

November 18, 1992

WORK STATEMENT
FOR
NFPA 90A TASK GROUP ON AIR HANDLING SPACES

BACKGROUND:

A Task Group was formed by the NFPA 90A Committee for the purpose of reviewing and analyzing the current NFPA 90A method of product requirements intended to be installed in air handling spaces. The 1989 Edition of NFPA 90A, Par. 2-3-10.1 states: "All materials exposed to the airflow shall be noncombustible or limited combustible and have a smoke developed index no higher than 50". The Standard also specifies that the materials are to be tested in accordance with ASTM E84 (UL 723) to develop flame propagation and smoke developed data. There are also exceptions currently in place for Par. 2-3.10.1 for the use of electrical wires and cables (NFPA 262), pneumatic tubing for control systems (UL 1820), optical fiber cables (NFPA 262), and fire sprinkler piping (UL 1887). The National Sound And Communications Association (NSCA) has also solicited NFPA 90A for an additional exception to allow commercial audio products and their accessories (UL 2043).

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OBJECTIVES:

Objectives of the fire test program are to:

1. Provide data and analysis on the synergistic effects, if any, of limited combustible products currently used in air handling spaces and,
2. Develop methodology for review of future materials or products which may be installed in air handling spaces.

SCOPE:

This program will investigate the fire performance characteristics of materials and products installed in air handling plenum spaces. The 90A Task Group reviewed the products currently approved as well as products which are currently being installed. The products were grouped as follows:

1. Plenum Wire and Cable (Communications).

2. Metallic Conduit and Wire (Power).

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