



# RESEARCH FOUNDATION

## RESEARCH FOR THE NFPA MISSION

### Antitrust Policy

#### Fire Protection Research Foundation

(Updated: 03/Dec/2018)

The Fire Protection Research Foundation (FPRF) is a not for profit organization with a mission of planning, managing and communicating research in support of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA). The primary way in which the FPRF fulfills this mission is by conducting and facilitating research to support NFPA's codes and standards as well as providing research to address a variety of industry challenges in areas such as detection, signaling, hazardous material, electrical safety, fire suppression, storage of commodities and firefighter protective clothing and equipment.

Research projects are guided by a technical panel of industry experts and with input from funding sponsors, the research community, the fire service, NFPA technical committees and other stakeholders. In addition, FPRF convenes industry-specific research groups as a forum to discuss industry-relevant issues, identify research needs and provide for a research funding mechanism. All such activities depend on volunteer participation by a diverse range of individuals on behalf of numerous stakeholders including participants representing business and industry in similar or related fields. As a result, antitrust concerns can arise in connection with research activities.

It is the policy of the FPRF to strictly comply with state and federal antitrust laws, and the FPRF expects all participants in FPRF research and research development activities to conduct themselves in strict accordance with these laws.

Participants must avoid any conduct, conversations or agreements that would constitute an unreasonable restraint of trade or be otherwise illegal under the antitrust laws. Although it's not possible to identify every situation that could be found to be anticompetitive or a violation of antitrust laws, the following topics should **NOT** be addressed or discussed, even informally, by or among competitors or other individuals in the course of their FPRF involvement:

- Profits, profit margins or cost data;
- Prices, rates, and fees;
- Selection, termination, division or allocation of customers, sales territories, or markets;  
or
- Refusal to deal with a specific business entity.

Participants in FPRF activities may receive antitrust training or advice from their employers or other organizations or entities they represent. This FPRF antitrust policy, as well as other information or presentations that FPRF may provide concerning the antitrust laws and standards development, are not intended to take the place of such training or advice; nor are they intended to constitute legal advice to participants. In addition to consulting with their legal counsel, however, participants can assist FPRF and their fellow participants by refusing to engage in inappropriate discussions and by speaking up if they have questions or concerns about any matter or discussion that occurs in the course of FPRF standards development activities. Participants should bring matters of concern to the attention of FPRF staff. Any participant may also raise questions regarding this policy to the NFPA's General Counsel.