

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology****Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award**

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice of closed meeting.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, notice is hereby given that the Judges Panel of the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award will meet Monday, November 17, 2008, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Tuesday, November 18, 2008, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Wednesday, November 19, 2008, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Thursday, November 20, 2008, 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; Friday, November 21, 2008, 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The Judges Panel is composed of twelve members prominent in the fields of quality, innovation, and performance excellence and appointed by the Secretary of Commerce. The purpose of this meeting is to conduct final judging of the 2008 applicants. The review process involves examination of records and discussions of applicant data, and will be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c)(4) of Title 5, United States Code.

DATES: The meeting will convene November 17, 2008 at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 5:30 p.m. on November 21, 2008. The entire meeting will be closed.

ADDRESSES: The meeting will be held at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, Administration Building, Lecture Room E, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Harry Hertz, Director, Baldrige National Quality Program, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899, telephone number (301) 975-2361.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Assistant Secretary for Administration, with the concurrence of the General Counsel, formally determined on March 4, 2008, that the meeting of the Judges Panel will be closed pursuant to Section 10(d) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. app. 2, as amended by Section 5(c) of the Government in the Sunshine Act, Public Law 94-409. The meeting, which involves examination of Award applicant data from U.S. companies and other organizations and a discussion of this data as compared to the Award criteria in order to recommend Award recipients, may be closed to the public in accordance with Section 552b(c)(4) of

Title 5, United States Code, because the meetings are likely to disclose trade secrets and commercial or financial information obtained from a person which is privileged or confidential.

Dated: October 22, 2008.

Patrick Gallagher,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E8-25697 Filed 10-27-08; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510-13-P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE**National Institute of Standards and Technology****National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): Request for Comments on NFPA's Codes and Standards**

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Since 1896, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has accomplished its mission by advocating scientifically based consensus codes and standards, research, and education for safety related issues. NFPA's *National Fire Codes*®, which holds over 270 documents, are administered by more than 225 Technical Committees comprised of approximately 7,000 volunteers and are adopted and used throughout the world. NFPA is a nonprofit membership organization with approximately 80,000 members from over 70 nations, all working together to fulfill the Association's mission.

The NFPA process provides ample opportunity for public participation in the development of its codes and standards. All NFPA codes and standards are revised and updated every three to five years in Revision Cycles that begin twice each year and that take approximately two years to complete. Each Revision Cycle proceeds according to a published schedule that includes final dates for all major events in the process. The process contains five basic steps that are followed both for developing new documents as well as revising existing documents. These steps are: Calling for Proposals; Publishing the Proposals in the Report on Proposals; Calling for Comments on the Committee's disposition of the Proposals and these Comments are published in the Report on Comments; having a Technical Report Session at the NFPA Annual Meeting; and finally, the Standards Council Consideration and Issuance of documents.

Note: Under new rules effective Fall 2005, anyone wishing to make Amending Motions

on the Technical Committee Reports (ROP and ROC) must signal their intention by submitting a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion by the Deadline of October 23, 2009. Certified motions will be posted by November 20, 2009. Documents that receive notice of proper Amending Motions (Certified Amending Motions) will be presented for action at the annual June 2010 Association Technical Meeting. Documents that receive no motions will be forwarded directly to the Standards Council for action on issuance.

For more information on these new rules and for up-to-date information on schedules and deadlines for processing NFPA Documents, check the NFPA Web site at <http://www.nfpa.org> or contact NFPA Codes and Standards Administration.

The purpose of this notice is to request comments on the technical reports that will be published in the NFPA's 2009 Fall Revision Cycle. The publication of this notice by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on behalf of NFPA is being undertaken as a public service; NIST does not necessarily endorse, approve, or recommend any of the standards referenced in the notice.

DATES: Sixty reports are published in the 2009 Fall Revision Cycle Report on Proposals and will be available on December 29, 2008. Comments received on or before March 6, 2009, will be considered by the respective NFPA Committees before final action is taken on the proposals.

ADDRESSES: The 2009 Fall Revision Cycle Report on Proposals is available and downloadable from NFPA's Web site—<http://www.nfpa.org> or by requesting a copy from the NFPA, Fulfillment Center, 11 Tracy Drive, Avon, Massachusetts 02322. Comments on the report should be submitted to Secretary, Standards Council, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02269-7471.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christian Dubay, Secretary, Standards Council, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02269-7471, (617) 770-3000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**Background**

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops building, fire, and electrical safety codes and standards. Federal agencies frequently use these codes and standards as the basis for developing Federal regulations concerning safety. Often, the Office of the Federal Register approves the incorporation by reference of these standards under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51.

Request for Comments

Interested persons may participate in these revisions by submitting written data, views, or arguments to Christian Dubay, Secretary, Standards Council, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02269-7471.

Commenters may use the forms provided for comments in the Reports on Proposals. Each person submitting a

comment should include his or her name and address, identify the notice, and give reasons for any recommendations. Comments received on or before March 6, 2009, for the 2009 Fall Revision Cycle Report on Proposals will be considered by the NFPA before final action is taken on the proposals.

Copies of all written comments received and the disposition of those

comments by the NFPA committees will be published as the 2009 Fall Revision Cycle Report on Comments by August 28, 2009. A copy of the Report on Comments will be sent automatically to each commenter.

2009 Fall Revision Cycle*Report on Proposals**

NFPA 10	Standard for Portable Fire Extinguishers	P
NFPA 11	Standard for Low-, Medium-, and High-Expansion Foam	P
NFPA 13E	Recommended Practice for Fire Department Operations in Properties Protected by Sprinkler and Stand- pipe Systems.	P
NFPA 14	Standard for the Installation of Standpipes and Hose Systems	P
NFPA 18	Standard on Wetting Agents	P
NFPA 37	Standard for the Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines	P
NFPA 45	Standard on Fire Protection for Laboratories Using Chemicals	P
NFPA 53	Recommended Practice on Materials, Equipment, and Systems Used in Oxygen-Enriched Atmospheres ...	P
NFPA 70B	Recommended Practice for Electrical Equipment Maintenance	P
NFPA 91	Standard for Exhaust Systems for Air Conveying of Vapors, Gases, Mists, and Noncombustible Particu- late Solids.	P
NFPA 120	Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Coal Mines	P
NFPA 122	Standard for Fire Prevention and Control in Metal/Nonmetal Mining and Metal Mineral Processing Fa- cilities.	P
NFPA 204	Standard for Smoke and Heat Venting	P
NFPA 211	Standard for Chimneys, Fireplaces, Vents, and Solid Fuel-Burning Appliances	P
NFPA 214	Standard on Water-Cooling Towers	P
NFPA 255	Standard Method of Test of Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials	W
NFPA 276	Standard Method of Fire Tests for Determining the Heat Release Rate of Combustible Buildings Assem- blies or Above Deck Roofing Components.	N
NFPA 326	Standard for the Safeguarding of Tanks and Containers for Entry, Cleaning, or Repair	P
NFPA 329	Recommended Practice for Handling Releases of Flammable and Combustible Liquids and Gases	P
NFPA 405	Standard for the Recurring Proficiency of Airport Fire Fighters	P
NFPA 408	Standard for Aircraft Hand Portable Fire Extinguishers	P
NFPA 409	Standard on Aircraft Hangars	P
NFPA 410	Standard on Aircraft Maintenance	P
NFPA 422	Guide for Aircraft Accident/Incident Response Assessment	P
NFPA 423	Standard for Construction and Protection of Aircraft Engine Test Facilities	P
NFPA 495	Explosive Materials Code	P
NFPA 498	Standard for Safe Havens and Interchange Lots for Vehicles Transporting Explosives	R
NFPA 505	Fire Safety Standard for Powered Industrial Trucks Including Type Designations, Areas of Use, Conver- sions, Maintenance, and Operations.	P
NFPA 520	Standard on Subterranean Spaces	P
NFPA 551	Guide for the Evaluation of Fire Risk Assessments	P
NFPA 600	Standard on Industrial Fire Brigades	R
NFPA 601	Standard for Security Services in Fire Loss Prevention	R
NFPA 701	Standard Methods of Fire Tests for Flame Propagation of Textiles and Films	P
NFPA 750	Standard on Water Mist Fire Protection Systems	P
NFPA 804	Standard for Fire Protection for Advanced Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants	P
NFPA 805	Performance-Based Standard for Fire Protection for Light Water Reactor Electric Generating Plants	P
NFPA 806	Performance Based Standard for Fire Protection for Advanced Nuclear Reactor Electric Generating Plants	N
NFPA 850	Recommended Practice for Fire Protection for Electric Generating Plants and High Voltage Direct Current Converter Stations.	P
NFPA 851	Recommended Practice for Fire Protection for Hydroelectric Generating Plants	P
NFPA 853	Standard for the Installation of Stationary Fuel Cell Power Systems	P
NFPA 900	Building Energy Code	P
NFPA 914	Code for Fire Protection of Historic Structures	C
NFPA 1003	Standard for Airport Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications	P
NFPA 1035	Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Fire and Life Safety Educator	P
NFPA 1150	Standard on Foam Chemicals for Fires in Class A Fuels	P
NFPA 1201	Standard for Providing Emergency Services to the Public	C
NFPA 1250	Recommended Practice in Emergency Service Organization Risk Management	P
NFPA 1407	Standard for Fire Service Rapid Intervention Crews	N
NFPA 1410	Standard on Training for Initial Emergency Scene Operations	P
NFPA 1452	Guide for Training Fire Service Personnel to Conduct Dwelling Fire Safety Surveys	P
NFPA 1581	Standard on Fire Department Infection Control Program	P
NFPA 1600	Standard on Disaster/Emergency Management and Business Continuity Programs	C
NFPA 1620	Recommended Practice for Pre-Incident Planning	C
NFPA 1801	Standard on Thermal Imagers for the Fire Service	N
NFPA 1931	Standard for Manufacturer's Design of Fire Department Ground Ladders	P
NFPA 1932	Standard on Use, Maintenance, and Service Testing of In-Service Fire Department Ground Ladders	P
NFPA 1936	Standard on Powered Rescue Tools	P
NFPA 1952	Standard on Surface Water Operations Protective Clothing and Equipment	N

NFPA 1977	Standard on Protective Clothing and Equipment for Wildland Fire Fighting	C
NFPA 2010	Standard for Fixed Aerosol Fire-Extinguishing Systems	P

* P = Partial revision; W = Withdrawal; R = Reconfirmation; N = New; C = Complete Revision.

Dated: October 22, 2008.

Patrick Gallagher,

Deputy Director.

[FR Doc. E8-25695 Filed 10-27-08; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): Proposes To Revise Codes and Standards

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) proposes to revise some of its safety codes and standards and requests proposals from the public to amend existing or begin the process of developing new NFPA safety codes and standards. The purpose of this request is to increase public participation in the system used by NFPA to develop its codes and standards. The publication of this notice of request for proposals by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on behalf of NFPA is being undertaken as a public service; NIST does not necessarily endorse, approve, or recommend any of the standards referenced in the notice.

The NFPA process provides ample opportunity for public participation in the development of its codes and standards. All NFPA codes and standards are revised and updated every three to five years in Revision Cycles that begin twice each year and that takes approximately two years to complete. Each Revision Cycle proceeds according to a published schedule that includes final dates for all major events in the process. The process contains five basic steps that are followed both for developing new documents as well as revising existing documents. These steps are: Calling for Proposals; Publishing the Proposals in the Report on Proposals; Calling for Comments on the Committee's disposition of the proposals and these Comments are published in the Report on Comments; having a Technical Report Session at the NFPA Annual Meeting; and finally, the Standards Council Consideration and Issuance of documents.

Note: Under new rules effective Fall 2005, anyone wishing to make Amending Motions on the Technical Committee Reports (ROP and ROC) must signal their intention by submitting a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion by the Deadline stated in the ROC. Certified motions will then be posted on the NFPA Web site. Documents that receive notice of proper Amending Motions (Certified Amending Motions) will be presented for action at the annual June Association Technical Meeting. Documents that receive no motions will be forwarded directly to the Standards Council for action on issuance.

For more information on these new rules and for up-to-date information on schedules and deadlines for processing NFPA Documents, check the NFPA Web site at <http://www.nfpa.org> or contact NFPA Codes and Standards Administration.

DATES: Interested persons may submit proposals on or before the dates listed with the standards.

ADDRESSES: Christian Dubay, Secretary, Standards Council, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02269-7471.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Christian Dubay, Secretary, Standards Council, at above address, (617) 770-3000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops building, fire, and electrical safety codes and standards. Federal agencies frequently use these codes and standards as the basis for developing Federal regulations concerning safety. Often, the Office of the Federal Register approves the incorporation by reference of these standards under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR Part 51.

When a Technical Committee begins the development of a new or revised NFPA code or standard, it enters one of two Revision Cycles available each year. The Revision Cycle begins with the Call for Proposals, that is, a public notice asking for any interested persons to submit specific written proposals for developing or revising the Document. The Call for Proposals is published in a variety of publications. Interested parties have approximately twenty weeks to respond to the Call for Proposals.

Following the Call for Proposals period, the Technical Committee holds a meeting to consider and accept, reject

or revise, in whole or in part, all the submitted Proposals. The committee may also develop its own Proposals. A document known as the Report on Proposals, or ROP, is prepared containing all the Public Proposals, the Technical Committee's action and each Proposal, as well as all Committee-generated Proposals. The ROP is then submitted for the approval of the Technical Committee by a formal written ballot. If the ROP does not receive approval by a two-thirds vote calculated in accordance with NFPA rules, the Report is returned to the committee for further consideration and is not published. If the necessary approval is received, the ROP is published in a compilation of Reports on Proposals issued by NFPA twice yearly for public review and comment, and the process continues to the next step.

The Reports on Proposals are sent automatically free of charge to all who submitted proposals and each respective committee member, as well as anyone else who requests a copy. All ROPs are also available for free downloading at <http://www.nfpa.org>.

Once the ROP becomes available, there is a 60-day comment period during which anyone may submit a Public Comment on the proposed changes in the ROP. The committee then reconvenes at the end of the comment period and acts on all Comments.

As before, a two-thirds approval vote by written ballot of the eligible members of the committee is required for approval of actions on the Comments. All of this information is compiled into a second Report, called the Report on Comments (ROC), which, like the ROP, is published and made available for public review for a seven-week period.

The process of public input and review does not end with the publication of the ROP and ROC. Following the completion of the Proposal and Comment periods, there is yet a further opportunity for debate and discussion through the Technical Report Sessions that take place at the NFPA Annual Meeting.

The Technical Report Session provides an opportunity for the final Technical Committee Report (i.e., the ROP and ROC) on each proposed new or revised code or standard to be presented to the NFPA membership for the debate and consideration of motions to amend the Report. Before making an