

SprinklerScene

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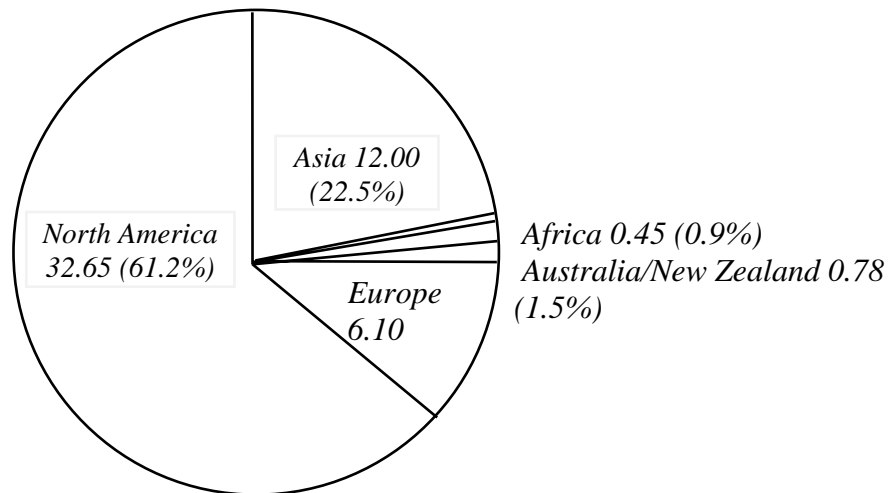
Russell P. Fleming, P.E., Editor

World Sprinkler Market Soars Past 50 Million in 1996

The 1991-1993 slump in the world sprinkler market is definitely over, with estimated sprinkler use in 1996 breaking the 50 million mark for the first time ever.

Based on the estimates of invited participants from 14 countries, the survey results are reported for 25 geographical areas. Although the North American market remains the largest, Asia and Central/South America accounted for the largest percentage increases in estimated sprinkler installations.

The total number of sprinklers installed in China remains somewhat of a mystery. With a considerable range in estimates, the opinions weighted toward the high side resulted in a doubling of the 1994 estimate to 3 million sprinklers in 1996. It could be as high as 5 million sprinklers, with reportedly dozens of small manufacturers participating in the market.



Estimated 1996 World Market - 53.33 Million Sprinklers Installed

The survey results are reported for the 25 geographical areas in the table on page 2. It should be emphasized that in many cases these represent only rough estimates, since no reliable data is available. Individuals with accurate information on sprinkler usage in any part of the world are invited to contact the editor.



Estimated Number of Installed Sprinklers (in millions)

<i>Market Area</i>	<i>1994 Estimate Total for Continent</i>	<i>1996 Estimate</i>	<i>1996</i>
1. Canada	2.10	1.70	
2. Mexico	0.45	0.55	
3. United States 32.65 (up 13%)	26.30	30.30	
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4. Central America (inc. Caribbean)	0.20	0.40	
5. South America 1.35 (up 29%)	0.85	0.95	
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6. United Kingdom	1.00	1.05	
7. Germany	1.30	1.30	
8. France	0.70	0.75	
9. Nordic Countries (Norway, Sweden Denmark, Finland & Iceland)	0.70	0.65	
10. Italy	0.20	0.35	
11. Low Countries (Belgium, Netherlands and Luxembourg)	0.20	0.45	
12. Austria and Switzerland	0.20	0.25	
13. Spain and Portugal	0.20	0.25	
14. CIS (former Soviet Union)	0.50	0.55	
15. Other European 6.10 (up 12%)	0.45	0.50	
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16. China	1.50	3.00	
17. Japan	2.84	3.20	
18. Hong Kong	0.70	0.80	
19. Korea	1.60	1.95	
20. Singapore and Malaysia	0.60	0.80	
21. Taiwan	1.00	0.95	
22. Other (Asian, Middle East and Pacific) 12.00 (up 26%)	1.30	1.30	
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23. Africa (inc. Egypt) 0.45 (up 12%)	0.40	0.45	
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24. Australia	0.52	0.63	
25. New Zealand 0.78 (up 26%)	0.10	0.15	
		Total = 53.33	(up 16%)

NFSA Seeks Input on European Initiative for Domestic Sprinklers

The National Fire Sprinkler Association is attempting to determine if there is interest among members of the European sprinkler community to support a broad initiative to promote domestic (residential) sprinklers. As proposed, the concept involves promoting domestic sprinklers as the means to increase sprinkler awareness in general. It is believed that public recognition of the benefits of fire sprinklers in the home will lead to a demand for fire sprinklers in all types of commercial and public buildings.

The initiative would involve a special budget of approximately \$US 300,000. This money would be used to hire an individual, probably based in London, to coordinate all European promotional efforts, and to outfit a series of sprinkler burn trailers. The burn trailers would be available to local fire brigades and other groups to demonstrate the effectiveness of domestic sprinkler systems. The initiative would need to be funded by companies and individuals from within the European community on a break-even basis.

Companies and individuals interested in possible support of the European domestic sprinkler initiative should contact John Viniello, President, National Fire Sprinkler Association, USA, FAX 1-914-878-4215.

ISO Upgrades Sprinkler Activity to Subcommittee Level

Delegates from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Germany, Japan, Italy, Korea, Russia, the United Kingdom and the United States convened at the 13th meeting of the International Standards Organization Technical Committee 21 on Fire-Fighting Equipment (ISO/TC21) in Los Angeles, California on May 16, 1997, just prior to the Annual Meeting of the National Fire Protection Association. One of the actions taken at this plenary session was to re-designate the former working group on sprinkler and water spray equipment to the status of subcommittee. This was done by removing the other working groups of ISO/TC21/SC5, leaving only what was formerly WG1. The new ISO/TC21/SC5 will continue to be chaired by Michael Schnell of the German DIN. The United States assumed the secretariat responsibilities from DIN at the beginning of 1997. Although the official secretariat will be the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) will handle the responsibilities.

Among the other actions taken by TC21 at the Los Angeles meeting was an expression of concern for the perceived increase in scope of activities of ISO TC92. Originally established to address "Fire tests for building materials, components and structures", the title of TC92 was changed in 1995 to "Fire safety." TC21 is concerned that fire safety aspects of suppression and detection systems will not be adequately addressed in the activities of TC92, which is proposing to address developments in fire safety engineering such as building regulatory equivalencies. TC21 is proposing that a ISO committee superior to both technical committees maintain control over basic definitions and activities related to fire safety engineering.

World Sprinkler News

- ◆ The former working group now operating as ISO/TC21/SC5 held its 24th meeting at the British Standards Institute (BSI) headquarters in London, England June 11-13, 1997. Representatives of four countries were in attendance: Germany, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States. Progress was substantial, with three documents approved for submittal to international balloting as Draft International Standards: preaction valves, domestic sprinklers, and water mist nozzles. A fourth document on hangers was readied as a working draft for submittal to all members of ISO TC21/SC5 for initial balloting and comments.
- ◆ Plans are proceeding for the 3rd International Fire Sprinkler Conference, scheduled for July 2-3, 1998 in Glasgow, Scotland. Sponsored by the British Automatic Sprinkler Association (BASA), the Canadian Automatic Sprinkler Association (CASA) and the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), the two-day program will focus on the worldwide development of new sprinkler markets and the role of new sprinkler technology. Previous international sprinkler seminars were held in Edinburgh, Scotland in 1990 and in Kauai, Hawaii in 1994.
- ◆ The International '97 FIREX Exhibition and Conference in Birmingham, England May 12-15 included a dramatic new feature: live residential sprinkler trailer burns within the exhibition hall. Sponsored by Wormald, the trailer was the site of approximately four residential sprinkler demonstration fires each day, with between 100 and 150 people observing each event. Ken Isman and Mark Riffey of the NFSA staff, along with Milosh Puchovsky of the National Fire Protection Association, conducted two days of technical seminars in conjunction with the FIREX exhibition on the subjects of fire pumps and new sprinkler technology.
- ◆ Representatives of 37 countries were in attendance at the National Fire Protection Association's 1997 Annual Meeting and Exhibition in Los Angeles, California. The conference included the first meeting of the new NFPA Latin American section. Two special sessions were devoted to the new section, and featured simultaneous translation in English and Spanish.
- ◆ The British Automatic Sprinkler Association (BASA) is publicizing the need for sprinkler protection of schools. In an article in the May 1977 edition of *Fire Prevention* magazine, BASA secretary general Ian Brown points out that fires in schools account for more than one-fifth of the total fire losses due to arson in the United Kingdom. He notes that while local authorities in Oldham and Manchester now have a policy of putting sprinklers in all new educational establishments, school installations are rare in other parts of the country.
- ◆ Ove Arup and Associates has received the Association of Building Engineers' 1997 Fire Safety Award for its "integrated active fire protection design" for the huge air cargo handling facility at the new Hong Kong airport. The system reportedly utilizes the circular hollow sections of the canopy roof truss as pipes serving sprinklers fitted directly into the truss members.

- ◆ The British Loss Prevention Council (LPC) is undertaking a study into the economic cost of fire in the United Kingdom. The study may also address conflicts between the life safety provisions of the Building Regulations and the guidance for property protection for industrial and commercial buildings offered in documents like the LPC's new Design Guide. Particular concern has been expressed over retail warehouse occupancies, which contain heavy fire loads but are commonly considered "shops" and therefore have little or no built-in fire protection.
- ◆ Coleridge Cottage at Nether Stowey, Somerset, has become the first property in the care of the British National Trust to be protected with an automatic sprinkler system. Fifty quick response sprinklers on a wet pipe LPC-approved CPVC piping system provide coverage for the 350-year old cottage, which is located 15 miles from the nearest fire station. The water supply consists of a 1400 L (370 gal.) tank and pump, and the design is based on 2-sprinkler operation. Activation of any sprinkler automatically notifies the fire brigade. The cottage was the site at which Taylor Coleridge wrote *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* and other poems between 1797 and 1800.
- ◆ The mayor of Pattaya, Thailand has been quoted as attributing the deaths of 78 people in a high-rise hotel fire to a lack of sprinklers. The worst disaster in the history of the seaside resort town southeast of Bangkok, the fire broke out in a ground floor coffee shop of the 16-story 450-room Royal Jomtien Hotel around 8:30 am on July 11, 1997.
- ◆ Tyco International Ltd., the parent company of Grinnell and Wormald, has merged with ADT Limited, effective July 2, 1997. Tyco is the world's largest manufacturer and provider of fire protection systems and services, and ADT is the largest provider of electronic security services in North America and the UK. Under the terms of the merger, ADT, which is a Bermuda corporation, officially acquired Tyco. However, three members of ADT's former board were joined by eight members of Tyco's board, the new company changed its name to Tyco International, Ltd., and the new company will be managed by the "old" Tyco management team.
- ◆ Rather than provide complete fire sprinkler protection throughout the Channel Tunnel connecting England and France, Eurotunnel authorities are reportedly planning to construct six "fire suppression stations" equipped with water spray systems spaced at intervals along the length of each tube of the tunnel. The concept appears to be aimed at allowing the driver of a train on fire to proceed to the next suppression station in the manner of pulling into a car wash. The stations are planned to be operational before the end of 1999, and are one of a series of changes recommended as the result of Eurotunnel's own investigation in the November 18, 1996 fire. With one of the open-top freight cars on fire, the train driver attempted to follow directions and proceed through the tunnel, but was forced to stop by one of the cross-passage doors when problems arose with train stabilizers. Attempts to separate the locomotive and passenger cars from the freight portion of the train were unsuccessful when the train lost power, presumably due to failure of an overhead line. With the train stopped, smoke from the fire enveloped the passenger car during the 25 minutes it took to configure the supplementary ventilation system. The Fire Brigades Union, which has carried out its own investigation into the fire, has stated that the Eurotunnel proposals are not sufficient to ensure passenger safety.

Upcoming Meetings, Seminars and Exhibitions of Interest

September 11-13, 1997 - NFSA Annual Seminar and Exhibition, Baltimore, Maryland, USA,
FAX 1-914-878-4215

November 16-19, 1997 - National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fall Meeting, Kansas City,
MO, USA, FAX 1-617-770-3000

November 26-28, 1997 - Fire Australia '97 and 5th Asia-Pacific Trade Fair, FPA Australia,
Fremantle, Western Australia, (03) 9882-2800

December 3-6, 1997 - Security Brazil '97, ITE Security & Fire Safety Division, Rio De Janeiro,
FAX + 44 171 286 0177

May 18-21, 1998, NFPA Annual Meeting and Exhibition, Cincinnati, Ohio, USA FAX 1-617-
770-3000

May 27-29, 1998, 25th Meeting of Subcommittee on Sprinkler and Water Spray Equipment (ISO
TC21/SC5), Quincy, Massachusetts, USA, FAX 716-770-3000

July 2-3, 1998 - 3rd International Fire Sprinkler Conference, Glasgow, Scotland, UK, FAX
1-914-878-4215