

of Directors (see 1-7). The President may also, within his or her discretion, refer the matter of a delay in the effective date of the TIA to the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors or to the Board of Directors.

5-7 Publication of Amendment. The Association shall publish in one of its publications sent to all Members notice of the issuance of each Tentative Interim Amendment; shall issue a news release to applicable and interested technical journals, and shall also include in any subsequent distribution of the Document to which the Tentative Interim Amendment applies the text of the Tentative Interim Amendment in a manner judged most feasible to accomplish the desired objectives.

The tentative character of the Tentative Interim Amendment shall be clearly indicated in the publication and release.

5-8 Applicability. Tentative Interim Amendments shall apply to the document existing at the time of issuance. Tentative Interim Amendments issued after the proposal closing date shall also apply, where the text of the existing document remains unchanged, to the next edition of the Document. Tentative Interim Amendments issued concurrently with the issuance of a new edition shall apply to both the existing and new edition.

5-9 Subsequent Processing. TC responsible for the Document or part of the Document affected shall process the subject matter of any Tentative Interim Amendment as a proposal for the next edition of the Document (see 3-3).

5-10 Exception. When the Council authorizes other procedures for the processing and/or issuance of Tentative Interim Amendments, the provisions of this Section shall not apply.

Section 6 Formal Interpretations.

6-1 General. Formal Interpretations are for the purpose of providing formal explanations of the meaning or intent of the TC on any specific provision or provisions of any Document.

6-1.1 Limitations. A statement, written or oral, that is not processed in accordance with Section 6 of these Regulations shall not be considered the official position of NFPA or any of its TCs and shall not be considered to be, nor be relied upon as, a Formal Interpretation.

NOTE: This Formal Interpretation procedure does not prevent any Chair, Member, or the Staff Liaison from expressing a personal opinion on the meaning or intent of the TC on any provision of any such Document, provided that: (a) the person rendering the opinion orally or in writing clearly states that the opinion is personal and does not necessarily represent the position of the TC or the Association and may not be considered to be or relied upon as such; and (b) written opinions are rendered only in response to written requests and a copy of the request and the response is sent to the Staff Liaison.

6-1.2 Nature of Formal Interpretations. Requests for Formal Interpretations shall be clearly worded so as to solicit a Yes or No answer from the TC and TCC.

6-1.3 Editions to be Interpreted. Interpretations shall be rendered on the text of the requested edition of the Document. The interpretation shall also apply to and be published, on the current edition of the Document, if the text is identical, unless deemed inappropriate by the TC or TCC (see 6-4.1).

6-1.4 Reasons for Not Processing. A request for an Interpretation shall not be processed if it:

- (a) Involves a determination of compliance of a design, installation, or product or equivalency of protection;
- (b) Involves a review of plans or specifications, or requires judgment or knowledge that can only be acquired as a result of on-site inspection;

(c) Involves text that clearly and decisively provides the requested information; or

(d) Involves subjects that were not previously considered by the TC or that are not addressed in the Document.

6-2 Method of Requesting Formal Interpretations. A request for a Formal Interpretation shall be directed to the Council Secretary. The request shall include a statement in which shall appear specific references to a single problem and identifying the portion (article, section, paragraph, etc.) of the Document and edition of the Document on which an Interpretation is requested. Such a request shall be in writing and shall indicate the business interest of the requester. A request involving an actual field situation shall so state and all parties involved shall be named and notified.

6-3 Processing.

6-3.1 Determination of Qualification. The Council Secretary, after consultation with the appropriate Staff Liaison, shall determine if the request for Formal Interpretation shall be processed in accordance with 6-1.4.

6-3.2 Editing of Interpretation Request. A request for an Interpretation may be rephrased. The rephrased version and any pertinent background information shall be sent to the requester and all parties named in the request for agreement. A deadline for receipt of agreement shall be established.

6-3.3 Balloting of Interpretations. If accepted for consideration, each request shall then be submitted to ballot of the TC having primary jurisdiction of the Document or portion thereof covering the subject under consideration.

NOTE: Supplemental Operating Procedures may be adopted by a TCC such that the Formal Interpretation is balloted concurrently through the TCC and the TC and if the results of this ballot are in conflict, the Formal Interpretation will not be issued and the item shall be placed on the docket for processing and resolution by the TC at its next meeting (see 3-3.8).

6-3.4 Voting on Interpretations.

(a) A Formal Interpretation requires a three-quarters majority agreement as tallied in accordance with 3-3.4.5.

(b) Where ballots contain comments with regard to a position set forth in a Formal Interpretation request, such comments shall be transmitted to each Member who may change his or her ballot at that time.

(c) Where the necessary agreement is not received, the item shall be placed on the docket for processing and resolution by the TC at its next meeting.

6-4 Issuance of Interpretation. If the required agreement is secured, the requester, the TC, and all named parties shall be notified by the Staff Liaison. The Interpretation shall be issued and shall become effective 20 days after the notification unless an Appeal is filed with the Council within that 20-day period.

6-4.1 Publication. Interpretations of text of the current edition of a Document shall be published by the Association in one of its publications sent to all members and announced in an Association news release to other media.

Interpretations of text of an outdated Document shall not be published by the Association but shall be sent to the requester and all parties named in the request.

6-4.2 Applicability. Any Formal Interpretation issued shall apply to the edition of the Document for which the Interpretation is made and to any other edition of the Document where the text is identical to the text of the edition on which the Formal Interpretation was rendered unless deemed inappropriate by the TC or TCC (see 6-1.3).