9 August 2013

To: Interested Parties

Subject:

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<th>Standards Council Decision (Final):</th>
<th>D#13-8</th>
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<td>Standards Council Agenda Item:</td>
<td>SC#13-8-1-g</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, G. Harrington, R. Solomon
  Members, TC on Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance of Water-Based Systems (INM-AAA)
  Members, TC on Residential Sprinkler Systems (AUT-RSS)
  Members, CC on Automatic Sprinkler Systems (AUT-AAC)
  Members, TC on Board and Care Facilities (BLD/SAF-BCF)
  Members, TC on Building Service and Fire Protection Equipment (BLD/SAF-BSF)
  Members, CC on Building Code (BLD-AAC)
  Members, CC on Safety to Life (SAF-AAC)
  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 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.*
SUMMARY OF ACTION (for convenience only; not part of official decision): The Standards Council voted to deny the appeal to Reject Comment 25-162.

DECISION:
At its meeting of July 29 – July 31, 2013, the Standards Council considered an appeal from Roland Huggins of the American Fire Sprinkler. 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 rejection of Comment 25-162. Specifically, the appellant seeks to delete new Chapter 16, Special Requirements from Other NFPA Documents.

As background, Proposal 25-10 which sought to add new Chapter 16, Board and Care Facilities with NFPA 13D Systems, was submitted to the Technical Committee on Inspection Testing and Maintenance of Water-Based Systems (TC). The TC rejected Proposal 25-10 but during the Report on Comments (ROC) meeting, accepted Comment 25-162 which added a new Chapter 16 that is essentially an extract of NFPA 101®, Life Safety Code®. Subsequently, a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion to reject Comment 25-162 was received and certified as an Amending Motion for the 2013 Association Technical Meeting (Tech Session). However, the CAM 25-29 was not pursued at the Tech Session. The making and debating of such motions is an important part of the standards development process. It allows the committees to reconsider their actions through the rebalancing of successful Amending Motions, and the debate of the NFPA membership present provides an important addition to the record for Council review.

On appeal, the Standards Council accords great respect and deference to the 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. Moreover, in circumstances such as these, where the appellants have failed to take advantage of all the steps available within the process, the Council is especially reluctant to consider overturning the results that have been yielded by that process. The Council has reviewed the entire record concerning this matter and has considered all the arguments put forth in these appeals. 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 standards development process. Accordingly, the Council has voted to deny the appeal. The effect of this action is that new Chapter 16, Special Requirements from Other NFPA Documents will remain unchanged from the ROC text.

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