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GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CORRECTIONS

Public Safety Services



H. BUTCH BROWNING
STATE FIRE MARSHAL

INTERPRETIVE MEMORANDUM 2011-07

To: All Fire Prevention Bureaus
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Chief Dan Wallis, Deputy Asst Fire Marshal Enforcement/Emergency Services, OSFM
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New Orleans District
Lafayette District
Shreveport District

From: Don Zeringue, Chief Architect/Plan Review, OSFM

Approved by: Chief Butch Browning, State Fire Marshal

Date: December 4, 2011

RE: Limited Combustible Materials

Limited combustible is defined as a material (as defined in NFPA 220, Standard on Types of Building Construction) not complying with the definition of noncombustible material that, in the form in which it is used, has a potential heat value not exceeding 8141 kJ/kg (3500 Btu/lb) and complies with one of the following: (a) materials having a structural base of noncombustible material, with a surfacing not exceeding a thickness of 3.2 mm (1/8 in.) and having a flame-spread rating not greater than 50 or (b) materials, in the form and thickness used, other than as described in (a), having neither a flame-spread rating greater than 25 nor evidence of continued progressive combustion and of such composition that surfaces that would be exposed by cutting through the material on any plane would have neither a flame-spread rating greater than 25 nor evidence of continued progressive combustion.

NFPA 13: 8.15.1.2.12 states that noncombustible concealed spaces having exposed combustible insulation where the heat content of the facing and substrate of the insulation material does not exceed 1000 Btu/ft2 shall not require sprinkler protection.

NFPA 13:11.2.3.1.4 (4) states that the following unsprinklered concealed spaces shall not require a minimum area of sprinkler operation of 3000 ft2 (b) Noncombustible and limited-combustible concealed spaces with limited access and not permitting occupancy or storage of combustibles. The space shall be considered a concealed space even with small openings such as those used as return air for a plenum.

The office of State Fire Marshal will review vinyl faced insulation that comply with the definition as indicated above as limited combustible. A 3000 square foot design area will not be required based on this condition. Documentation indicating the professional of record has reviewed the flame spread rating of the insulation and it appears acceptable is to be provided with sprinkler submittal.

DZ/LRB

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