NFPA 1126- 2016 Edition
Standard for the Use of Pyrotechnics Before a Proximate Audience
TIA Log No.: 1317
Reference: 3.3.40 and 3.3.41 (new)
Comment Closing Date: October 19, 2017
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1. Revise 3.3.40 to read as follows:

   **3.3.40 Pyrotechnic Device.** Any device containing pyrotechnic material or pyrotechnic effect simulation equipment and capable of producing a special effect as defined in this standard.

2. Add a new definition to read as follows; and renumber subsequent definitions accordingly:

   **3.3.41 Pyrotechnic Effect Simulation Equipment.** Equipment that uses a chemical mixture, heat source, and the introduction of oxygen to initiate or maintain combustion and is used to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration, or detonation.

**Substantiation.** New equipment that produces a column of sparks similar to a gerb are being used in this country and around the world. They are being advertised as producing a “cold spark”, which is not true; the discharge from these units is hot. These devices are similar to devices regulated under NFPA 160, with the exception being instead of producing a flame, these devices produce hot sparks that could cause burns or ignite nearby combustibles if proper precautions are not taken. Besides being marketed to industry professionals, they are being sold to catering halls, bars/nightclubs, disc jockeys and other people who are not familiar with the safety requirements of using such a device. In addition, authorities having jurisdiction are not sure how to classify these machines; some treat them like a proximate pyrotechnic device and require full permitting and having a licensed operator present, while other jurisdictions consider them to be non-pyrotechnic and require no permits, separation or licensed operator to be present. As such, there is inconsistent enforcement of safety requirements with these devices. An additional concern being overlooked is that one of components of the fuel source for the device is titanium; which requires a special class of fire extinguishing agent not typically found in most venues. The proposed TIA would address these issues by classifying these machines as a pyrotechnic device, thus allowing for all of the applicable provisions of 1126 to be enforced when these devices are used and minimizing the risk of an accident or injury.

**Emergency Nature.** The proposed TIA intends to correct a previously unknown existing hazard.

When the current version of 1126 was drafted these devices were not on the market, as such the hazard they currently present was not known to the technical committee at that time. The TIA would provide for the proper use, inspection and operation of these devices ensuring public safety. Waiting to process this during the normal code cycle would allow a hazard to exist and possibly lead to an incident with serious loss of life or property damage.
Anyone may submit a comment by the closing date indicated above. To submit a comment, please identify the number of the TIA and forward to the Secretary, Standards Council, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.