

# SprinklerScene

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## Outstanding Lisbon Conference Sets New Attendance Records

The International Fire Sprinkler Association's 6<sup>th</sup> International Fire Sprinkler Conference and Exhibition, held 28-29 March 2006 in Lisbon, Portugal, was an outstanding success by all measures. This included attendance, which set a new record with 284 delegates from 28 countries, making it the largest and most diverse international conference to date. By comparison, the 2004 conference in Berlin attracted 221 registrants from 25 countries.

The theme for the conference was "New Developments in Fire Sprinkler Applications", which provided an opportunity to showcase the advances made in a number of different areas, including high-rise buildings, hotels, tunnels, and cold storage warehouses. New legislative developments and research results were featured prominently.

One of the most well-received sessions contained consecutive presentations by Dr. John Hall of the National Fire Protection Association and Dr. Mario Fontana of the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology. Dr. Hall discussed the most recent sprinkler performance data from the U.S. NFIRS (National Fire Incident Reporting System) program while Dr. Fontana provided a framework by which that data could be used in a risk assessment of overall building safety with and without sprinklers. Among other featured presentations, Sonny Scarff of the Marriott Corporation talked about his company's commitment to fire sprinklers, and Jing Jiansheng, Director of the Tianjin Fire Research Institute, shared information on the growing interest in sprinkler technology and performance in China.

The venue was spectacular, with the speaker sessions at the Le Meridien Park Atlantic Hotel and the exhibition at the Estufa Fria arboretum. The reception held in conjunction with the exhibition featured the live broadcast of a European championship soccer game between teams from Lisbon and Barcelona. A highlight of the conference was the presentation of the Harry W. Marryatt award for international advancement of the fire sprinkler concept to Eduard Job, founder of JOB GmbH of Germany, a recognized leader in glass bulb technology, and a founding member of the IFSA.

Based on the success of the Lisbon conference, many are already making plans for the 2008 IFSA conference and exhibition, tentatively scheduled for 24-25 June in Copenhagen, Denmark.



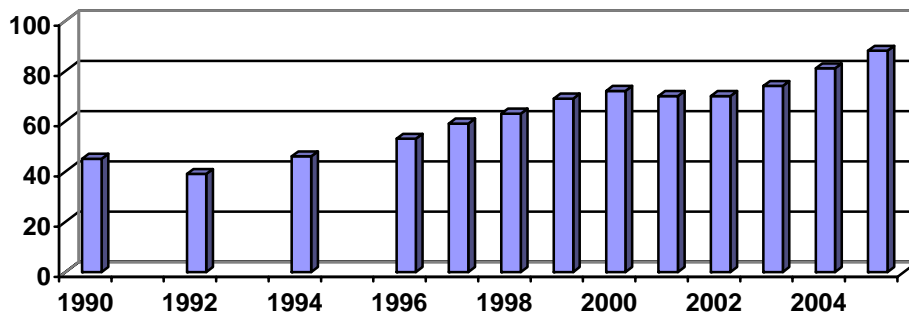
## Worldwide Sprinkler Market Continues to Expand

The IFSA survey for the years 2004 and 2005 indicates that the world appetite for fire sprinkler protection continues to grow. Although the North American fire sprinkler market continues to account for half the total, the percentage has been slipping slightly as the Asian and European markets grow faster. China continues to be the country perceived to be enjoying the greatest expansion in the use of fire sprinklers, with a 2005 estimate of 15 million sprinklers installed compared to a small fraction of that a decade ago.

The estimated world market is now twice the size it was during the economic downturn of 1992, which was slightly below the totals at the time of the first IFSA survey in 1990. At that time the North American market accounted for 62 percent of the total.

The survey was conducted by asking knowledgeable individuals to provide their best estimate of sprinkler usage around the world, weighting the opinions based on the confidence level of the submitter.

**Estimated Millions of Sprinklers Installed Worldwide**



The survey results are reported on the following page for 25 geographical areas. The total estimated sprinkler usage by continent is shown below, with the totals compared to the estimates from 2003 (all numbers in millions):

	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate
North America	40.1 (54%)	41.9 (51%)	44.2 (50%)
Asia and Pacific	19.7 (27%)	23.8 (29%)	26.7 (30%)
Europe and Mideast	11.4 (15%)	12.8 (16%)	14.0 (16%)
Central and South America	0.9 (1%)	0.9 (1%)	0.9 (1%)
Australia/NZ	1.5 (2%)	1.5 (2%)	1.6 (2%)
Africa	0.5 (1%)	0.6 (1%)	0.7 (1%)
	<hr/> 74.1	<hr/> 81.5	<hr/> 88.1

Geographic Area	2003 Estimate	2004 Estimate	2005 Estimate	2005 Totals by continent
1. Canada	3.0	3.3	3.4	
2. Mexico	0.4	0.4	0.5	
3. United States	36.7	38.2	40.3	44.2
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4. Central America (inc. Carib.)	0.3	0.3	0.3	
5. South America	0.6	0.6	0.6	0.9
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6. United Kingdom and Ireland	1.7	1.9	2.0	
7. Germany	2.0	2.1	2.2	
8. France	1.3	1.3	1.4	
9. Scandinavian Countries (Nor., Swe., Den., Fin. and Ice.)	1.0	1.0	1.1	
10. Italy	0.5	0.6	0.7	
11. Low Countries (Belg., Neth., and Lux.)	0.9	1.0	1.1	
12. Austria and Switzerland	0.5	0.6	0.6	
13. Spain and Portugal	0.8	1.0	1.1	
14. Russia, Belarus and Ukraine	0.6	0.8	1.0	
15. Israel	0.6	0.8	0.9	
16. Other European / Mid-East	1.5	1.7	1.9	14.0
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17. China (inc. Hong Kong)	11.5	13.0	15.0	
18. Japan	2.5	2.8	3.0	
19. Korea	2.2	4.4	4.8	
20. Singapore and Malaysia	1.2	1.3	1.3	
21. Taiwan	1.0	0.8	0.8	
22. Other Asian and Pacific	1.3	1.5	1.8	26.7
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23. Africa (inc. Egypt)	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.7
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24. Australia	1.2	1.2	1.2	
25. New Zealand	0.3	0.3	0.4	1.6
2005 World Total (millions)				88.1

### **Globe Fire Sprinkler Joins IFSA as Governing Member**

In conjunction with the 8<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the IFSA, Globe Fire Sprinkler of the United States joined as a Governing Member, bringing the total number of Governing Members to twelve. Globe joins Anvil International, Globe Sprinkler Europa S.A., Job GmbH, Marrioff Corporation Oy, Minimax GmbH, Noveon, Inc., Potter Electric Signal, the Reliable Automatic Sprinkler Company, Tyco Fire and Building Products, Tyco Fire and Security, and the Viking Corporation as a primary supporter of IFSA programs.

## World Sprinkler News

**Applicability of Australian Maintenance Standard Questioned** – An article in the Autumn 2006 issue of *Fire Australia* raises the question of the degree to which building owners and occupiers must comply with the new 2005 edition of AS 1851 – *Maintenance of Fire Protection Systems and Equipment*, considering the fact that it does not appear in the Building Code of Australia or state legislation at the present time. The author, solicitor Jonathan Miller, suggests that the standard of care may change as soon as a new standard has been published.

**British House of Commons Again Debates Sprinklers** – As reported in the March 2006 issue of *Fire Safety Engineering*, MP Celia Barlow of Hove in Sussex raised the issue of the threshold at which sprinklers are mandated in high-rise buildings, noting that the current level of 11 stories is too high. MP Jim Fitzpatrick, the minister responsible for fire services, responded by noting that the Government hoped to set up a small pilot study for lower cost residential sprinklers in 2006/2007. Addressing proposals for sprinklers in schools as well, Fitzpatrick stated: “We believe that sprinklers have a major contribution to make in preventing fire deaths and injuries, but there is clearly more work to do before we can be certain about the best way forward for their use in different places and circumstances.”

**British Fire Officers Endorse School Sprinklers with New Publication** – The Chief Fire Officer’s Association in the United Kingdom has published *Guidance on the Provision of Sprinklers in Schools*, noting that schools are at a greater risk than any other building and are more likely to suffer a major financial loss due to fire. In his foreword, CFOA President Tom Carroll states “In terms of true costs, because of the freedoms that can be considered, I believe we can build and operate schools more cost effectively with sprinklers than without.”

**U.S. Fire Administration Funds “Fire Team USA” to Promote Residential Sprinklers** – The National Fire Sprinkler Association will partner with the Tennessee Fire Safety Inspectors Association and other groups in a federally-funded effort to expand the “Fire Team Tennessee” program into ten other states in 2006, conducting workshops for local officials aimed at encouraging the adoption of residential sprinkler ordinances.

## Upcoming Meetings, Seminars, and Exhibitions of Interest

26-29 October 2006 – China Fire 2006 – Beijing, China ([www.eng.china-fire.com](http://www.eng.china-fire.com))

1-3 November 2006 – Fire Australia 2006 Conference and Exhibition, Fire Protection Association Australia, Melbourne, Australia ([events@fpaa.com.au](mailto:events@fpaa.com.au))

3-4 May 2007 – NFSA Annual Seminar, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA ([www.nfsa.org](http://www.nfsa.org))

3-7 June 2007 – NFPA World Fire Safety Congress, Boston, MA, USA ([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org))

For additional information, visit the IFSA website at [WWW.SPRINKLERWORLD.ORG](http://WWW.SPRINKLERWORLD.ORG)

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