

NFPA Antitrust Policy

The NFPA is a not for profit organization with a mission of promoting the science and improving the methods of fire protection and prevention and electrical safety. The primary way in which the NFPA fulfills this mission is by developing and disseminating safety standards intended to minimize the possibility and effects of fire and other risks.

The standards development process depends on volunteer participation by a diverse range of individuals on behalf of numerous stakeholders including participants representing business and industry. As a result, antitrust concerns can arise in connection with standards development activity.

It is the policy of the NFPA to strictly comply with state and federal antitrust laws, and the NFPA expects all participants in NFPA standards development activities to conduct themselves in strict accordance with these laws. NFPA minimizes the risk of antitrust problems by providing a forum for standards activities that is based on the principles of openness, honesty, fairness and balance and that is conducted in accordance with published rules and regulations. Each participant in the standards development process has the obligation to adhere to all rules, regulations, and policies of the NFPA including, without limitation, the *Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards*. In addition, participants can draw valuable guidance on how to conduct themselves by consulting NFPA's *Guide for Conduct of Participants in the NFPA Standards Development Process*.

While compliance with NFPA's standards developments rules and regulations is essential, it alone is not sufficient to avoid conduct that may violate the antitrust laws. Participants must also 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 NFPA 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 NFPA activities may receive antitrust training or advice from their employers or other organizations or entities they represent. This NFPA antitrust policy, as well as other information or presentations that NFPA 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 NFPA 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 NFPA standards development activities. Participants should bring matters of concern to the attention of NFPA staff. Any participant may also raise questions regarding this policy to the NFPA's General Counsel.

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