must be filed within 15 days of the date of this Short Decision (see Date of Decision in the subject line). Once the Notice, if any, has been filed, however, the Petition itself, should it be pursued, will not be due until 15 days following issuance of the Final Decision.

Sincerely,

Dawn Michele Bellis
Secretary, NFPA Standards Council

C: D. Berry, S. Everett, L. Fuller, R. Solomon, A. Fraser
Members, TC on Subterranean Spaces (SUB-AAA)
Members, NFPA Standards Council (AAD-AAA)
Individuals Providing Appeal Commentary