



Tuesday e-Tech Alert
January 22, 2008
Number 106

Diesel Tank Filling and Venting a Concern to Some AHJs

When the 2006 edition of NFPA 37 - *Standard for the Installation and Use of Stationary Combustion Engines and Gas Turbines* was published, it included a change originally submitted as Proposal 37-9 by the Northcentral Regional Fire Code Development Committee. The proposal called for a new Section 6.3.2.5 as follows:

“A permanent means of filling the tanks in accordance with NFPA 30 shall be provided.”

The intent, as explained with the proposal, was simply to prevent the use of hoses or portable containers during the filling process. However, during the public comment period, the Committee pulled in additional wording from NFPA 30 - *Flammable Liquids Code* with regard to piping, including a requirement that vent piping be carried to the outside of the building. The final wording of the affected subsections within Section 6.6 on Filling is as follows:

6.6.3 Piping for fuel tanks other than engine-mounted tanks shall be in accordance with Chapter 5 of NFPA 30 – *Flammable Liquids Code*.

6.6.3.1 The fill pipe shall terminate outside the building at a point at least 600 mm (24 in.) from any building opening at the same or lower level.

The referenced edition of NFPA 30 was the 2003 edition, Chapter 5 of which contained a number of requirements relating to piping systems. Section 5.7.1 addressed Vent Piping for Aboveground Tanks, and was mainly concerned with vent pipes of Class I liquids. Section 5.7.2.4, dealing with vent piping for underground tanks, required that vent pipes from tanks storing Class II or IA liquids “terminate outside of the building and higher than the fill pipe opening.” Actual venting requirements, however, were found in Section 4.2.5 of the 2003 edition of NFPA 30. NFPA 30 was completely rewritten in the 2008 edition, and Chapter 5 is now simply reserved, with applicable fill and vent requirements scattered in Chapters 21, 22 and 27.

NFPA 20 – *Fire Pumps* does not reference either NFPA 30 or NFPA 37. However, NFSA members have reported that some AHJs have attempted to enforce NFPA 30, including the requirement for exterior venting and fill pipes. In the past some relief was available through the use of NFPA 37, but the new change essentially eliminates that option.

The NFSA will attempt to have the Fire Pump Committee specifically address these issues at its February 2008 meeting as work begins on the 2010 edition of NFPA 20.

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.