



STATE FIRE MARSHAL
Flame Retardant Advisory Committee
January 24th, 2024, Meeting Minutes, 9:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.
Pacific Daylight Time (PDT)
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Hybrid Zoom Meeting Conference Call
Meeting ID: 881 8467 3209

MEMBERS PRESENT

Shannon Sanders, Huntington Beach Fire Department
Almeda Hall, Fort Irwin Fire Department
Beth McDowell, Sacramento City Fire Department
Kathleen Newman, Fire Tech
Christopher Lovato, Flamecheck
Brian Dement, Diversified Testing Laboratories
John Kardos, Advanced Textiles Association

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mike Ohirko, Impact Images
Ellen Atkins, Delta Pacific Technologies, Inc.
Jonathan Ramos, Disney Live Entertainment
Bobby Brown, SGS North America, Inc.
Duraisamy Ravichandran (Ravi), Intertek

OSFM STAFF

Patricia Setter, Committee Chairperson, OSFM
Andrew Henning, OSFM
Greg Andersen, OSFM
Adam Stewart, OSFM
Alex Rapphahn, OSFM

PUBLIC GUESTS

None

I. CALL TO ORDER

A. Welcome and Logistics Briefing

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Patricia Setter, at 9:00 A.M. PDT on January 24th, 2024.

Attendees were informed of meeting logistics and etiquette.

B. Roll Call/Determine Quorum

Roll call was conducted by Adam Stewart and it was determined that a quorum (7 of 12) of members were present.

C. Introductions

All attendees introduced themselves.

D. Approval of Previous Minutes

Chairperson Patricia Setter asked for the approval of the minutes for the November 16th, 2023, meeting. Member Kathleen Newman requested a change to the meeting minutes on page 4 regarding AB 267, occupancy change for small tents. It was moved by Member Christopher Lovato to approve the minutes with corrections requested; motion seconded by Member Kathleen Newman. Motion was carried with a unanimous vote in favor of approval of the November minutes with amendments made to page 4.

E. Announcements

Chief Greg Andersen stated that action has started on noncompliance of regulatory requirements against a company involved. OSFM has approved and has moved it forward through to the legal department.

Chairperson Patricia Setter mentioned that the use of our CALFIRE copy written logo is prohibited. This is the logo with the CAL FIRE emblem with the state. She stated that it is prohibited on packing, marketing, and any advertising as well.

You are permitted to use the seal of registration with your licensing numbers.

II. OLD BUSINESS

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes for January, April, and May 2023 meetings.

Chairperson Patricia Setter asked for the approval of the minutes for January, April and May 2023, meetings. It was moved by Member Christopher Lovato to approve the minutes as presented; motion seconded by Member Beth McDowell. Motion was carried with a

unanimous vote in favor of approval of the January, April and May minutes as presented.

III. NEW BUSINESS

A. Assign monthly work groups for Chapter 8, February, March, May, June, July, August, September, November, and December.

Chairperson Patricia Setter mentioned wanting to get through the regulation package and proposed that the work groups meet the third Tuesday of each month mentioned.

Chairperson Patricia Setter stated that the committee collectively agreed and will tentatively meet the third Tuesday of each month mentioned and if one month needs to change, the group is flexible on any changes that need to be made.

Chief Greg Andersen mentioned that everything discussed in the work groups is to be brought back to the committee to discuss. The work group will not vote on anything that was discussed without the full committee's knowledge and approval.

B. Pressure Treated Wood and Fire-Resistant Coding PowerPoint Presentation from Kathleen Newman.

Member Kathleen Newman stated the reason for her presentation was to help inform anyone involved in the flame-retardant industry pays attention to all the NFPA or ASTM codes that are being changed. She mentioned that there are special interest groups or companies trying to change the laws and ultimately do away with flame retardant coating.

Member Kathleen Newman stated the ability to change anything within NFPA or ASTM or ICC or any of the code making companies is a three-to-five-year window, to make a comment, or try to change laws, or the codes.

Member Kathleen Newman presented a PowerPoint presentation on pressure treated wood and fire-resistant coding to highlight the concerns she has to the committee, and garner support for her efforts to make the industry fair between competitors. The PowerPoint presentation is posted on OSFM's website for the members and public to view all the information that Member Kathleen Newman presented on this topic. Public comments close June 4, 2024.

Chief Greg Andersen had a comment regarding pressure treated wood presentation mentioning that he does not want to weigh in on the industry's viewpoints but supports everyone participating in the codes. Chief Greg Andersen asked is there a weather testing standard for testing on exterior use?

Member Kathleen Newman stated they could be found in IBC section 705, ASTM D2898 and ASTM E 2707 and IBC Section 705.

Chief Greg Andersen stated that from the fire side point of view, they look at Chapter 8 for interior coding, which has shown very well. He stated that exterior codes have been a problem. Chief Greg Andersen mentioned for the exterior codes to be successful, they need to have a good standard for weathering. He mentioned because there is so many moving parts in this industry, there needs to be better defined codes for these products.

Chairperson Patricia Setter stated that most flame retardants are salt based and water soluble. She asked how can we assure that the coating will protect a structure when it rains, even if the product states that it's exterior protected with flame retardant?

Member Kathleen Newman mentioned ASTM E119, and UL 253 are two more codes that are important to view. Member Newman stated that it depends on how the flame retardant is installed. She mentioned that exterior rated paint or coding has to go through all different kinds of tests. They have to go through UV, weathering, and adhesion testing. She stated that interior and exterior retardant coatings are two very different things when it comes to codes and standards.

Member Kathleen Newman asked Member Brian Dement if that was correct or could he add anything to the topic?

Member Brian Dement stated he could not for pressure treated wood. He mentioned that he only provides testing for the current regulations of Title 19, which is tents and fabrics.

Member Kathleen Newman asked if there is another title or code reference that he knows of?

Member Brian Dement stated that he is not aware of any for exterior approval, but he mentioned CPAI 84, which references weathering and NFPA 701 but stated it is for tent fabrics.

Member Brian Dement stated for Title 19 testing CPAI 84 for camping teatage has a specific procedure to follow and Title 19 has a slightly different one. He stated that there are many weathering products out there and it depends on what is referenced in the standard.

C. Royal Velvet Fabric Information.

Member Kathleen Newman wanted to bring the committee's attention to a certain fabric that is concerning. Member Newman stated that the fabric is

called Royal Velvet, there is also another fabric called Scuba. The fabric, though beautiful, is very difficult to treat. She mentioned that the fabric can be treated but you must completely submerge the fabric with product to be considered treated. Member Newman wanted to bring this fabric to the attention of fire inspectors as well. She mentioned for inspectors to look at the back of the fabric because it does not absorb flame retardant. She stated that she has called several labs to find out what material is on the back of this fabric to see why it does not absorb flame retardant. Member Newman found that it would be a minimum of \$1,000 dollars for results and the only lab that can perform the test, is in China. Member Newman mentioned that the fabric is 100 percent polyester and even though that kind of fabric can be treated properly, this specific product has issues with treatment and can still burn.

Chairperson Patricia Setter asked if the fabric was primarily being used for drapery?

Member Kathleen Newman stated that many designers are using this for drapery.

Member Christopher Lovato asked if anyone has tried using a back coating on it?

Member Kathleen Newman stated that the front will burn even if the back is coated, so you would have flames going up the front of the fabric if exposed to fire.

IV. OPEN FORUM

Chairperson Patricia Setter opened the floor for open forum.

Member John Kardos asked for more clarification regarding used tents that have been resold? He mentioned that he was informed in one jurisdiction of Sacramento that whoever owns the tent, needs their name on the flame certificate.

Chairperson Patricia Setter mentioned a fabric with a registration F41901 that was registered to California Combining. The fabric was used a lot for tent manufacturing for many years. She stated that the business went under in 2020 but many of the tents were still in circulation throughout California and people who owned the tents that used this fabric were piggybacking off the existing registration from the company, who designed and made the original fabric. All these tents are still circulating California, but do not have valid registrations, we have no laboratory reports to validate the tent companies that used this fabric, Chairperson Patricia Setter stated that Aztec tents owns a big portion of the fabric that made their tents and are redistributing the tents under the Aztec name.

She stated since the fabric is invalid and not up to date, Aztec tents had the fabric retested under the Aztec name but have not completed the registration due to competitive reasons.

Member Beth McDowell stated that if they come across a tent with the number F41901 frequently, we are asking that these companies show and track that the tent is certified, and the registration number is licensed to that individual. We are not asking necessarily that they own the registration number but to show justification that the fabric has even undergone testing would be acceptable. We want to take the liability off of all involved and let the documentation represent the fabric appropriately.

Chairperson Patricia Setter stated that she has worked with other companies in similar situations that have been able to provide all the correct documentation and original labs reports. The companies were also able to provide purchasing documentation for the fabrics to tent manufacturers. She mentioned in these cases being able to permit tents for events because they were able to reconcile the lab reports to the original owner and purchasing documents from the tent manufacturer that purchased the fabric. Chairperson Patricia Setter stated that the most important factor in these situations, especially with events, is to be able to reconcile the fabric used to make these tents to the registration and match the laboratory reports, to the labels on the tents.

Chairperson Patricia Setter introduced Jessica Wong from Sacramento City Fire and mentioned that she works under Member Beth McDowell. Jessica Wong is part of the code enforcement team with Sacramento City Fire for 6 years.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairperson Patricia Setter opened the floor for public comment. There was no public comment.

VI. SCHEDULE FOR FUTURE MEETING

The next Committee Meeting is scheduled for April 24th, 2024.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson Patricia Setter thanked everyone for their participation and asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

It was moved by Member Kathleen Newman to adjourn the meeting, motion seconded by Member Almeda Hall; all in favor of adjournment. Chairperson Patricia Setter adjourned the meeting at 10:15 A.M. PDT.