9 August 2013

To: Interested Parties

Subject:

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<th>D#13-17</th>
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<td>Standards Council Agenda Item:</td>
<td>SC#13-8-1-e-1</td>
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Dear Interested Parties:

At its meeting of July 29 – July 31, 2013, the Standards Council considered an appeal on the above referenced matter.

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

Sincerely,

Amy Beasley Cronin
Secretary, NFPA Standards Council

c: D. Berry, M. Brodoff, L. Fuller, M. Klaus, R. Bielen
   Members, TC on Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Systems (INM-AAA)
   Members, NFPA Standards Council (AAD-AAA)
   Individuals Providing Appeal Commentary
SUMMARY OF ACTION (for convenience only; not part of official decision): The Standards Council voted to deny the appeal to issue the 2014 edition of NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems with revisions to Sections 8.3.1.1 and 8.3.1.2; and the deletion of Section 8.3.2.1 and Annex A.8.3.1.1.

DECISION:
At its meeting of July 29 – July 31, 2013, the Standards Council considered an appeal from Kenneth E. Isman of the National Fire Sprinkler Association. The appeal requests that the 2014 edition of NFPA 25, Standard for the Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Fire Protection Systems be issued with revisions to Sections 8.3.1.1 and 8.3.1.2; and with the deletion of Section 8.3.2.1 and Annex A.8.3.1.1.

As background, the Technical Committee on the Inspection Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Systems (TC) Accepted in Principle Proposal 25-175 which modified the water recirculation requirements in testing fire pump assemblies in Section 8.3.2.1. Comment 25-99 sought to further revise the language in Section 8.3.2.1 and was rejected by the TC. The TC, however, did accept Comment 25-92 which added new Sections 8.3.1.1, A.8.3.1.1 and 8.3.1.2, including water recirculation requirements.

At the 2013 Association Technical Meeting (Tech Session), CAM 25-17 sought to Accept Comment 25-99. This amending motion passed on the floor but failed the subsequent balloting of the TC. This means, under NFPA rules, the recommendation that comes to Council is that no change from the existing edition should occur in Section 8.3.2.1 [see Regs 4.7.1(c)]. The appellant alleges that the combination of returning to previous edition text in 8.3.2.1 and accepting Comment 25-92 (thereby adding Sections 8.3.1.1, A.8.3.1.1 and 8.3.1.2) results in a conflict between these provisions.

In order to ascertain the TC’s position on this potential conflict, an informational ballot was conducted. The committee was asked if the recommendations resulting from the standards development process resulted in conflicting text. The ballot results were inconclusive.

The appeal requests that the Council overturn the action that was recommended by the standards development process. On appeal, the 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 yielded by the NFPA codes and standards development process. Accordingly, the Council has voted to deny the appeal. The effect of this action is that in the 2014 edition of NFPA 25, Section 8.3.2.1 will return to previous edition text, and Sections 8.3.1.1, A.8.3.1.1 and 8.3.1.2 will remain unchanged from the ROC text.

If the appellant, TC or others wish to address the issues that have been raised in this appeal, they can do so in the regular revision process, or if the issues are believed to be of an emergency nature, a Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) can be submitted.

Council Member James Golinveaux recused himself during the hearing, deliberation and vote on this issue.