



Tuesday e-Tech Alert
January 15, 2008
Number 105

NFPA 13 Computerized Hydraulics Forms Requirements Take Effect

NFPA 13 has only rarely contained effective dates for specific requirements. The last one was the inclusion of a January 1, 2001 implementation date for the Sprinkler Identification Number system in the 1999 edition of the standard. This was intended to allow sprinkler manufacturers enough time to choose identification characters, implement the markings, and revise their technical literature appropriately.

The 2007 edition of the sprinkler standard also contains an implementation date, one that became effective January 1, 2008. The date governs the implementation of new requirements for the presentation of computerized hydraulic calculations in Section 22.3.5. This change was made to benefit individuals charged with plan review responsibilities. The variety of marketed computerized hydraulic programs had led to substantial differences in the way in which information was presented. Since this new change was essentially finalized when the 2007 edition of NFPA 13 was accepted at the June 2006 NFPA World Safety Conference in Orlando, software vendors had 18 months to make the necessary adjustments to their programs.

The changes involve the addition of a new Figure 22.3.5.1(c) – Supply and Node Analysis Sheet and Figure 22.3.5.1(d) – Detailed Work Sheet. These sheets contain specific formats to be utilized in the presentation of the information prepared for and during hydraulic calculations. The Supply Analysis data is straightforward water supply test information. The Node Analysis identifies “node tags” assigned to hydraulic reference points on the shop drawings, and organizes information regarding the elevation, node type, and the pressure and discharge at each node. The Detailed Work Sheet presents “pipe information” in a manner similar to the hydraulic calculation work sheet used for hand calculations, as contained for many years in the annex of NFPA 13 (Figure A.22.3.2(c) of the 2007 edition).

Although the 2007 edition may not yet be officially adopted in most jurisdictions, the fact that this implementation date has been established will lead to requirements by a growing numbers of AHJs. The ability to review computerized calculations in a manner similar to traditional hand calculations should help eliminate oversights and errors.

January 17th “Business Thursday” Seminar Features CPVC Issues

Topic: CPVC Issues
Instructor: Top Myers, Myers Risk Services
Date: January 17, 2008

The upcoming “Business Thursday” seminar is more technical than usual. You may have heard recent rumblings involving the use of CPVC piping, and many contractors are wondering how

they can best protect their companies against unexpected problems. Top Myers has been involved in a number of aspects of installation problems leading to potential litigation, and has been party to recent discussions among manufacturers, suppliers and contractors to cooperatively address the current issues.

Upcoming NFSA “Technical Tuesday” Seminar – January 29th

Topic: Wet Pipe Systems

Instructor: Victoria Valentine, P.E., NFSA Director of Product Standards

Date: January 29, 2008

Wet pipe sprinkler systems are the baseline type of sprinkler system. This seminar will review what makes a system a system. Common questions that arise such as how to define a system, how to define a riser and what are the functions of the system connections will also be addressed. Other items that will be included are system sizes, corrosion issues and pressure reducing valves.

Information and registration for the above seminars and both the “Technical Tuesday” and “Business Thursday” 2008 series are available at www.nfsa.org or by calling Dawn Fitzmaurice at 845-878-4200 ext. 133 or email: dawn@nfsa.org.

Additional NFSA training opportunities include...

NFSA Two-Week Technician Training Classes

February 4-15, 2008 (second session added)	Centennial, CO
April 7-18, 2008	Orlando, FL
August 4-15, 2008	Providence, RI
October 13-24, 2008	Chicago, IL
November 10-21, 2008	Houston, TX

For more information, contact Nicole Sprague using Sprague@nfsa.org or by calling 845-878-4200 ext. 149.

In-Class Training Seminars

The NFSA training department also offers in-class training on a variety of subjects at locations across the country. Here are some seminars scheduled for 2008:

Jan 21	Piperton, TN	Sprinklers for Dwellings
Jan 22	Piperton, TN	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Jan 23	Piperton, TN	Hydraulics for Fire Protection
Feb 12	San Bernardino, CA	Underground Piping (a.m.)
Feb 12	San Bernardino, CA	Standpipe Systems (p.m.)
Feb 13	San Bernardino, CA	Hydraulics for Fire Protection
Feb 14	San Bernardino, CA	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Feb 19	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Feb 20	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	Sprinklers for Dwellings

Feb 21	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	Standpipe Systems (a.m)
Feb 21	Ft. Walton Beach, FL	Underground Piping (p.m.)
Mar 4	Murfreesboro, TN	Sprinklers for Dwellings
Mar 5	Murfreesboro, TN	Hydraulics for Fire Protection
Mar 6	Murfreesboro, TN	Residential Homes to High Rise
Mar 10	Winston-Salem, NC	Sprinklers for Dwellings
Mar 11	Winston-Salem, NC	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Mar 12	Winston-Salem, NC	NFPA 13 Update 2002

For more information on these seminars, or to register, please visit www.nfsa.org or call Michael Repko at 845-878-4207 or email seminars@nfsa.org.

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About the National Fire Sprinkler Association

Established in 1905, the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA) is the voice of the fire sprinkler industry. NFSA leads the drive to get life-saving and property protecting fire sprinklers into all buildings; provides support and resources for its members – fire sprinkler contractors, manufacturers and suppliers; and educates authorities having jurisdiction on fire protection issues. Headquartered in Patterson, N.Y., NFSA has regional operations offices throughout the country. www.nfsa.org.