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### No-Burn Fire Retardant Product

The 2007 edition of NFPA 13 states in section 8.15.1.2.11, "Concealed spaces in which the exposed materials are constructed entirely of fire-retardant treated wood as defined by NFPA 703, *Standard for Fire Retardant-Treated Wood and Fire-Retardant Coatings for Building Materials*, shall not require sprinkler protection."

No-Burn is a fire-retardant product. The question arises as to whether or not the treatment of wood in concealed spaces by this product will then qualify the combustible concealed space to be exempt from fire sprinkler protection according to the section quoted above.

In the 2006 edition of NFPA 703, its section 5.3.1 states, "*Fire-retardant coatings shall be tested to NFPA 255, ASTM E 84, or UL 723.*" According to the product testing of No-Burn Inc, their "No-Burn Plus" product has been tested to all 3, and proves to meet Class A flame spread by all 3 test criteria. Class A flame spread is 25 or less, which is what most acoustical ceiling tile meets, and which also meets the fire sprinkler exception. It is important to note that the product must be applied according to the manufacturer's specifications.

Their other products include "No-Burn Plus Mih", "No-Burn wood Gard", "No-Burn Wood Gard Mih", "No-Burn Original", and "No-Burn Fabric Fire Gard", all of which were tested to ASTM E-84 or UL 723, and passed as being Class A with flame spread of 25 or less. **When these products are applied according to the manufacturer's specifications to the combustible materials, those concealed spaces would then meet the fire sprinkler exception.** This assumes of course that the concealed space does not have some other unusual hazard such as a fuel-fired appliance. I just want to bring to your attention a couple of product limitations.

The No-Burn products have not yet been listed for combustible foam plastics, which are now commonly seen in concealed spaces as spray-on applications for insulation. Also, the application of No-Burn products to steel does not yet have a listing to meet a particular timed fire-rating equivalency.

This investigative summary is not to be construed as our office promoting one product over another. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

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Fire Protection Engineer

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