

To: Ron McCreedy, Robert Burnett

VISTA

From: H. J. Hall
Date: January 5, 1994

Subject: Projects Update

Fire Science

A. Corrosion

At the recent CCFS Executive Committee Meeting (12-13-93), no one knew the status of the large scale UL-LC effort. Our understanding is that participation hence funding pledges have been low. Negative feedback on the need for this project has also been received. (Northern Telecom) We will continue to monitor.

ASTM E 5.21.70 appears dead. A new chairman will be found to resuscitate the patient. This will probably be a UCC person. ASTM D 9.21.04 (ASTM No. 5485) is at society ballot. An attempt will be made to solicit funding for round robin testing. This is our preferred test (cone calorimeter). We may participate in funding if the degree of participation is high.

The IEC '89 guidance document has been issued which includes the DIN, CNET, CSA and ASTM No. 5485 protocol. All of these with the exception of ASTM No.5485 are basically acid gas tests not favorable to PVC.

B. Toxicity

The NFPA 269 protocol (basically NIST) will probably be adopted by NFPA. A modified version is moving at a glacial pace through ASTM. SPI and the VI support these protocols.

Our NYC commissioner who questioned the need for combustion toxicity requirements has resigned. SPI is awaiting appointments from the new administration before pursuing.

IEC 89 will probably adopt a DIN Tube Furnace protocol. The ECC is opposed to animal testing, therefore no interest in NFPA 269.

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We believe this issue (the use of only a toxicity potency test for material judgments) is on the decline as Hazard Analysis and Risk Assessment continue to be accepted as the proper scientific approach for the future.

C. VSI

The VSI formed a Safe-Use Task Group to determine the need for a fire warning on PVC siding. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the first two meetings. The group appears to be developing a logical position to be reviewed by the VSI board. I have meeting notes from the meeting if anyone desires them.

D. NFPA-NEC

The cycle for the 1996 NEC has begun. The Electrical Materials and Products Subcommittee of the CCFS met 12-14-93 to determine SPI's position on various plastic submittals. UCC is making a full court effort on the LS-LC issues. (Yes, again!!) This group with objections from UCC recommended abstention on most proposals.

To meet this new challenge "and against Don Goodman's objections to all fire work", Fred Krause and I recommend the formation of a Task Group. The group will consist of H.J. Hall (chairman), Bob Strength, Tom Williams and Bill Coker. Other possible members could include Charlie Forsberg and Ron Bishop of Lamson and Sessions and Marcelo Hirschler. Reporting could continue through the Technical Committee or possibly the IMC. I have included Tom William's objectives for the group.

cc: Eric J. Meyer/Mark J. Schneider