

10. Discussion and possible action on status of issue related to protective clothing for airport firefighters and the National Fire Protection Association's response to the formal interpretation request.



National Fire Protection Association

1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471
 Phone: 617-770-3000 • Fax: 617-770-0700 • www.nfpa.org

June 4, 2014

Mr. Jessie Gentry, Assistant Fire Chief VIA EMAIL ONLY
 Dallas Fort Worth International Airport Fire Department
 P.O. Drawer 610687
 DFW Airport, TX 75261

Re: Formal Interpretation Request for NFPA 1851, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting*, 2014 edition

Dear Mr. Gentry:

NFPA is in receipt of your request for a Formal Interpretation of NFPA 1851, *Standard on Selection, Care, and Maintenance of Protective Ensembles for Structural Fire Fighting and Proximity Fire Fighting* (2014 edition), and specifically Section 5.1.2 (1-7).

In accordance with the *Regulations Governing the Development of NFPA Standards* (Regulations), I have consulted with the appropriate Staff Liaison and determined that your request for a Formal Interpretation will not be processed. The reasons for this determination are found in Section 6.1.5 (d) of the Regulations. Specifically, the requested Formal Interpretation addresses NFPA 1851 requirements which involve “subjects that are not addressed in the NFPA Standard.”

NFPA 1851, *Chapter 5*, sets forth risk assessment criteria to be considered by an organization (as that term is defined within the Standard) prior to the selection of fire fighting ensembles and ensemble elements. As expressed within the Scope of NFPA 1851 (see *Chapter 1, 1.1 Scope, Chapter 5, 5.1.3* and the associated *Annex A.5.1.3*), the standard “shall specify the minimum selection, care, and maintenance requirements” for structural and proximity fire fighting protective ensembles and ensemble elements. Simply, the standard requires an organization to conduct a risk assessment prior to deciding what ensembles and ensemble elements to purchase but beyond this, does not address the scope of authority of an organization nor how the organization may exercise its judgment in determining whether or not to purchase such (see *Chapter 5, 5.1.1, Annex Note A.5.1.1, and Table A.5.1.1*).

Thank you for your interest in the NFPA standards development process. We look forward to your continued involvement.

Sincerely,

Dawn Michele Bellis
 Secretary, NFPA Standards Council