

ACTION: Notice and request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is soliciting public comment on a proposed revision to Voluntary Product Standard (PS) 2–04, Performance Standard for Wood-Based Structural-Use Panels. This revised standard, PS 2–10, was prepared by the Standing Committee for PS 2 and establishes requirements, for those who choose to adhere to the standard, for the structural criteria to assess the acceptability of wood-based structural-use panels for construction sheathing and single-floor applications. It also provides a basis for common understanding among the producers, distributors, and the users of these products. Interested parties are invited to review the proposed standard and submit comments to NIST.

DATES: Written comments regarding the proposed revision, should be submitted to the Standards Services Division, NIST, no later than November 29, 2010.

ADDRESSES: An electronic copy (an Adobe Acrobat File) of the proposed standard, PS 2–10, can be obtained at the following Web site: <http://gsi.nist.gov/global/index.cfm/L1-5/12-44/A-355>. This site also includes an electronic copy of PS 2–04 (the existing standard) and a summary of significant changes. Written comments on the proposed revision should be submitted to David F. Alderman, Standards Services Division, NIST, 100 Bureau Drive, Stop 2150, Gaithersburg, MD 20899–2150. Electronic comments may be submitted to david.alderman@nist.gov.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: David F. Alderman, Standards Services Division, National Institute of Standards and Technology, telephone (301) 975–4019; fax: (301) 975–4715, e-mail: david.alderman@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Proposed Voluntary Product Standard PS 2–10 establishes structural criteria for assessing the acceptability of wood-based structural-use panels for construction sheathing and single-floor application, and provides a basis for common understanding among the producers, distributors, and the users of these products. After conducting a review of the current standard, PS 2–04, the Standing Committee for PS 2 determined that updates were needed to reflect current industry practices, and developed this proposal through meetings to review the standard and propose needed changes. The proposed standard does not address non-structural issues such as resistance to

biological agents. Applications for structural plywood other than construction sheathing and single-floor sheathing may require additional engineering considerations that are not covered by this document.

The proposed revision of the standard has been developed and is being processed in accordance with Department of Commerce provisions in Title 15 of the U.S. Code of Federal Regulations, part 10, *Procedures for the Development of Voluntary Product Standards*, as amended (published June 20, 1986). The Standing Committee for PS 2 is responsible for maintaining, revising, and interpreting the standard, and is comprised of producers, distributors, users, and others with an interest in the standard. Committee members voted on the revision, which was approved unanimously. The Committee then submitted a report to NIST along with the voting results and the draft revised standard. NIST has determined that the revised standard should be issued for public comment.

The revision includes the following changes:

- **Panel thickness:** In order to resolve the inconsistency with NIST standards used by “weights and measures” regulators, PS 2 will require labeling with both a “Performance Category,” which is a fractional label such as 15/32, and a decimal thickness declaration, such as “THICKNESS 0.438 IN.” The Performance Category will maintain consistency with the panel thickness specifications required in the U.S. model codes. The Performance Category panel labeling will permit the abbreviations “PERF CAT,” “CAT” or “Category.” The decimal thickness declaration will help assure that panels are compliant with weights and measures regulations.

- Two nonmandatory appendices were added to provide guidance on NIST Handbook 130 “Packaging and Labeling Regulations,” and to provide suggested thickness labeling.

- Nonmandatory appendices on attributes related to Green Building and Formaldehyde were added.

- A nonmandatory appendix on the history of PS 2 was added.

- The moisture content specifications for the “dry,” “wet/redry” and “wet” test conditions were clarified in various sections of the standard.

- The tables containing performance requirements were modified to provide clarity and references to the sections of the standard that provide the test methods and pass/fail criteria used during the qualification process.

- The original fastener holding requirements for sheathing were based

on thin plywood panels made with Group 4 species. Those panels are not representative of current sheathing panels. In addition, some U.S. model code requirements for wall sheathing were made more stringent, such that the existing nail holding requirements may not justify certain wind load conditions. Therefore, a test program to characterize the nail holding properties of current production was conducted by two testing agencies. Based on those test results, some requirements for nail holding performance of sheathing were increased.

All public comments will be reviewed and considered. The Standing Committee for PS 2 and NIST will revise the standard accordingly.

Dated: October 22, 2010.

Harry S. Hertz,

Director, Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

National Fire Protection Association (NFPA): Request for Comments on NFPA’s Codes and Standards

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology, Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Since 1896, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has accomplished its mission by advocating scientifically based consensus codes and standards, research, and education for safety related issues. NFPA’s *National Fire Codes*®, which holds over 290 documents, are administered by more than 238 Technical Committees comprised of approximately 7,200 volunteers and are adopted and used throughout the world. NFPA is a nonprofit membership organization with approximately 80,000 members from over 70 nations, all working together to fulfill the Association’s mission.

The NFPA process provides ample opportunity for public participation in the development of its codes and standards. All NFPA codes and standards are revised and updated every three to five years in Revision Cycles that begin twice each year and take approximately two years to complete. Each Revision Cycle proceeds according to a published schedule that includes final dates for all major events in the process. The process contains five basic

steps that are followed both for developing new documents as well as revising existing documents. These steps are: Calling for Proposals; Publishing the Proposals in the Report on Proposals; Calling for Comments on the Committee's disposition of the Proposals and these Comments are published in the Report on Comments; having a Technical Report Session at the NFPA Conference and Expo; and finally, the Standards Council Consideration and Issuance of documents.

Note: Anyone wishing to make Amending Motions on the Technical Committee Reports (ROP and ROC) must signal his or her intention by submitting a Notice of Intent to Make a Motion by the Deadline of 5 p.m. EST/EDST on or before October 21, 2011. Certified motions will be posted by November 18, 2011. Documents that receive notice of proper Amending Motions (Certified Amending Motions) will be presented for action at the annual June 2012 Association Technical Meeting. Documents that receive no motions will be forwarded directly to the Standards Council for action on issuance.

For more information on these new rules and for up-to-date information on schedules and deadlines for processing NFPA Documents, check the NFPA Web site at <http://www.nfpa.org>, or contact the NFPA Codes and Standards Administration.

The purpose of this notice is to request comments on the technical reports that will be published in the NFPA's 2011 Fall Revision Cycle. The

publication of this notice by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) on behalf of NFPA is being undertaken as a public service; NIST does not necessarily endorse, approve, or recommend any of the standards referenced in the notice.

DATES: Thirty-nine reports are published in the 2011 Fall Revision Cycle Report on Proposals and will be available on December 22, 2010. Comments received by 5 p.m. EST/EDST on March 4, 2011 will be considered by the respective NFPA Committees before final action is taken on the proposals.

ADDRESSES: The 2011 Fall Revision Cycle Report on Proposals is available and downloadable from NFPA's Web site—<http://www.nfpa.org> or by requesting a copy from the NFPA, Fulfillment Center, 11 Tracy Drive, Avon, Massachusetts 02322. Comments on the report should be submitted to Secretary, Standards Council, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02169-7471.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Amy Beasley Cronin, Secretary, Standards Council, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02169-7471, (617) 770-3000.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops building,

fire, and electrical safety codes and standards. Federal agencies frequently use these codes and standards as the basis for developing Federal regulations concerning safety. Often, the Office of the Federal Register approves the incorporation by reference of these standards under 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51.

Request for Comments

Interested persons may participate in these revisions by submitting written data, views, or arguments to Amy Beasley Cronin, Secretary, Standards Council, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02169-7471. Commenters may use the forms provided for comments in the Reports on Proposals. Each person submitting a comment should include his or her name and address, identify the notice, and give reasons for any recommendations. Comments received by 5 p.m. EST/EDST on March 4, 2011 for the 2011 Fall Revision Cycle Report on Proposals will be considered by the NFPA before final action is taken on the proposals.

Copies of all written comments received and the disposition of those comments by the NFPA committees will be published as the 2011 Fall Revision Cycle Report on Comments by August 26, 2011. A copy of the Report on Comments will be sent automatically to each commenter.

2011 FALL REVISION CYCLE REPORT ON PROPOSALS

NFPA 59A	Standard for the Production, Storage, and Handling of Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	P
NFPA 75	Standard for the Protection of Information Technology Equipment	P
NFPA 76	Standard for the Fire Protection of Telecommunications Facilities	P
NFPA 115	Standard for Laser Fire Protection	P
NFPA 150	Standard on Fire and Life Safety in Animal Housing Facilities	P
NFPA 170	Standard for Fire Safety and Emergency Symbols	P
NFPA 252	Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Door Assemblies	P
NFPA 257	Standard on Fire Test for Window and Glass Block Assemblies	P
NFPA 268	Standard Test Method for Determining Ignitibility of Exterior Wall Assemblies Using a Radiant Heat Energy Source.	P
NFPA 269	Standard Test Method for Developing Toxic Potency Data for Use in Fire Hazard Modeling	P
NFPA 271	Standard Method of Test for Heat and Visible Smoke Release Rates for Materials and Products Using an Oxygen Consumption Calorimeter.	P
NFPA 275	Standard Method of Fire Tests for the Evaluation of Thermal Barriers Used Over Foam Plastic Insulation.	P
NFPA 285	Standard Fire Test Method for Evaluation of Fire Propagation Characteristics of Exterior Non-Load-Bearing Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components.	P
NFPA 287	Standard Test Methods for Measurement of Flammability of Materials In Cleanrooms Using a Fire Propagation Apparatus (FPA).	P
NFPA 288	Standard Methods of Fire Tests of Floor Fire Door Assemblies Installed Horizontally in Fire Resistance-Rated Floor Systems.	P
NFPA 385	Standard for Tank Vehicles for Flammable and Combustible Liquids	P
NFPA 497	Recommended Practice for the Classification of Flammable Liquids, Gases, or Vapors and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas.	P
NFPA 499	Recommended Practice for the Classification of Combustible Dusts and of Hazardous (Classified) Locations for Electrical Installations in Chemical Process Areas.	P
NFPA 550	Guide to the Fire Safety Concepts Tree	P
NFPA 557	Standard for Determination of Fire Load for Use in Structural Fire Protection Design	N
NFPA 560	Standard for the Storage, Handling, and Use of Ethylene Oxide for Sterilization and Fumigation	W
NFPA 655	Standard for Prevention of Sulfur Fires and Explosions	P
NFPA 1005	Standard for Professional Qualifications for Marine Fire Fighting for Land-Based Fire Fighters	P

2011 FALL REVISION CYCLE REPORT ON PROPOSALS—Continued

NFPA 1037	Standard for Professional Qualifications for Fire Marshal	P
NFPA 1041	Standard for Fire Service Instructor Professional Qualifications	P
NFPA 1051	Standard for Wildland Fire Fighter Professional Qualifications	P
NFPA 1061	Standard for Professional Qualifications for Public Safety Telecommunicator	P
NFPA 1401	Recommended Practice for Fire Service Training Reports and Records	P
NFPA 1402	Guide to Building Fire Service Training Centers	P
NFPA 1403	Standard on Live Fire Training Evolutions	C
NFPA 1906	Standard for Wildland Fire Apparatus	C
NFPA 1911	Standard for the Inspection, Maintenance, Testing, and Retirement of In-Service Automotive Fire Apparatus.	P
NFPA 1951	Standard on Protective Ensembles for Technical Rescue Incidents	P
NFPA 1961	Standard on Fire Hose	P
NFPA 1971	Standard on Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting	P
NFPA 1983	Standard on Life Safety Rope and Equipment for Emergency Services	P
NFPA 1991	Standard on Vapor-Protective Ensembles for Hazardous Materials Emergencies	P
NFPA 1992	Standard on Liquid Splash-Protective Ensembles and Clothing for Hazardous Materials Emergencies ..	P
NFPA 1994	Standard on Protective Ensembles for First Responders to CBRN Terrorism Incidents	P

P = Partial revision; W = Withdrawal; R = Reconfirmation; N = New; C = Complete Revision.

Dated: October 22, 2010.

Harry Hertz,

Director, *Baldrige Performance Excellence Program.*

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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Institute of Standards and Technology

[Docket Number: 101015516-0516-02]

Technology Innovation Program (TIP) Seeks Comments on White Papers

AGENCY: National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Department of Commerce.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: The National Institute of Standards and Technology's (NIST) Technology Innovation Program (TIP) announces that it is seeking comments on white papers prepared by TIP staff from any interested party, including academia; Federal, State, and local governments; industry; national laboratories; and professional organizations/societies; and others. Comments will assist in the further refinement of areas of critical national need and the associated technical challenges that could be addressed in future TIP competitions.

DATES: The dates for submission of comments on white papers are: October 29, 2010 through September 30, 2011.

ADDRESSES: The white papers are available on TIP's Web site at <http://www.nist.gov/tip/wp/index.cfm>. Comments on white papers may be submitted using the comment button found on the first and last page of each white paper found on TIP's Web site at <http://www.nist.gov/tip/wp/index.cfm>.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Thomas Wiggins at 301-975-5416 or by e-mail at thomas.wiggins@nist.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Background Information: The Technology Innovation Program (TIP) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) was established for the purpose of assisting U.S. businesses and institutions of higher education or other organizations, such as national laboratories and nonprofit research institutions, to support, promote, and accelerate innovation in the United States through high-risk, high-reward research in areas of critical national need. The TIP statutory authority is Section 3012 of the America Creating Opportunities to Meaningfully Promote Excellence in Technology, Education, and Science (COMPETES) Act, Public Law 110-69 (August 9, 2007), codified at 15 U.S.C. 278n. The TIP implementing regulations are published at 15 CFR Part 296. TIP holds competitions for funding based on addressing areas of critical national need. TIP identifies and selects topics for areas of critical national need based on input from within NIST, the TIP Advisory Board, the science and technology communities, and from the public. TIP is interested in receiving input on the identification and definition of problems that are sufficiently large in magnitude that they have the potential to inhibit the growth and well-being of our nation today.

This announcement explains the process for submitting comments on TIP white papers. Comments on white papers from experts in other Federal agencies are also valued and welcome, and will enable TIP to complement the efforts of other mission agencies and avoid duplication of their efforts, thereby leveraging resources to benefit the nation. The key concepts

enumerated below are the foundation of TIP and should assist all commenters in providing input that will help TIP develop and refine an effective white paper:

a. An area of *critical national need* means an area that justifies government attention because the magnitude of the problem is large and the associated societal challenges that need to be overcome are not being addressed, but could be addressed through high-risk, high-reward research.

b. A *societal challenge* is a problem or issue confronted by society that when not addressed could negatively affect the overall function and quality of life of the nation, and as such, justifies government attention. A societal challenge is associated with barriers preventing the successful development of solutions to the area of critical national need. TIP's purpose is to provide funding that will enable U.S. businesses and institutions of higher education or other organizations, such as national laboratories and nonprofit research institutions, to tackle technical issues that can be addressed through high-risk, high-reward research. The results of the high-risk, high-reward research should have the potential for transformational results.

c. A *transformational result* is a potential project outcome that enables disruptive changes over and above current methods and strategies. Transformational results have the potential to radically improve our understanding of systems and technologies, challenging the status quo of research approaches and applications.

For an understanding of how these white papers were developed, and for detailed instructions on how to prepare and submit your own white papers to TIP, refer to *A Guide for Preparing and*