



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE FIRE MARSHALS

August 21, 2009

To Pallet Working Group Members:

In April 2009 the National Association of State Fire Marshals formed a Pallet Working Group with the goal of developing a training and education program to assist code enforcement personnel and facility operators when assessing the adequacy of fire protection in occupancies where pallets are in use. The development of the program by the Working Group required the cooperation and collaboration of various stakeholders from the pallet industry, approval agencies and code experts. NASFM was able to organize such a group and move forward with this project in a collaborative manner.

On July 31st and August 3rd, two group participants notified NASFM of their withdrawal from the Working Group and, more importantly to NASFM, questioned our impartiality in carrying out this program.

NASFM would not have embarked on this challenging assignment with anything less than a dedication to impartiality and fairness, and the involvement of all interested parties (whether the pallets be wood, plastic or other composition) to reach a consensus on the important issue of fire safety education and correct fire code enforcement. NASFM has shown no partiality to any industry segment or company. Any suggestion that there has been any bias or unfairness on NASFM's part is not true. The group's draft work product to date has been developed in an open process at Working Group meetings where all members were able to provide comments and request changes using a consensus-based process. Any claim that the work product favors one party's interests or has been manipulated simply cannot be substantiated.

In fact, after two productive meetings of the Working Group at which draft materials were thoroughly reviewed, critiqued and improved, we are very close to having a final work product for use in providing guidance to authorities having jurisdiction as they enforce their adopted codes.

With the continued participation, support and confidence of the remaining members of the Working Group, NASFM believes that, for the very reasons we started this project, the Working Group should complete its work and finalize the training and education program. With that support, we will be in touch with you about dates to re-schedule the next meeting of the Working Group so the Working Group can complete the project.