

March 2, 2009

Mr. Ron Crawford
Director of Business Development
No Burn, Inc.
1392 High Street, Suite 211
Wadsworth, OH 44281

Re: NFPA 13-2002/2007, Concealed Combustible Space Exception
Section 8.14.1.2.10, 2002 edition; Section 8.15.1.2.10, 2007 edition

Dear Mr. Crawford,

You have asked for my opinion on the application of the "No-Burn" product relevant to Section 8.14.1.2.10 of NFPA 13-2002 which is now Section 8.15.1.2.10 in the NFPA 13-2007 edition.

NFPA 13-2002

“8.14.1.2.10 Concealed spaces where rigid materials are used and the exposed surfaces have a flame spread rating of 25 or less and the materials have been demonstrated not to propagate fire in the form in which they are installed shall not require sprinkler protection.”

NFPA 13-2007

“8.15.1.2.10 Concealed spaces where rigid materials are used and the exposed surfaces have a flame spread index of 25 or less, and the materials have been demonstrated not to propagate fire when tested in accordance with NFPA 255, Standard Method of Test of Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials, extended for an additional 20 minutes in the form in which they are installed, shall not require sprinkler protection.”

The intent of this section of NFPA 13-2002/2007, along with several similar exceptions, addresses the combustibility of the concealed space, i.e., fuel load, ignitability and flame spread. If the concealed space does not present an exposed combustible surface then there is an exception for the installation of sprinkler protection in that area due to the lack of a combustibility hazard.

NFPA 13-2002, Section 8.14.1.2.10 specifies that if rigid materials are used with the exposed surfaces having a flame spread index of 25 or less and have been demonstrated not to propagate fire in the form in which they are installed, the concealed space qualifies for the exception. The 2007 edition of NFPA 13 clarified the section by specifying NFPA 255 as the test standard for the rigid material.


The No Burn product has been successfully tested in accordance with NFPA 255 and has received approval through the ICC Evaluation Service, (see ESR-1838, issued October 1, 2007). The No Burn product has been shown to out perform fire-retardant impregnated wood products in many if not all cases, (which is another exception qualifier at Section 8.14.1.2.11 of the 2002 edition, 8.15.1.2.11 in the 2007 edition).

The underlying wood structure provides for the "rigid" requirement specified in the standard language and the applied No Burn product provides for the qualifying flame spread index. It should be noted that this section of NFPA 13 does not specify how the "rigid material" is constructed and/or treated to meet the requirement, only that the finished product have the specified characteristics. The 2007 edition of NFPA 13 added the specification that NFPA 255 be the test standard and the No Burn product already met that requirement.

Based upon these sections of NFPA 13 and the documentation provided by No Burn, Inc. showing that their product provides the specified flame spread index and that the resulting construction will not propagate fire in the form in which they are installed, the No Burn product clearly meets the requirements of NFPA 13-2002, Section 8.14.1.2.10, (NFPA 13-2007, Section 8.15.1.2.10), and concealed spaces constructed entirely of wood treated with the No Burn product do not require the installation of sprinklers.

Should you have any questions please feel free to contact my office.

Sincerely,



Robert J Davidson
Fire & Life Safety Consultant.