



National Fire Protection Association

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August 7, 2009

Mr. Dale R. Hart
Inca Presswood Pallets, Ltd.
2333 South Frontage Road
P.O. Box 129
Sardis, MS 38666

Dear Mr. Hart:

This responds to your letter requesting clarification of the 2007 edition of NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, regarding pallets. NFPA regulations prohibit me from providing a formal interpretation when it involves text that clearly and decisively provides the requested information.

Paragraph 3.9.1.22 defines a wood pallet as a pallet constructed entirely of wood with metal fasteners, so by definition, Inca Presswood Pallets would not be considered to be a wood pallet.

Plastic pallets impact sprinkler design in two ways, (1) the storage of idle pallets and (2) their impact on the one classification of the commodity placed on them. Section 12.12.2 refers simply to the storage of plastic pallets and by virtue of the fact that these would not be considered wood pallets it is my opinion that the storage of Inca pallets would be covered by this section. However, it is my opinion that Inca pallets may not impact the classification of the commodity placed on them because Section 5.6.2 specifically calls out polypropylene or high-density polyethylene plastic pallets as those requiring an increase in the commodity classification.

The fact that Inca pallets do not fall into this category it is my opinion that the standard would not require an increase in the commodity classification with the use of these pallets.

Best regards,

James D. Lake
Senior Fire Protection Specialist
Staff Liaison – Automatic Sprinkler Project