

STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
STATE AND CONSUMER SERVICES AGENCY  
CALIFORNIA BUILDING STANDARDS COMMISSION  
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Office Use Item No. \_\_\_\_\_

**PARTICIPATION COMMENTS FOR THE NOTICE DATED OCTOBER 2, 2009**  
Written comments are to be sent to the above address.

**WRITTEN COMMENT DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 16, 2009**

Date: November 16, 2009

From:

Rick Thornberry, PE

Name (Print or type)

(Signature)

-- The Code Consortium, Inc.

Agency, jurisdiction, chapter, company, association, individual, etc.

2724 Elks Way

Street

Napa

City

CA

State

94558-3500

Zip

I/We ~~do~~(do not) agree with:

[ **X** ] The Agency proposed modifications As Submitted on Section No. SFM Standard 12-7A-5

and request that this section or reference provision be recommended:

[ ] Approved [ ] Disapproved [ ] Held for Further Study [ **X** ] Approved as Amended

**Suggested Revisions to the Text of the Regulations:**

**12-7A-5.5 Equipment.** Equipment is to be in accordance with the tests specified ~~described~~ in Section 12-7A-5.9 Conduct of Tests.

**12-7A-5.6 Materials.** Materials used are to be in accordance with the tests specified ~~described~~ in Section 12-7A-5.9 Conduct of Tests.

**12-7A-5.7 Test system specimen preparation.** The test system specimen is to be prepared in accordance with the tests specified ~~described~~ in Section 12-7A-5.9 Conduct of Tests.

**12-7A-5.9 Conduct of tests.** When weathering is required by California Building Code Section 703A Standards of Quality, ~~ignition-resistant~~ the materials to be tested are to shall be weathered in accordance with Section 12-7A-5.68 Weathering prior to testing in accordance with this Section., ~~and then~~ All materials shall be tested in accordance with the test procedures set forth in ASTM E 84 or UL 723 except that when the test is shall be continued for an additional 20 minutes period, or an “extended” for a total test period of 30 minutes total period.

**12-7A-5.10 Report.** The report shall include a description of the tested material, whether weathering was conducted, and the time and description of any degradation such as (~~peak heat release rate, structural failure, or~~ flaming drops or particles falling from the material) during the test.

**12-7A-5.11 Conditions of acceptance:**

1. **Flame spread.** Materials shall exhibit a flame spread index not exceeding 25 and shall show no evidence of progressive combustion following the ~~extended~~ 30-minute test period.
2. **Flame front.** Materials shall exhibit a flame front that does not progress more than 10-½ feet (3200 mm) beyond the centerline of the burner at any time during the ~~extended~~ 30-minute test period.

**Reason:** [The reason should be concise if the request is for “Disapproval,” “Further Study,” or “Approve As Amend” and identify at least one of the 9-point criteria (following) of Health and Safety Code §18930.]

The revisions to Sections 12-7A-5.5, 5.6, and 5.7 are necessary since the tests indicated in Section 12-7A-5.9 are not described in that section. The section simply references the two test methods ASTM E 84 or UL 723 so the more appropriate term to use is “specified” since those tests must be utilized in order to conduct the tests for ignition-resistant materials. Section 12-7A-5.9 has been revised to clarify that materials required to be weathered are to be weathered prior to testing in accordance with this section. Then all other materials are required to be tested in accordance with this section. Also the correct section reference number has been indicated as Section 12-7A-5.8 instead of Section 12-7A-5.6. And the reference to the “extended” test period

has been eliminated since it has no meaning. Instead, the additional 20 minutes is indicated as resulting in a total test period of 30 minutes since the test period in ASTM E84 and UL 723 is only for 10 minutes.

Section 12-7A-5.10 has been revised by deleting the reference to “peak heat release rate” which is not a degradation and, furthermore, is not measured in the ASTM E84 or UL 723 tests. This section has also been revised to indicate that in addition to the time of any degradation, a description of the degradation should also be included.

Section 12-7A-5.11 has been revised to also delete the reference to the word “extended” for the reasons given above for the revisions to Section 12-7A-5.9.

The proposed amendments in this Public Comment are based on Point 6 of the nine point criteria contained in Health and Safety Code Section 18930(a) which states: “The proposed building standard is not unnecessarily ambiguous or vague, in whole or in part.”