



National Fireproofing
Contractors Association

ENEWS

LETTER

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NEW NFCA DOCUMENTS

NFCA produced three new documents in April. The documents include:

- Restrained/Unrestrained Assemblies and Effects on Fireproofing Thicknesses – The design professional is to declare buildings Restrained or Unrestrained. Thicknesses are reduced in restrained listings. Design professionals and code officials need to evaluate submissions for approval.
- Fire-Resistance Fire Tests – Load Applied or No Load Applied – Some new entrants to the fireproofing product marketplace might have tested horizontal assemblies without a load applied, resulting in big reductions in fireproofing thickness. This reduction could be a life safety risk in buildings.
- Air Barriers & Fireproofing/Fire-Resistance – Questions to NFCA's office continue to come in wondering what to do when continuous air barrier materials intersect with fire-resistance. Fire testing is needed to prove compliance.

All three documents are intended to be used as educational tools for the industry, Code Officials and design professionals/Specifiers who evaluate submittals, and Fire Marshals for existing buildings.

These resources can be found in [NFCA's Website Resources](#) section, and access to the documents is free to anyone as a service from NFCA. Look for more documents dealing with common questions from code officials and design professional at NFCA soon.

Thank you

NFCA SILVER
MANUFACTURER MEMBERS



NFCA AT AWCI TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEETINGS

NFCA's Technical Director, Bill McHugh, met with AWCI leaders Mike Stark, CEO and Don Allen, Technical Director, along with other AWCI leaders, in early April. Discussions centered on AWCI 12a and AWCI 12b documents, plus how to promote membership in both AWCI and NFCA.

Watch for more on this in future NFCA Newsletters.



NFCA @ AWCI's Technical Committee Meeting.

NFCA AT ICC COMMITTEE ACTION HEARINGS



NFCA's Consultant, Rich Walke (CTI), and Technical Director, Bill McHugh, participated at ICC's 2024/2025/2026 Committee Action Hearing 1 (CAH) this April 7-17 in Orlando, FL USA. The duo had great success on proposals submitted, with most approved as submitted or approved as modified.

The big change at this year's ICC Code Development Process (CDP) is that TWO Committee Action Hearings take place in '24. April's CAH 1 is complete, with public comments due in early July. CAH 2 takes place October 23-31 in Long Beach, CA USA.

Cycle B starts in early January '25 with April and October hearings for Cycle B. The Public Comment Hearing takes place in April 2026. Publication of the '27 family of International Codes will likely be around Q1 or Q2 of 2025.

ICC CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

NFCA proposed several items for the ICC's International Building Code and International Fire Code Chapter 7 code development process and watched and participated in many other proposals through supporting or opposing the items.

The proposals are not part of the codes yet and are still subject to public comment. If successful at CAH 2 this October, then the Public Comment Hearings and Board of Directors approval, they will become part of the 2027 version of the International Building Code (IBC) or International Fire Code (IFC).



NFCA LEADERS MEET WITH FCIA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NFCA's Mathew Stephenson & Carl Fernald travelled to Oklahoma City to discuss common fire-resistance issues and goals with FCIA's Board of Directors. Common goals for fire and life safety through fire-resistance-rated assemblies in new and existing buildings means a great future collaboration.

During the meeting, FCIA and NFCA leadership agreed to continue promoting fire-resistance concepts at trade shows and joint symposiums in the Middle East and Canada and set the table for future conversations about collaboration for shared goals.

NFCA STAFF & INTERNATIONAL EXPANSION

NFCA's Board of Directors has made strategic moves recently thinking towards the future. The Board broke Bill McHugh's existing role into two strategic parts – Executive Director, who spearheads the business of the Association, and Technical Director, who spearheads the Codes & Standards and industry advocacy of the Association.

Upon this change, Bill McHugh has been named Technical Director of NFCA. This role allows Bill to focus on the technical responsibilities and inquiries of the Association, including national and international speaking engagements, Codes and Standards development, advocacy at important groups like ICC, ASTM, NFPA, and others, etc. In this position, Bill will continue to support the industry and be able extend his career until he decides to retire.

Lindsey Dutkiewicz has been named Executive Director of NFCA, leading the business and operations of the Association, working closely with Bill on all advocacy initiatives, and reporting directly to the Board of Directors. Cathy Burns, Lissette Keslinke, and Rich Walke, Consultant to NFCA, also remain critical parts of the NFCA team.

But, Passive Fire Protection is not just a domestic concern. Passive Fire Protection plays a big role internationally. There are many high-rise buildings starting in many other regions of the world. To help Passive Fire Protection through fireproofing, we are excited to announce that Abhishek Chhabra, Director, Middle East & Asia, has joined NFCA's team. Abhi's expertise and passion for Passive Fire Protection, testing, inspection, and certification is a great addition to the NFCA support team.

We are honored to have attracted such talent and look forward to supporting NFCA endeavors for years to come.

NFCA'S TEAM



Lissette Keslinke
Association Coordinator



Cathy Burns
Senior
Association Manager

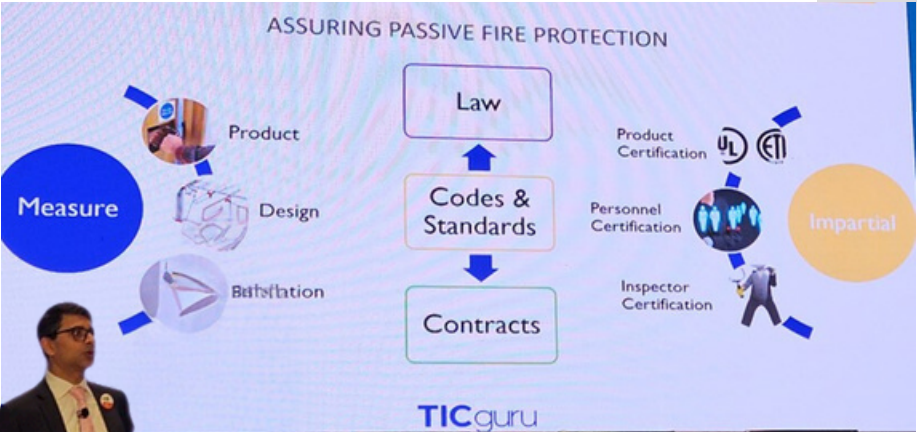
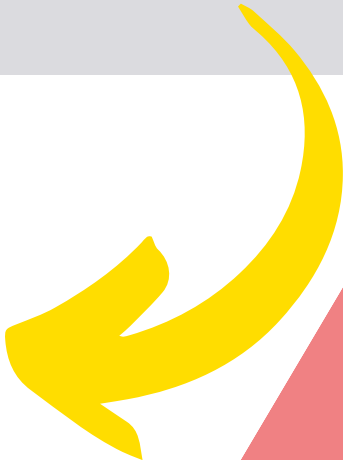


Bill McHugh
Technical Director



Lindsey Dutkiewicz
Executive Director

And, our
newest NFCA
Team Member!



Abhishek Chhabra
Director (Middle East & Asia)

NFCA & INDUSTRY ICC PROPOSALS

There were several proposals by multiple groups to have the IBC refer to their Standards instead of prescriptive language in the code. Some of these organizations included:

American Concrete Institute (ACI)
National Ready Mix Concrete Association (NRMCA)
PreCast-PreStressed Concrete Institute (PCI)
American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC)
American Wood Council (AWC)

Proposals of interest to the NFCA included:

In the International Fire Code, NFCA submitted several proposals, all Approved as Submitted.

F89-24 from NFCA changed the term spray fire-resistant materials and intumescent fire-resistant materials to spray fire-resistive materials and intumescent fire-resistive materials, to match up with the International Building Code terminology. Unanimous Approval.

F90-24 from NFCA was submitted in the IFC section 708.1. This proposal stated that repairs to existing SFRM and IFRM be conducted in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and the listings. This proposal was unanimously Approved as Submitted (13-0) and brings further clarity about how to patch fireproofing materials in existing buildings.

NFCA was complimented for adding this short, but important phrase so Fire Marshals can direct Building Owners how to repair fireproofing in new and existing buildings.

F91-24 from NFCA added the concept that 'Other Materials' protect structural building elements as fireproofing. These materials also need to be maintained in accordance with the listing and manufacturers' instructions for the life cycle of the building. This means it is now crystal clear that boards and wraps used for fire-resistance need to have protection maintained through annual visual inspection, keeping records of inspections and repairs as well. It was Approved as Submitted.

NFCA's **S3-24** added to section 1705.15, Special Inspection, that SFRM is to be inspected in accordance with both the listing

AND manufacturers' installation instructions. This is critical because temperature restrictions are not in the listings, but instead, in manufacturers' installation instructions. This was Approved as Submitted.

NFCA's Proposals **S2-24**, **S4.24**, and **S5-24** adding ASTM Work Items that will become Special Inspection Standards for SFRM, IFRM, and Board and Wraps were Disapproved due to the Standards not being ready at the time of the hearings.

FS3-24 – In section 703.2.2, Analytical Methods, Marcelo Hirschler (GBH International) proposed successfully to add ASTM E2032, Extension of Data, to the analytical list of acceptable ways to determine fire-resistance. NFCA supports fire testing to determine fire-resistance, first and foremost. NFCA also encourages ASTM E2032's use for Engineering Judgments when no listings are available.

FS9-24 – This proposal from the AWC dealt with attachments of wood elements to structural steel. Opposition came from the State of NY, National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), and concrete industry. This was Disapproved 7-4.

FS10-24 – NFCA submitted a proposal to correct the 704.5.1 section, Secondary Attachments to Structural Members. Committee comments were that we need to show data proving when protection of secondary attachments to structural steel is needed and when it is not needed.

Further analysis of the proposal showed we have more research to conduct, and a public comment to submit for the Fall hearings. The American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) volunteered to collaborate with NFCA on this important proposal.

FS28-24 – This proposal would have expanded an exception to fire-resistance-rating supporting construction to 2-hour fire barriers in sprinklered buildings. Opposition stating that supporting construction is a critical element of fire-resistance in buildings came from NFCA and the City of Tacoma, WA. This was Disapproved, 13-0.

FS34-24 – This proposal from Micah Chappell (City of Seattle, WA) requires horizontal assemblies separating energy storage

(Continued next page)

NFCA & INDUSTRY ICC PROPOSALS (Continued....)

systems to have a minimum 2-hour fire-resistance-rating. This was Approved, as well. There will be more on this subject discussed this Fall.

FS38-24 – A proposal to reduce the fire-resistance-rating of shaft enclosures was submitted. Bill Koffel, representing FireSafe North America, spoke against the proposal. The argument was put forth that "this is a sprinkler trade off". It was Disapproved.

FS81-24 – The American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC) submitted a proposal to delete archaic materials from Table 721.1(1), and instead reference Standard AISC 360-22, Specification for Structural Steel Buildings. The reasoning was that AISC lists these materials and ratings in AISC 360-22. Code Officials testified that they wanted to keep this reference in the IBC. Even with a few objections, it was Approved as Submitted, 7-4.

FS82-24 & FS83-24 – The American Wood Council (AWC) attempted to add its ANSI/AWC FDS-2024 to the table describing fire-resistance-rated wood-based wall assemblies (FS82) and floor assemblies (FS83). Both were Approved.

FS84-24 – The ACI and PCI added ACI/TMS 216 and PCI 124 documents to the code, so that they can be used for calculated fire-resistance in section 721.1, the general section for concrete assemblies. This was Approved as Submitted. (Note, ACI, American Concrete Institute; TMS, The Masonry Society, PCI PreCast PreStressed Concrete Institute)

FS85-24 – AISC added that in IBC Section 722.1, Calculated Fire-Resistance, their AISC 360-22 document can be used to determine fire-resistance-ratings of composite steel and concrete assemblies.

FS86-24, FS87-24 – These proposals attempted to add ACI/TMS 216.1 to section 722.1 for concrete or masonry protected columns. Both were Disapproved.

In FS82 through FS89, the theme of these proposals when assembled together seems to be that the Standards generated by various organizations (AWC, AISC, ACI/PCI, TMS) to determine fire-resistance be referenced instead of the IBC's or the American Society of Civil Engineers' documents. This changes from the current methods that are listed in the Building Code.

NFCA's position and testimony at the hearings was focused on the fact that fire testing is needed to prove fire-resistance – rather than calculating or prescribing the fire-resistance. Analyzing fire-resistance can be used to build data used by the methods to determine fire-resistance-ratings – prescriptive, analytical, and calculated fire-resistance – but fire testing is the way to compare products equally.

NFCA & AISC Standards Development – NFCA objected to adding the document to the IBC's Chapter 7 on the basis that Appendix 4 seems more performance-based fire design or analytical method than calculated fire-resistance. NFCA supports many references to ASTM E119 and UL 263 in the AISC 360-22 document.

As a result of work at ICC meeting with AISCI's new Code and Standards Director, NFCA has been invited to participate in the AISC's discussion of its AISC 360-22 Document.



NEW OSHA RULE – EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATION

The U.S. Department of Labor recently announced a final rule clarifying the rights of employees to authorize a representative to accompany an Occupational Safety and Health Administration Compliance Officer during an inspection of their workplace. The final rule clarifies that, consistent with the law, workers may authorize another employee to serve as their representative or select a non-employee. The rule was published in the Federal Register on April 1 and is effective on May 31, 2024.

NFCA AT UL & ULC STP MEETINGS

UL Standards and Engagement manages the Standards development process at UL.

NFCA Technical Director, Bill McHugh, and Consultant, Rich Walke (CTI), has been working with UL Solutions on UL 263, Fire Tests of Building Construction and Materials, and ULC-S-101, Standard Methods of Fire Endurance updates. On behalf of NFCA, they have requested information about secondary attachments to structural steel heat transfer, changes to the Guide Information about IFRM thicknesses, making transitions from SFRM to IFRM fireproofing, beam substitutions, and updates to terms.

Know that NFCA is working with UL to bring better fire and life safety through the Standards development process.

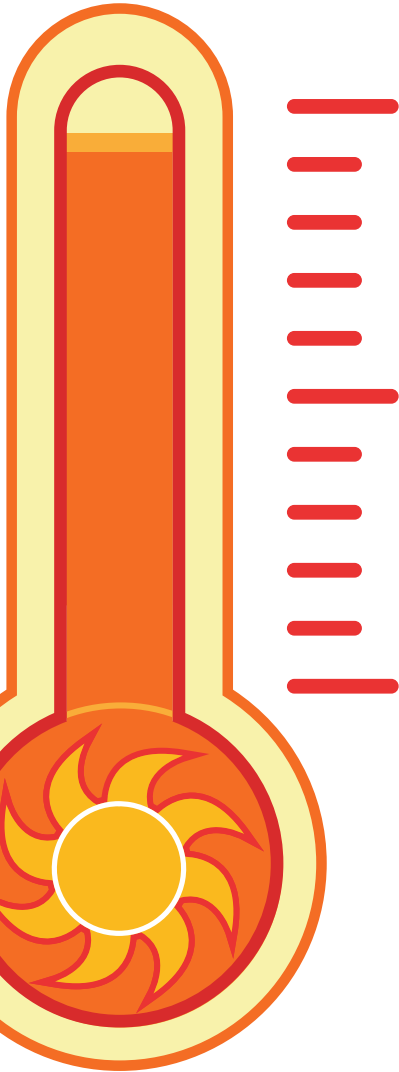


FIREPROOFING INDUSTRY MEETS

The National Fireproofing Contractors Association's Week of Learning Conference in March kicked off with fireproofing education and exams for two days. Education sessions specific to SFRM and IFRM Fireproofing brought members from USA and Canada together to advance the fireproofing industry. The NFCA Fireproofing Education and Exams are for individuals to become Designated Responsible Individuals under NFCA's Contractor Accreditation Program and UL's Qualified SFRM Fireproofing Contractor Program.

The week also saw Committee roundtables discussing a variety of industry-specific topics, including IFRM Finish Levels, Code and Standards, Accreditation, and more.

NFCA works all year long advocating on behalf of the industry. Don't miss out. Join NFCA – it's an investment in the industry.



OSHA & HEAT SAFETY

The US Department of Labor has taken a step forward addressing the dangers of workplace heat and has moved closer to publishing a proposed rule to reducing the significant health risks of heat exposure for U.S. workers in outdoor and indoor settings.

In fireproofing, workers are in unconditioned spaces installing SFRM, IFRM, Boards, or Wraps to protect structural building elements. Installations take place before the exterior curtainwall system and HVAC systems are installed.

Learn more about working in outdoor and indoor heat environments at OSHA's website. And, check out the resources and APP available at this section on employer responsibilities of OSHA.gov.



CCOHS ON FALL PROTECTION



In Canada, the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS) regulates safety. In working at heights in construction, especially in fireproofing, fall protection is always a risk, where workers are on scaffolding much of the time.

CCOHS has a fall protection section online for industry to use as a resource. From fall arrest systems to lanyard lengths, a lot of good info is available for Canadian construction companies.

CANADA'S NBCC DEVELOPMENT

The National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) and National Fire Code of Canada (NFCC) are developed using a Committee-based process, with volunteers from construction and other sectors. The Canadian Board for Harmonized Construction Codes (CBHCC) manages the code development process.

Many NFCA proposals are heard by the Standing Committee on Fire Protection. From our friends at CBHCC, NFCA's

proposals will be heard for the NBCC/NFCC 2030 development process rather than the 2025 version. This is due to COVID shortening the time to debate proposals.

PDF versions of the NBCC and NFCC are both available, free of charge, at the National Research Council of Canada's publications archives.



BIG THANKS TO PASIPRO'24 SPONSOR

Join us in extending a HUGE thanks to Specified Technologies Inc. for their sponsorship of the PasiPro'24 Dubai, Doha, and Canada events! It's support like this that helps NFCA continue to produce the most thought-provoking events in the global Passive Fire Protection Industry.

We couldn't do it without your support!

