TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON
MANUFACTURE OF ORGANIC COATINGS

AGENDA

Technical Committee on Manufacture of Organic Coatings
Conference Call & Web Meeting
Thursday, July 2, 2009, 10:00 AM (Eastern Time),
Dial-In Number:  888-468-4618
Access Code: 659251#

1. Call to Order

2. Introduction of Attendees and Update of Committee Roster  [Attachment № A1]

3. Approval of Minutes of Last Meeting  [Attachment № A2]

4. Report of Committee Chair

5. Report of Staff Liaison
   • Technical Committee Membership  [Attachment № A3]
   • Technical Committee Scope  [Attachment № A4]
   • Document Revision Cycle  [Attachment № A5]


7. Recommendations from the U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board [Attachment № A7]

8. Recent Correspondence  [Attachment № A8]

9. Other Old Business  (NONE)

10. New Business  (NONE)

11. Schedule Next Meeting(s)

12. Adjournment
Attachment № A1
I. Attendance

V. L. Flannery, Akzo Nobel Coatings, Inc.
   (Rep. NFPA Industrial Fire Protection Section)
R. J. Hild, DuPont Performance Coatings
   (Rep. National Paint and Coatings Association)
W. J. Josler, Verlan Fire Insurance Co.
J. E. Owens, Hockessin, DE
J. R. Reppermund, Howell, NJ, CHAIR
P. Rollinger, Rollinger Engineering, Inc.
M. F. Specht, Wilmington, DE (Oct. 31 only)
   (Rep. Green Tree Chemical Technologies, Inc.)
T. S. Wright, FPE Forensics, PSC
   (Rep. International Fire Marshals Association)

R. P. Benedetti, NFPA, STAFF LIAISON

II. Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 8:00 AM on October 30th by Technical Committee Chair Jim Reppermund.

2. Attendees introduced themselves. The Committee Roster was updated and a corrected version is included. (See Attachment #M1.)

3. The Minutes of Last Meeting were unanimously approved.

4. The Technical Committee Chair welcomed attendees and explained the purpose of the meeting.
5. The Staff Liaison reported on the following:
   
   • Technical Committee Membership.

   The Technical Committee is still quite small, but efforts to invite new members have not been successful. The notice in *NFPA News* will continue, however.

   • Technical Committee Scope.

   The Technical Committee agreed that the scope statement accurately reflects the committee’s responsibilities.

   • Schedule for November, 2004 Document Revision Cycle.

   Because of the lateness of this ROP meeting, the ROP ballot will be circulated on or about November 4th with a two-week deadline for return of ballots.

6. The Technical Committee reviewed and acted on all public proposals received on the 1999 edition of NFPA 35 and drafted five Technical Committee proposals.

   The Technical Committee directed the Staff Liaison to circulate the *Report on Proposals* (ROP) to letter ballot of the committee.

7. The Staff Liaison explained that the NFPA *Manual of Style* Rewrite of NFPA 35, for the 2005 edition, has not been completed. The rewrite draft will be finished in time for the publication of the ROP. An advance copy will be circulated to the Technical Committee for review. A conference call will be arranged to discuss any problems with the rewrite draft, if necessary.

8. There was no correspondence requiring the Technical Committee’s attention.

9. There was no “Other Old Business”.

10. There was no “New Business”.

11. The Technical Committee scheduled its next meeting for May 4, 2004, at the DuPont Company’s Barley Mills Complex, Wilmington, DE. (Mr. Hild will be our host.)

    **NOTE:** This meeting will NOT be held if no public comments are received on the ROP for NFPA 35.

12. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM on October 31st.
## COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP BALANCE SUMMARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>MAC-AAA</th>
<th>NFPA 35</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Members: 6</td>
<td>M: 2 (33%)* U: 0</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Emeritus: 0</td>
<td>E: 1 (17%)</td>
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<td>Task Group: 0</td>
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<td>Hold List: 2</td>
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</table>

*(manufacturers of organic liquid coatings: 2)*
TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON MANUFACTURE OF ORGANIC COATINGS

SCOPE STATEMENT

This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the fire and explosion hazards associated with the design, construction, and operation of organic coating manufacturing processes and facilities.

# 2010 FALL REVISION CYCLE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Process Stage</th>
<th>Process Step</th>
<th>Dates for TC</th>
<th>Dates for TCC</th>
<th>Completion Date</th>
<th>Verify Material In File</th>
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<tr>
<td>Preliminary</td>
<td>1.0 Notification of intent to enter cycle</td>
<td>1/9/09</td>
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<td>2.8 Receipt of TCC ballots</td>
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* Proposal Closing Dates may vary according to documents and schedules for Revision Cycles may change. Please check the NFPA website (www.nfpa.org) for the most up-to-date information on proposal closing dates and schedules.
Attachment № A6
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</table>
35- Log #CP1
(Entire Document) Final Action: Accept

Submitter: Technical Committee on Manufacture of Organic Coatings, Review entire document to: 1) Update any extracted material by preparing separate proposals to do so, and 2) review and update references to other organizations documents, by preparing proposal(s) as required. Substantiation: To conform to the NFPA Regulations Governing Committee Projects. Committee Meeting Action: Accept

35- Log #CP2
(Entire Document) Final Action:

Submitter: Technical Committee on Manufacture of Organic Coatings, Review entire document to: 1) Update any extracted material by preparing separate proposals to do so, and 2) review and update references to other organizations documents, by preparing proposal(s) as required. Substantiation: To conform to the NFPA Regulations Governing Committee Projects.

35- Log #5
(Entire Document) Final Action:

Submitter: Jay Graham, New Hanover County
Recommendation: Revise entire document by replacing the phrase "permitted" to "allowed" throughout the entire document, unless a "permit" is required. Here is an example:
7.5.4 Portable shipping tanks shall be permitted allowed to be emptied by any of the following three methods:
(1) Contents shall be permitted allowed to be pumped from the top. The pump, pipelines, hose, or other containers or tanks shall be bonded and grounded.
(2) Contents shall be permitted allowed to be pumped from a valve at the bottom of the portable shipping tank. The pump, pipelines, hose, or other containers or tanks shall be bonded and grounded.
(3) Contents shall be permitted allowed to be discharged by gravity from a valve at the bottom of the portable shipping tank. The portable shipping tank, pipelines, hose, and receiving vessel shall be bonded and grounded. Substantiation: Note: This proposal was developed by the proponent as a member of the Building Code Development Committee (BCDC) with the committee’s endorsement.
Permits are not required to conduct these operations. This revision provides more concise regulations with language that is up-to-date.
1.5 Equivalency.

Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this standard.

1.5.1 Technical documentation shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency.

1.5.2 The system, method, or device shall be approved for the intended purpose by the authority having jurisdiction.

1.5.1 General. Nothing in this Standard shall prohibit methods of construction, materials, and designs not specifically prescribed in this Standard where equivalent alternatives are approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

1.5.2 Approval of Alternatives. Alternative systems, methods, or devices approved as equivalent by the authority having jurisdiction shall be recognized as being in compliance with this Standard.

1.5.3 Tests.

1.5.3.1 Whenever the authority having jurisdiction determines that there is insufficient evidence of proof of equivalency with the prescribed requirements of this Standard, the authority having jurisdiction shall be authorized to require tests showing proof of equivalency.

1.5.3.2 Tests required by the authority having jurisdiction shall be provided by the owner at no expense to the jurisdiction.

1.5.3.3 Tests shall be conducted as specified in this Standard or, where test methods are not specified in this Standard, they shall be conducted as required by the authority having jurisdiction.

1.5.4 Approval. The authority having jurisdiction shall determine whether the proposed alternate methods of construction, materials, and designs are at least equivalent to the prescribed requirements of this Standard.

Note: This proposal was developed by the proponent as a member of the Building Code Development Committee (BCDC) with the committee’s endorsement.

This text is extracted from NFPA 5000, section 1.5. The term “code” was replaced with the term “standard”. This should be extracted because the provisions in NFPA 5000 (and NFPA 101) are more comprehensive. Additionally, this would make the standard consistent with the Building Code and the Life Safety Code.

Closed Tank – For the purpose of this standard, a tank that has covers or closures over all tank openings. This term is used in the standard and has not been defined.

Kettle – For the purpose of this standard a heated vessel typically used to manufacture resens. This term is used in the standard and has not been defined.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Log #13</th>
<th>Open Tank (New)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Submitter: James R. Reppermund, Howell, NJ</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recommendation: Add new text as follows:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Open Tank – For the purpose of this standard, a tank that has one or more openings into the tank having no cover or closure.</td>
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<td>Substantiation: This term issued in the document and has not been defined.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thindown Tank – For the purpose of this standard a vessel or tank in which a diluent is added to a product (typically a resin)</td>
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<td>Substantiation: This term is used in the standard and has not been defined.</td>
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<th>Log #12</th>
<th>Vent (New)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Submitter: James R. Reppermund, Howell, NJ</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recommendation: Add new text as follows:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vent – For the purposes of this standard, a tank or container connection designed to prevent pressure or vacuum in the tank or container. Vents typically are equipped with flame arrester devices to prevent flame propagation into the tank or container.</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Substantiation: This term is used in the standard and has not been defined.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Revise text as follows:

4.2.1* Means of egress shall comply with NFPA 101. Means of egress shall be unobstructed. Organic coatings manufacturing operations shall be provided with means of egress that meet the following requirements:

(1) Means of egress shall be arranged to prevent occupants from being trapped in the event of a fire.

(2) Means of egress shall not be exposed by drainage facilities required by Section 5.2.

(3) Aisles shall be provided to allow unobstructed movement of personnel and fire protection equipment.

A.4.2.1 Organic coatings manufacturing operations shall be provided with means of egress that meet the following requirements:

(1) Means of egress shall be arranged to prevent occupants from being trapped in the event of a fire, accidental discharge, or other event that could easily impair the means of egress.

(2) Means of egress shall not be exposed to drainage facilities that are required by Section 5.2.

(3) Aisles shall be provided to allow unobstructed movement of personnel and fire protection equipment.

Substantiation: Note: This proposal was developed by the proponent as a member of the Building Code Development Committee (BCDC) with the committee's endorsement.

The provisions in section 4.2.1 are not prescriptive and would be hard to enforce. This proposal moves the current provisions to the annex, and replaces the provision with a general reference to the NFPA 101 egress requirements. See Section 7.1.10 of NFPA 101. NFPA 35 already references NFPA 101 in the provisions of Section 5.1.6, so this would be a consistent format. Note that another similar proposal has been submitted to Section 5.1.6.

The Technical Committee may even want to reference the applicable NFPA 101 section numbers in the new annex material.

This will explain the intent of the code in the annex, but make sure that the general provisions for egress from NFPA 101 are followed. The provisions were moved and revised to provide more explanation in the annex.
Report on Proposals – November 2010

(5.1.6)

Submitter: Bob Foote, Town of Georgetown

Recommendation: Revise text as follows:

5.1.6* Each manufacturing area shall have at least two means of egress and shall comply with NFPA 101. Each manufacturing area shall have at least two means of egress arranged to prevent occupants from being trapped in the event of a fire. The means of egress shall meet all of the following requirements:

(1) They shall be well separated.
(2) They shall lead to the outside or to another safe area.
(3) They shall meet the requirements of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code.
(4) Access to all exits shall be kept unobstructed.
(5) Exit doors shall open in the direction of exit travel.

A.5.1.6 The two means of egress are provided and arranged to prevent occupants from being trapped in the event of a fire. By requiring that the manufacturing area meet the requirements of NFPA 101, it is intended that the means of egress shall meet all of the following requirements:

(1) The two means of egress shall be remote.
(2) They shall lead to the outside or to another safe area.
(3) Exit doors shall open in the direction of exit travel.
(4) Access to all exits shall be kept unobstructed.

Substantiation: Note: This proposal was developed by the proponent as a member of the Building Code Development Committee (BCDC) with the committee's endorsement.

The provisions in section 5.1.6 are not prescriptive and would be hard to enforce. This proposal moves the current provisions to the annex, and replaces the provision with a general reference to the NFPA 101 egress requirements. See section 7.1.10 in NFPA 101. The reference to NFPA 101 is consistent with the current provisions of Section 5.1.6, which actually reference NFPA 101 for egress provisions in the manufacturing area. Note that another similar proposal has been submitted to Section 4.2.1 to further clarify.

The Technical Committee may even want to reference the applicable NFPA 101 section numbers in the new annex material.

This will explain the intent of the code in the annex, but make sure that the general provisions for egress from NFPA 101 are followed. The provisions were moved and revised to provide more explanation in the annex.

(5.1.7(5))

Submitter: Steve Gutmann, City of Santa Ana

Recommendation: Revise text as follows:

(5) Other alternate means measures that are acceptable to approved by the authority having jurisdiction.

Substantiation: Note: This proposal was developed by the proponent as a member of the Building Code Development Committee (BCDC) with the committee’s endorsement.

This is not an alternate because it is in the body of the standard. For an AHJ to approve an alternate, they must know what equivalency they are trying to achieve. It appears the intent of this provision is to provide additional means of protection.

Also, the AHJ does not “accept”. They “approve” as defined in section 3.2.1.
(6.6 (New))  

Submitter: James R. Reppermund, Howell, NJ  
Recommendation: Add new text as follows:  

If process requirement include heating a tank or vessel containing a flammable or a combustible liquid above ambient temperature, the tank or vessel shall be designed and equipped to prevent fugitive vapors from leaking into the workplace.  

Process tanks or vessels used to heat flammable or combustible liquids must be equipped to safely heat the tank or vessel contents. This would include, but not be limited to:  

1. An adequately sized vent to the building exterior.  
2. Tank or vessel closures and covers capable of preventing leakage of vapors into the place.  
3. Temperature control system designed such that system failure or failure of a control system component will not cause a hazardous condition.  

Substantiation: None given.

(8.1.2.1(2))  

Submitter: Bob Foote, Town of Georgetown  
Recommendation: Revise text as follows:  

(2) Openings into the room shall be protected by fire doors having provided with a minimum 1½-hour fire protection rating resistance rated opening protective.  

Substantiation: Note: This proposal was developed by the proponent as a member of the Building Code Development Committee (BCDC) with the committee's endorsement.  

This clarifies the requirement. Any opening – doors or windows – should be provided with a 1½-hour fire resistance rating. And the term used in NFPA 5000 is “fire resistance rated opening protective.”

(8.1.2.1(5))  

Submitter: Justin B. Biller, Roanoke County Office of Building Safety  
Recommendation: Add text as follows:  

(5) Through penetrations and membrane penetrations shall be provided with a 2 hour fire resistance rated construction in accordance with NFPA 5000.  

Substantiation: Note: This proposal was developed by the proponent as a member of the Building Code Development Committee (BCDC) with the committee’s endorsement.  

This will ensure that Section 8.8 of NFPA 5000 will be followed for through penetration and membrane penetration fire resistance.
11.4 Fire Alarm Systems.
An approved means for prompt notification of fire to those within the plant and to the available public or private fire department shall be provided. Fire alarm systems shall be in accordance with NFPA 72.

Substantiation: Note: This proposal was developed by the proponent as a member of the Building Code Development Committee (BCDC) with the committee’s endorsement.
This new sentence will provide a reference standard for the installation of fire alarm systems to ensure proper installation.

11.5 Portable Fire Control Equipment.
11.5.1 Portable Fire Extinguishers. Listed portable fire extinguishers shall be provided in accordance with NFPA 10, Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers.
11.5.2 Standpipe and Hose Systems. When provided, the need is indicated in accordance with Section 10.3, standpipe and hose systems shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 14, Standard for the Installation of Standpipe and Hose Systems. Only combination nozzles or spray nozzles shall be used.
11.5.3 Hose Connections. When provided, the need is indicated in accordance with Section 10.3, 1½ in. hose connections shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems. Only combination nozzles or spray nozzles shall be used.

Substantiation: Note: This proposal was developed by the proponent as a member of the Building Code Development Committee (BCDC) with the committee’s endorsement.
The title to section 11.5 should be revised to reflect the non-portable standpipe and hose connections addressed in the section. Also, section 10.3 may not be the only time that a standpipe system or hose connection is provided. They may be provided voluntarily or required by other codes regulating this occupancy. This revision clarifies that these means of fire protection must comply with the reference standards when they are provided.
Attachment № A7
CAI / Arnel Chemical Plant Explosion

**Incident Description**

During the early morning hours of November 22, a powerful explosion destroyed the CAI/Arnel ink and paint manufacturing facility in Danvers, Massachusetts. Scores of nearby homes and businesses were damaged, some beyond repair. A number of residents were hospitalized. There were no injuries in the plant, which was unoccupied at the time.

View Investigation Information

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

**National Fire Protection Association (NFPA)**

2007-03-I-MA-9

Revise Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code (NFPA 30): - Prohibit heating flammable and combustible liquids above their flashpoints in tanks inside buildings, unless the tanks are sealed and vented to the building exterior. - Require heated tanks and vessels containing flammable and combustible liquids to have equipment to prevent overheating, such as: devices to stop the heating process if the temperature exceeds the safe operating limits; devices to stop the heating process if the flammable vapor control equipment malfunctions (e.g., building ventilation system or heated tank vent); and a heating medium that is unable to heat the tank above safe operating temperatures.

Status: O-ARE/AR

2007-03-I-MA-10

Revise The Standard for the Manufacture of Organic Coatings (NFPA 35): - Define equipment specifically discussed in the standard, such as kettles and thin-down tanks. - Define the terms "open," "closed," and "sealed" and "vented." - Prohibit heating flammable and combustible liquids above their flashpoints in tanks inside buildings unless the tanks are sealed and vented to the building exterior. - Require heated tanks and vessels containing flammable and combustible liquids to have equipment to prevent overheating, such as: Devices to stop the heating process if the temperature exceeds the safe operating limits; Devices to stop the heating process if the flammable vapor control equipment malfunctions (e.g., building ventilation system or heated tank vent); and a heating medium that is unable to heat the tank above safe operating temperatures.

Status: O-ARE/AR

**General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts**

2007-03-I-MA-1

Revise the General Laws of Massachusetts addressing flammable materials licensing and registration: - As part of the annual registration renewal, require new and existing product manufacturing registrants to submit written certification to local governments stating that the facility complies with, at a minimum, all state and local fire codes and hazardous chemical regulations. - Require all companies holding a license and current registration to apply for an amended license and register the facility before increasing any flammable material quantity above the licensed amount or adding a different regulated chemical. Include a requirement in the approval process to solicit input from affected landowners, similar to the requirement for obtaining the original license and registration.

Status: O-ARE/AR

2007-03-I-MA-2

Amend the General Laws of Massachusetts to require the Office of the State Fire Marshal to audit local governments for compliance with the flammable materials licensing regulation and audit fire departments for compliance with permit issuance...
and inspection of manufacturing facilities licensed to store and handle flammable liquids and solids. The audits should be conducted at least once every five years.

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts Office of Public Safety, Department of Fire Services**

2007-03-I-MA-3

Incorporate the Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code (NFPA 30) and Standard for the Manufacture of Organic Coatings (NFPA 35) into the Massachusetts Board of Fire Prevention Regulations.

Status: O-ARE/AR

2007-03-I-MA-4

Revise 527 CMR 14 to specify the maximum interval (such as annually) for local fire departments to conduct inspections of manufacturing facilities holding one or more licenses and permits to store and handle flammable materials.

Status: O-ARE/AR

2007-03-I-MA-5

Develop mandatory written inspection criteria to be used by the local fire departments when performing manufacturing facility inspections. Develop inspection training material and provide training to the local fire departments.

Status: O-ARE/AR

2007-03-I-MA-6

Revise the license and registration forms (FP-2 and FP-5) to require listing each hazardous material type and quantity. Identify the requirement that a separate license and permit are required for each of the eight classes of flammable material when the facility possesses more than the listed threshold quantity specified in 527 CMR 14.03 (2).

Status: O-ARE/AR

**Town of Danvers**

2007-03-I-MA-7

Pending revision of the Massachusetts Fire Safety Code (527 CMR), revise the town bylaws addressing 527 CMR 14 requirements applicable to facility licensing and annual registration to:

- Require new and current product manufacturing registrants to certify in writing that the facility complies with, at a minimum, all state and local fire codes and hazardous chemical regulations as part of the annual registration renewal.
- Require companies holding a license and current registration for any of the eight classes of flammable materials specified in 527 CMR 14.03 (2) to re-register the facility before increasing any chemical quantity above the registered amount or adding a different regulated chemical at the facility.
- Include a requirement in the approval process to solicit input from affected landowners, similar to the requirement for obtaining the original license and registration.
- Revise the license and registration forms to require listing each hazardous material type and quantity, and require a separate license and permit for each of the eight classes of flammable materials specified in 527 CMR 14.03 (2).
- Require the fire department to annually inspect licensed manufacturing facilities for compliance with the fire code.

Status: O-ARE/AR

**CAI, Inc.**

2007-03-I-MA-8

Develop a written safety program to manage hazardous process operations. The program should:

- Prohibit heating flammable or combustible liquids above their flashpoints in tanks inside buildings unless the tanks are sealed and vented to the building exterior.
- Require safety controls to prevent overheating of flammable or combustible liquids.
- Apply the process safety management program elements as contained in the American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE) Center for Chemical Process Safety (CCPS) Guidelines for Implementing Process Safety Management Systems to all processes that use flammable, toxic, or reactive chemicals.
- Comply with the following, as applicable:

Status: O-ARE/AR

**International Code Council (ICC)**

2007-03-I-MA-11

Revise the International Fire Code: Chapter 20:

- Specifically include "printing inks" in the definition of "organic coating."
- Define equipment specifically discussed in the standard, such as open and closed kettles.
- Require heated tanks and vessels containing flammable and combustible liquids to have equipment to prevent overheating, such as: devices to stop the heating process if the temperature exceeds the safe operating limits; devices to stop the heating process if the flammable vapor control equipment malfunctions (e.g., building ventilation system or heated tank vent); and a heating medium that is unable to heat the tank above safe operating temperatures. Chapters 20, 27, and 34.
- Define "open," "closed," and "sealed and vented" process tanks.
- Define "non-listed" process tanks.
- Prohibit heating flammable and combustible liquids above their flashpoints in tanks inside buildings unless the tanks are sealed and vented to the building exterior.

Status: O-ARE/AR
Attachment № A8
Caron, Maureen

From: Benedetti, Bob
Sent: Tuesday, December 05, 2006 3:02 PM
To: 'D. Oleksiuk'
Cc: Caron, Maureen; Mucci, Patti
Subject: RE: Storage of nitrocellulose

Mr. Oleksiuk:

Regarding your questions related to NFPA 35-2005, *Standard for the Manufacture of Organic Coatings*, I would like to review the relevant requirements of the standard then make sure I understand what you are describing. The relevant text now appears in Section 8.1.2 of the current edition of NFPA 35.

8.1.2.1 sets the requirements that apply to a nitrocellulose storage room that is inside a coatings production building, hence the 2-hour rated partitions and the automatic sprinkler system. 8.1.2.2 sets the requirements that apply to storage OUTSIDE the production building on a pad or in a shed or other outbuilding, including separation distance from the process building. In addition, this required separation is reduced by 50 percent if the pad or storage building is sprinklered. There is no stated reduction in separation for providing a fire-rated wall between the storage and the process building.

My understanding of your proposed design is to utilize a detached building for storage of nitrocellulose, said building to be protected with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 35 and with 2-hour rated walls.

The literal text of NFPA 35 would allow only the 50 percent reduction in spacing (quid pro quo for the automatic sprinklers), because no mention is made of the fire rating of the walls of the detached building.

Having stated this, there is logic to your argument that a further reduction in separation distance makes sense if at least the wall(s) facing the exposed process building are fire rated. I see nothing wrong with your pursuing this with the authority having jurisdiction, in accordance with the Equivalency clause that appears in all NFPA codes and standards. You will find this clause in Chapter 1 of your copy of NFPA 35.

Please give me a call if you have any questions or need further explanation.

Please understand that this answer represents a personal opinion only and does not constitute a Formal Interpretation of the NFPA, as defined in Section 6 of NFPA's Regulations Governing Committee Projects. It, therefore, does not represent the official position of the Association or any of its technical committees. In addition, it does not constitute expert advice or consultation, nor is it to be relied upon to definitively determine compliance with any laws, ordinances, rules, or regulations.

cc 35/IFI
MAC/NM

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benedetti@nfpa.org

From: D. Oleksiuk [mailto:olekeng@mts.net]

12/5/2006
NFPA 35 6-1.2 establishes two storage conditions and defines requirements for those types of storage. Condition #1 - A storage building can be attached to a production area if there is two hours fire separation and an acceptable wet sprinkler system. Condition #2 - A storage building does not require fire suppression or fire separation if it meets the separating distance requirement as set out in Table 6-1.2.1(b). The separating distance can be reduced by one half if the building is equipped with an automatic wet sprinkler system.

My question is whether, if the building is provided with a 2 hour fire separation and a automatic wet sprinkler system whether it can be installed with a separating distance of between zero ft. to half the limiting distance as set out in the table. My rational is that if this configuration is acceptable for an attached configuration then introducing some separating distance would act to reduce the hazard. Each additional meter of separation would reduce the hazard even more. Probable separating distance would be in the order of 3 meters. This would allow a convenient installation of an insulated and heat traced sprinkler line.

Thanks for your attention
Dan Oleksiuk P. Eng.
Membership number 104678
Phone 204-231-2637