

Loren Caudill  
OnBoard Engineering  
210 Rice Drive  
Bear, De. 19701  
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### **Current Situation**

For occupancies protected with an automatic sprinkler system designed and installed in accordance with *NFPA 13, Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems* one of the fire loading factors to be considered to determine if the sprinkler demand design is adequate is the type of pallet present.

### **Background**

Many comments were received on the draft bulletin which lead to a meeting of NASFM and the stakeholders. This meeting was hosted by Underwriters Laboratories in Northbrook, Illinois on March 12<sup>th</sup>. At the stakeholder meeting, UL conducted a commodity test as a demonstration.

Several facts came out at the meeting:

1. There has been no increase in fire incidents with facilities using wood pallets.
2. Both UL and Factory Mutual are recognized by NFPA 13 as being acceptable for the approval or listing of plastic pallets and both should be accepted.
3. Tests conducted by UL showed that all wooden pallets perform similarly and that species of woods is not an issue.
4. Current wooden pallets pose no increase in fire hazard or require a change to the sprinkler design in NFPA 13.
5. There are areas in NFPA 13 that need clarification such as how to address composite pallets that use only a small amount of polymer as an adhesive or binding agent similar to plywood or particle board.
6. Both Factory Mutual and UL Standards for plastic pallets compare their equivalency to wood pallets.
7. Both Factory Mutual and UL are ANSI approved standards and are in their 5 year review processes.
8. There needs to be an educational/training program developed on NFPA 13 and how pallets are tested and approved/listed for use by code enforcement personnel.
9. NASFM agreed to form a small working group to develop such an educational/training program that could be presented on a regional basis.
10. The status of this work item would be presented at the NASFM Annual Conference.
11. I do not think any document should be issued until the compressed wood issue has been resolved.