

NFPA 13, 13R and 13D Tentative Interim Agreement

Discussion

The State of Alaska previously adopted the 2006 ICC codes for Fire and Life Safety along with the 2007 NFPA 13, 13D and 13R codes specific to sprinkler systems. See, 13 AAC 50.025(112). When the NFPA issued the most recent Tentative Interim Agreement (TIA), we sought to best ensure public safety by implementing its amendments via policy letter. In so doing, we attempted to avoid the prospect of the recommendation not being implemented until the next routine code revision cycle. As you are aware, the TIA was issued because of a potential fire and explosion hazard existing in systems that are freeze protected with glycerin and propylene glycol in certain concentrations.

Without a revision to regulation regarding this TIA my office will not be enforcing those changes. We will continue to enforce 2007 NFPA 13, 13D and 13R as detailed in regulation and are considering its adoption in the current 2009 ICC normal code adoption process. We do not at this time anticipate requesting an emergency regulation amendment. We are encouraging further testing and approaches to reduce or eliminate this hazard and believe an industry solution is achievable in the not too distant future.

The NFPA's TIA is "still valid and applies to occupancies with NFPA 13 sprinkler systems as an owner maintenance responsibility". Whether we adopt it or not NFPA has adopted this TIA. It is a valid NFPA document until the next code cycle. Building owners need to be aware, from a liability stand point, that this potential hazard exists within their systems if they are freeze protected with anti-freeze. The building owners need to be able to make an informed decision when determining whether or not to comply with this TIA. If the building owner does in fact decide to alter their system to comply with this TIA they will need to get plan review approval through the Application for Modification process from our office. This can be done with an "Application for Modification", available for downloading on line. We will consider each application on a case by case basis.