



Amy Beasley Spencer
Secretary, Standards Council

12 March 2009

To: Interested Parties

Subject:

Standards Council Decision (Final):	D#09-2
Standards Council Agenda Item:	SC #09-03-6
Date of Decision*:	4 March 2009
TIA (No. 946) on NFPA 72, <i>National Fire Alarm Code</i> [®] , 2007 edition	

Dear Interested Parties:

At its meeting of 4 March 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 B. Spencer".

Amy Beasley Spencer
Secretary, NFPA Standards Council

- c: D. Berry, M. Brodoff, L. Fuller, L. Richardson, J. O'Connor
Members, TC on Single/Multiple-Station Alarms & Household Fire Alarm Systems (SIG-HOU)
Members, TCC on Signaling Systems for the Protection of Life and Property (SIG-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. Since this Council decision is not "related to the issuance of a document" as referenced in 1.7.2 of the Regulations Governing Committee Projects, 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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At its meeting of 04 March 2009, the Standards Council considered an appeal from Jeff Buss, Sure Signal Products, Inc., requesting that the Council issue proposed Tentative Interim Amendment (TIA) No. 946 on the 2007 edition of NFPA 72, *National Fire Alarm Code*[®]. The proposed TIA seeks to add a new Section 11.3.5.3 which would grant an exception from the requirement for the production of the standard audible emergency evacuation signal (a 3-pulse temporal pattern evacuation signal) for fire warning equipment powered solely by a spring-wound mechanism.

As background, proposed TIA 946 was balloted through the Technical Committee on Single and Multiple-Station Alarms and Household Fire Alarm Systems (TC), and the Technical Correlating Committee on Signaling Systems for the Protection of Life and Property (TCC). Balloting was completed in accordance with the Regulations Governing Committee Projects to establish a recommendation for issuance. This recommendation is based upon achieving the necessary three-fourths majority support of the TC and TCC on merit (technical and correlation, respectively) and emergency nature for issuance of proposed TIA 946.

The ballot achieved the necessary support of the TC on both technical merit and emergency nature, but failed the TCC ballot with respect to correlation merit and emergency nature. No public comments on the proposed TIA were received. Where the ballot does not pass both the TC and TCC on merit and emergency nature, the default recommendation to the Council is to not issue the TIA.

The appeal requests that the Council overturn the action recommended by the NFPA codes and standards development process and issue the TIA. On an 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 of the arguments raised 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 and not issue TIA 946.

Without attempting to review each argument that the Council has considered and rejected as part of this appeal, the Council makes the following general observations. In stating these observations, the Council is expressing no final view on the technical or correlation

issues going forward. The Council notes, however, that issues were raised in the record before the Council concerning the overbreadth of the TIA in that, by its terms, it applied the proposed exemption, not just to home heat alarms, but to any spring-wound fire warning equipment. It appears that the proponent of the TIA may not have intended the TIA to apply so broadly, and in considering further action, the proponent may wish to consider addressing these overbreadth issues. Secondly, the proponent may also wish to consider the apparent correlation concerns expressed in some of the TCC ballot statements that this device is used to indicate the need to escape; some expressed that the 3-pulse temporal pattern emergency evacuation signal should be required as a uniform evacuation signal throughout the document.

Finally, in the appeal, the proponent noted that the TIA was submitted as a result of changes to UL's governing document for mechanical heat alarms, UL 539, *Standard for Single and Multiple-Station Heat Alarms*. The proponent noted that UL 539 was being changed to incorporate the requirement for a 3-pulse temporal pattern evacuation signal to be consistent with NFPA 72. The Council noted that the currently published effective date for the modification of UL 539 is January 30, 2013. With this effective date in mind, the Council encourages all interested parties to work within the normal revision process of NFPA 72 to propose, as they deem appropriate, revisions to NFPA 72 that will address their concerns. It is anticipated that NFPA 72 will be entered into the Annual 2012 revision cycle.