

International
SprinklerScene

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IFSA Clarifies Membership Categories

In conjunction with its year-end meeting, held in London on December 6, 2000, the IFSA Board of Directors has revised the dues schedule for IFSA members. A distinction has been made in categories of manufacturers between those that manufacture sprinkler, spray or mist nozzles for the fire protection industry and those that manufacture related support equipment. A member in any category can become a Governing Member by making the designated contribution to the IFSA in support of programs to promote the use of automatic water-based fire suppression systems. The categories are as follows:

Governing Member - A company of any type that desires to promote the use of automatic water-based fire suppression systems and to designate an individual to serve as a member of the Board of Directors. Annual dues - US\$25,000.00

Sprinkler Manufacturer - A company that manufactures fire sprinkler, water spray, or water mist nozzles. Annual dues - US\$5,000.00

Component Manufacturer - A company that does not qualify as a sprinkler manufacturer member but that manufactures equipment for use in fire sprinkler, water spray, or water mist systems. Annual dues - US\$2,500.00

Distributor - A firm or corporation that does not qualify as a sprinkler manufacturer or component manufacturer member but is involved in the business of distributing automatic water-based fire protection systems or their components. Annual dues - US\$1,000.00

Contractor - A firm or corporation that does not qualify as a manufacturer or distributor member, but is involved in the business of installing or maintaining automatic water-based fire protection systems. Annual dues - US\$1,000.00

Professional - A firm or corporation that does not qualify as a manufacturer, distributor, or contractor member, but that provides design services or specifications for automatic water-based fire protection systems. Annual dues - US \$250.00

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Individual – A person, such as a representative of the fire service, who supports the goals and programs of the association but does not qualify for the above categories. Annual dues - US\$150.00

Association – An allied membership organization. Annual dues - US \$3,000.00 plus US\$100.00 per addition to the roster.

NFPA Reports on Global Activities

The NFPA has issued a report on its global operations for the year 2000. Its 74,440 members include more than 5500 based outside the United States. Canada accounts for 2600 of these, but 105 other nations are also represented, with more than 100 members each in Argentina, England, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, and Saudi Arabia. NFPA now publishes a number of codes and standards in Spanish, including NFPA 10, 13, 30, 54, 58, and 70, and Spanish editions of NFPA 20, 72 and 101 are in progress. Efforts are also underway for Portuguese translations. Aside from its use in the United States and Canada, NFPA 13 is reported as legally adopted in Brazil, Panama, and Israel, and additionally in use in Peru, Malaysia, Singapore, United Arab Emirates, Kuwait, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. NFPA field representatives include the following:

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World Sprinkler News

Latin America a Metric Incentive to U.S. - The U.S. Construction Metrication Council, promoting the use of the metric system, recently pointed out that use of the metric system in Latin America should be an incentive for U.S construction companies to familiarize themselves with the international systems of measurement. By the year 2020, the population of the United States is expected to add 25 percent to its 1990 population and Europe is expected to add about 2 percent to its 1990 population, but Latin America is expected to add about 50 percent.

Nigerian Fire Claims 23 - A fire in Abuja, Nigeria, a fire on March 8, 2001, claimed the lives of 23 students trapped behind chained doors in a 165 bed residence hall. The IFSA pointed out that this fire was a reminder of the need for fire safety education as well as the installation of automatic fire sprinkler systems to protect lives and property.

Residential Sprinkler Plan in Scotland - The Chief and Assistant Chief Fire Officers’ Association has proposed a strategy for promoting the use of residential sprinklers in Scotland through its Scottish Network Fire Safety Committee. The strategy includes proposing residential sprinklers as the main theme in the Scottish Focus on Fire for Fire Safety Week 2001 in October.

Marriott Chooses Mist for London Hotel - The Marriott hotel corporation has made the decision to protect the Hanbury Manor Hotel and Country Club, 40 km north of London, with a high-pressure water

mist system developed by Fogtec Fire Protection. The 5-story hotel of historical significance will be retrofit with small diameter stainless steel pipework and sidewall nozzles.

BASA and RSA Reach Agreement - At a meeting on March 9, 2001, officers of the British Automatic Sprinkler Association and the Residential Sprinkler Association agreed that it is in the best interest of the UK fire sprinkler industry that they work more closely together. They identified a number of areas for active collaboration, with two topics requiring urgent attention: quality assurance and relations with the water supply industry. The two organizations also agreed to cooperate in the wider promotion of the fire sprinkler industry and issued a joint statement confirming their agreement.

NFPA Documents in Chinese - The NFPA has entered into an agreement with the China Fire Protection Association (CFPA) that allows for translation of three key NFPA documents into Chinese, including the NFPA 101 Life Safety Code®.

New Antifreeze Solution in Sweden - SP, the Swedish National Testing and Research Institute, has announced a new antifreeze additive for sprinkler systems suitable for temperatures as low as -30°C (-22°F). Developed by Aspen Petroleum AB of Hindås, Sweden, the “Temper-S” additive consists of a patented mixture of organic salts and corrosion inhibitor. Tests at SP show that the additive does not provide any additional fuel energy to the fire, and in fact demonstrated extinguishing performance superior to that of plain water. The mixture is also reported to present low health and environmental hazards. For more information contact Magnus Arvidson at SP (+46 33 16 56 90) e-mail magnus.arvidson@sp.se

British Revise Performance Standard - British Draft Standard *BS DD 240: Fire safety engineering in buildings*, published in 1997 by the British Standards Institution but little used, is being reviewed and is scheduled to be replaced by a new standard BS 7974 for fire safety engineering by the end of 2001. The new standard is intended to be a full code of practice that will serve as a framework for a series of Published Documents containing practical guidance:

- PD 0 – *Guide to design framework and fire safety engineering principles*
- PD 1 – *Initiation and development of fire within the enclosure of origin*
- PD 2 – *Spread of smoke and toxic gases within and beyond the enclosure of origin*
- PD 3 – *Structural response and fire spread beyond the enclosure of origin*
- PD 4 – *Detection of fire and activation of fire protection systems*
- PD 5 – *Fire service intervention*
- PD 6 – *Evacuation*
- PD 7 – *Risk assessment*

Australians Warn of Fire Exposures - The Australian CSIRO Fire Science and Technology Laboratory has warned that new synthetic building materials being used for exterior facades pose a significant fire risk. As part of their analysis of alternatives to fire-resistant walls, including openings in such walls, they are currently testing combinations of mesh screens or shutters, glazed windows and drencher systems.

Eleven Die in Dutch Club Fire - Eleven young people died in a New Year’s Eve party at the Het Hemeltje (Small Heaven) café in Volendam, Holland. Sparks from a sparkler or firecracker are believed to have ignited overhead Christmas decorations. The fast-spreading fire, in combination with the loss of lighting and a locked exit door, led to the deaths. There were no sprinklers.

Designed to Burn - A conference was sponsored by the Institution of Fire Engineers in the United Kingdom on March 6, 2001, with the provocative title “Designed to Burn: An Acceptable Alternative?”, exploring the question of whether expensive fire protection measures can be avoided by simply designing buildings to burn to the ground. Some presenters were of the opinion that current codes essentially permit this concept. It was noted that the performance-based criteria of Approved Document B to the British Building Regulations require structural stability for a reasonable period of time during a fire, but do not define what is reasonable. It was agreed that there are substantial public policy issues surrounding the

concept of “sacrificial buildings”, including issues of fire brigade obligations to fight fires in such buildings.

UK Group Packages Sprinkler Water Supply - Project Fire Engineers of the UK has developed a packaged system for situations in which the pressure available to sprinkler systems from public water mains has decreased. Marketed as “Pressurecheck”, the package has been developed to comply with rule 17.4.4 of BS5306 Part 2: 1990 and is approved by the British Water Research Council. The package has a footprint of 7 m², allowing it to be used where there is insufficient space for a suction pump and storage tank.

More Hotel Chains Choose Sprinklers - Fire protection consulting firm Rolf Jensen & Associates reports that the trend toward sprinkler protection and smoke detection in hotel occupancies is growing. In addition to U.S.-based hotel chains like Marriott, Hilton, Four Seasons and Starwood (Sheraton, Westin and Ritz-Carlton), chains like Melia from Spain and Accord from France are installing sprinklers in their newest business-traveler grade hotels. Despite a 1994 study by the Confederation of Fire Protection Associations that showed, based on UK-based research, that the probability of death in a hotel is three times higher than in the home, there is no European regulatory consensus regarding sprinkler protection. Italy requires sprinklers in hotels with more than 1,000 guests and The Netherlands requires sprinklers as the alternative to compartmentation in multi-story hotels. CFPA Europe recommends sprinkler protection for all hotels more than two stories in height.

Australia Updates Practice Guide - The Fire Protection Association Australia has updated its *Code of Practice for the Fire Protection Industry*. Copies of the revised code can be obtained at www.fpa.com.au/compliance.htm.

Upcoming Meetings, Seminars, and Exhibitions of Interest

April 4-6, 2001 – International Water Mist Conference, Vienna, Austria, International Water Mist Association (Fax +49-39-202-85-250 or www.iwma.net)

April 19-21, 2001 – NFSA Annual Seminar & Exhibition, San Francisco, California, USA (Fax +1-845-878-4215 or www.nfsa.org)

May 14-16, 2001 – World Fire Safety Congress & Expo, Anaheim, California, USA, NFPA (www.nfpa.org)

May 21-24, 2001 – Fire Expo 2001, Birmingham, England, UK (Fax +44-(0)870-429-4327 or www.fire-expo.co.uk)

July 24-26, 2001 – Americas’ Fire Expo, Miami, Florida, USA, NFPA (www.nfpa.org)