



Dawn Michele Bellis
Secretary, Standards Council

31 August 2017

To: Interested Parties

Subject:

Standards Council Decision (Final):	D#17-1
Standards Council Agenda Item:	SC#17-8-8-a
Date of Decision*:	17 August 2017
<i>NFPA 285, Standard Fire Test Method for Evaluation of Fire Propagation Characteristics of Exterior Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components, 2018 Edition</i>	

Dear Interested Parties:

At its meeting of August 15 - 17, 2017, the Standards Council considered an appeal on the above referenced matter. The Council's Final decision is now available and is attached herewith.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dawn Michele Bellis".

Dawn Michele Bellis
Secretary, NFPA Standards Council

cc: D. Berry, S. Everett, L. Fuller, R. Solomon, T. Vecchiarelli
Members, TC Fire Tests (FIZ-AAA)
Members, NFPA Standards Council (AAD-AAA)
Individuals Providing Appeal Commentary

*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 (Regs.) and the NFPA Regulations Governing Petitions to the Board of Directors from Decisions of the Standards Council. Since this Council decision is not "related to the issuance of a document" as referenced in 1.7.2 of the Regs., notice of the intent to file such a petition must be submitted to the Clerk of the Board of Directors within a reasonable time period.



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SUMMARY OF ACTION (for convenience only; not part of official decision): The Standards Council voted to return the document to the Technical Committee.

DECISION:

At its meeting of August 15-17, 2017, the Standards Council considered the appeals from Jesse J. Beitel of Jensen Hughes and David A. Johnston of EIMA. The appeals request that the Standards Council overturn the Association action on CAM 285-1 and reject Second Revision No. 3, including any Related Portions of First Revision No. 8 for the 2018 Edition of NFPA 285, *Standard Fire Test Method for Evaluation of Fire Propagation Characteristics of Exterior Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components*. Specifically, the appeal requests that the Standards Council accept CAM 285-1 and return to previous edition text.

As background, during the processing of the 2018 Edition of NFPA 285, the Technical Committee (“TC”) proposed specific locations of joints and seams for test samples in wall assemblies, specifically one horizontal seam no more than 36 inches above the window opening and one vertical seam extending upward from the center of the window opening width. Mr. Beitel filed a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion (NITMAM) which was certified by the Motions Committee as CAM 285-1. CAM 285-1 failed on the floor of the NFPA Technical Meeting.

The text subject to appeal gained sufficient support of the responsible TC and the NFPA membership within the standards development process for inclusion in the proposed 2018 Edition of NFPA 285, *Standard Fire Test Method for Evaluation of Fire Propagation Characteristics of Exterior Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components*. The appeal requests that the Council overturn the recommendation yielded by the standards development process. On appeal, the Council accords great respect and deference to the NFPA standards development process.

In this case, the Council considered the testimony at the hearings and comments submitted on the matter at issue in the appeal. There was differing testimony regarding the specification of the placement of the seams and joints for testing wall assemblies. Some testified that specifying placement of the joints and seams as the Technical Committee did would make the fire test more difficult to pass but there was also testimony that having no seams over the windows makes the fire test more difficult to pass. Yet others testified that for certain assemblies, specifying the location of joints and seams would not present the most challenging fire test scenario.

The Council has reviewed the entire record concerning this matter and has considered all the arguments put forth in this appeal. Given the disparate testimony regarding the requirement for and placement of seams and joints in test assemblies as well as the testimony regarding potential ambiguity in the proposed language, and in an abundance of caution, the Council voted to return the document to the Technical Committee for further processing. The Technical Committee should process the NFPA Standard based on the existing First Draft without a call for new Public Input in accordance with the *Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards*, Section 4.6.5 (b). The Standard will re-enter the standards development process with a call for Public Comments based upon the existing First Draft. The schedule of the processing of NFPA 285 will be posted on NFPA's website and announced in NFPA News. The Council also directs the Technical Committee, during further processing of the document, to consider TIA 1264 filed by Mr. Hirschler of GBH International. In the meantime, the 2012 edition of NFPA 285 remains the current edition of the document.

Standards Council Chair Kerry Bell and Council Members Dan O'Connor and Gary Keith recused themselves from the deliberations and vote on the appeal.