

Number 127

September 16, 2008
Editor – Russell P. Fleming, P.E.

TIA to Add NFPA 25 Valve Component Test Information: Rejected

A proposed Tentative Interim Amendment to the current 2008 edition of NFPA 25 has been rejected by the NFPA Standards Council on the basis that it contained too many errors and omissions. The TIA #919 would have added a Section 13.8 and Table 13.8.1 to the standard to address component test requirements for valves, valve components and trim similar to provisions in the standard for other components. While the table for valves was inadvertently omitted from the 2008 edition, the other tables detail the required inspection, test and maintenance procedures applicable when components have been either adjusted, repaired/reconditioned, or replaced. The Standards Council, however, was sensitive to comments that the proposed valve criteria had not been exposed to full public review that would have addressed errors and oversights. The alleged errors were minor in nature, mainly dealing with cross-references and coordination.

The proposed wording and table from the failed TIA is as follows:

13.8 Component Testing Requirements.

13.8.1 Whenever a valve, valve component, and/or valve trim in a system covered by NFPA 25 is adjusted, repaired, reconditioned or replaced, the tests required in Table 13.8.1 Summary of Component Replacement Action Requirements shall be performed.

13.8.2 Where the original installation standard is different from the cited standard, the use of the appropriate installation standard shall be permitted.

13.8.3 A main drain test shall be conducted in accordance with 13.3.3.4 if the system control or other upstream valve is operated.

13.8.4* These actions shall not require a design review.

13.8.5 The impairment procedures as required by Chapter 15 shall be followed as appropriate.

13.8.6 When a major component is rebuilt or replaced, the component shall be tested as required by the original acceptance test (See 4.6.5).

A.13.8.4 Design review is outside the scope of this standard.

Table 12.8.1 Summary of Component Replacement Action Requirements

	Component	Adjust	Repair / Recondition	Replace	Test Criteria
A. Water Delivery Components					
	Post Indicator and Wall Indicator Valves	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Perform full operational test under system pressure conforming to section 13.3.3.1 3) Perform spring torsion check conforming to section 13.3.3.2 4) Verify target visibility at shut and full open position 5) Test supervisory device 6) Main drain test
	Control Valves other than Post Indicator and Wall Indicator Valves	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Perform full operational test under system pressure conforming to section 13.3.3.1 3) Perform spring torsion check conforming to section 13.3.3.2 4) Verify target visibility at shut and full open position 5) Test supervisory device 6) Main drain test
	Alarm Check Valve	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Test all alarms and supervisory signals affected by the alarm valve 3) Main drain test
	Dry Pipe Valve	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Trip test per 13.4.4.2.2 3) Inspect condition of valve seat 4) Test all dry pipe system alarms and supervisory signals 5) Main drain test
	Deluge/Preaction Valve	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Trip test per 13.4.4.2.2 3) Inspect condition of valve seat 4) Main drain test 5) Test all deluge system alarms and supervisory signals
	Quick Opening Device	X	X	X	1) Trip test 2) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 3) Main drain test
	Pressure Regulating Valve on Hose Valves	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Full flow test 3) Main drain test (only when a control valve has been closed)
	Pressure regulating devices other than Hose Valve	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Test pressure setting with full flow and without flow 3) Test supervisory device and

					alarm 4) Main drain test
	Hose valve	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Main drain test
	Backflow Prevention Device	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Forward flow test per 13.6.2.1 3) Test supervisory device and alarm 4) Main drain test
	Check Valves	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Inspect for leaking through check valve 3) Main drain test
	Water Storage Tank Automatic Fill Valve	X	X	X	1) Inspect for leaks at system working pressure 2) Operational flow test
	Fire Department Connection	X	X		1) Inspect for leaks at system pressure 2) Main drain test – only when a control valve has been closed
	Fire Department Connection on Sprinkler System(s)			X	1) Isolate and hydrostatic test for 2 hours at 150 psi 2) Main drain test
	Fire Department Connection – Other than sprinkler system(s)			X	1) Isolate and hydrostatic test for 2 hours at 50 psi above the normal working pressure (200 psi minimum). 2) Main drain test
	Strainers	X	X	X	Inspect and clean in accordance with manufacturer's instructions
	Ball drip (automatic type) drain valves	X	X	X	Verify proper operation
B. Alarm and Supervisory Components					
	Alarm device	X	X	X	Test for conformance with NFPA 13 and/or NFPA 71
	Supervisory device	X	X	X	Test for conformance with NFPA 13 and/or NFPA 72
C. System Protection Components					
	Pressure relief valve on Fire Pump installation	X	X	X	See 8.3.3.3 and 13.5.7
	Pressure relief valve – other than fire pump installation			X	Verify relief valve is listed or approved for the application and set to the correct pressure
D. Informational Components					
	Identification Signs	X	X	X	Inspect for compliance with NFPA 13

This was the second attempt at an emergency amendment to the standard on this subject. During the first attempt the Committee successfully voted that the issue constituted an emergency, but was unable to agree on the proposed wording of the table. This time the proposed TIA had been successfully balloted through the Committee with at least three-fourths affirmative votes on both content and emergency nature. It is now likely that the subject will need to be addressed through the normal standards development process. Public proposals for the next (2011) edition of NFPA 25 are being accepted until December 1, 2008. The wording of the failed TIA, since it was successfully balloted through the Committee, can be considered a general preview of what to expect in the next edition of the standard.

NFSA "Best Practices" Online Seminar Later This Week

Topic: Best Practices Update

Instructors: Brian Cullen and Paul Johnson, FSI Best Practices

Date: September 18, 2008

This will be an informative program ranging from often overlooked clauses transferring uninsurable risks, how to navigate the minefield, negotiation points in the terms of engagement and conducting a vulnerability assessment when evaluating contracts. It will discuss the role of the effective "gatekeepers" who know when to walk away from a bad contract on an otherwise great looking job, or to at least price it adequately to contemplate the degree of risk being assumed. You won't want to miss it.

Information and registration for the above "Technical Tuesday" and "Business Thursday" seminars are available at www.nfsa.org or by calling Dawn Fitzmaurice at 845-878-4200 ext. 133.

Upcoming NFSA "Technical Tuesday" Seminar – September 23rd

Topic: Really Tall Buildings

Instructor: Kevin J. Kelly, P.E.

Date: September 23, 2008

High-rise buildings are typically defined as buildings over 75 feet in height, although very tall buildings, buildings over 400 feet, are becoming common in most major cities. These very tall buildings have unique water supply and sprinkler concerns that are not always covered in the codes and standards. This seminar will cover the arrangement of the fire protection water tanks and fire pumps. Additional information will include the issues of water supply redundancy, interconnecting the water supplies and providing maintenance while still maintaining sprinkler protection.

Additional NFSA training opportunities include...

Two-Week Basic Technician Training

October 13-24, 2008 Chicago, IL

November 10-21, 2008 Houston, TX

3-Day Advanced Technician Training

November 5-7, 2008 Berlin, CT

NICET Inspector Certification Review Course

January 26-28, 2009 Marana, AZ

For more information on the above classes, 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 being held during the next two months:

Sept 23	Hillsboro, OR	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Sept 24	Hillsboro, OR	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (a.m.)
Sept 24	Hillsboro, OR	CPVC Piping (p.m.)
Sept 25	Hillsboro, OR	Sprinklers for Dwellings
Sept 30	Spokane, WA	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Oct 1	Spokane, WA	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (a.m.)
Oct 1	Spokane, WA	Fire Pump Layout & Sizing (p.m.)
Oct 2	Spokane, WA	CPVC Piping (a.m.)
Oct 2	Spokane, WA	Standpipe Systems (p.m.)
Oct 7	Denver, CO	NFPA 13, 13R, 13D Update 2007
Oct 7-8	Edwardsville, IL	NFPA 13 Overview & Intro to Plan Review
Oct 8	Denver, CO	Pumps for Fire Protection
Oct 9	Edwardsville, IL	Hydraulics for Fire Protection
Oct 9	Denver, CO	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Oct 21	Woodland, CA	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Oct 21	Boardman, OR	Hydraulics for Fire Protection
Oct 22	Boardman, OR	Pumps for Fire Protection
Oct 22	Woodland, CA	Pumps for Fire Protection
Oct 23	Boardman, OR	Standpipe Systems (a.m.)
Oct 23	Boardman, OR	Underground Piping (p.m.)
Oct 23	Woodland, CA	Sprinkler Protection for Rack Storage
Oct 28	Menasha, WI	Introduction to Sprinklers (a.m.)
Oct 28	Menasha, WI	Commissioning & Acceptance Testing (p.m.)
Oct 28-29	Eugene, OR	NFPA 13 Overview & Intro to Plan Review
Oct 29	Menasha, WI	Plan Review Policies & Procedures
Oct 30	Menasha, WI	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Oct 30	Eugene, OR	Basic Seismic Protection (a.m.)
Oct 30	Eugene, OR	Advanced Seismic Protection (p.m.)
Nov 12	Raytown, MO	Pumps for Fire Protection
Nov 13	Raytown, MO	Inspection, Testing & Maintenance
Nov 14	Raytown, MO	Plan Review Policies & Procedures

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

NFSA Tuesday eTechAlert is c. 2008 National Fire Sprinkler Association, and is distributed to NFSA members on Tuesdays for which no NFSA Technical Tuesday Online Seminar is scheduled. Statements and conclusions are based on the best judgment of the NFSA Engineering staff, and are not the official position of the NFPA or its technical committees or those of other organizations except as noted. Opinions expressed herein are not intended, and should not be relied upon, to provide professional consultation or services. Please send comments to Russell P. Fleming, P.E. fleming@nfsa.org.

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.

You are receiving this message because you are subscribed to the NFSA email list. To remove yourself from this service and stop receiving email messages from NFSA, Please reply to this message with “remove” in the subject line.