

NFPA 705 Field Flame Test

Procedure

Materials:

- Specimens should be samples removed from the existing material.
- Specimens should be dry and should be a minimum of ½ inch x 4 inch

Open Flame:

- The fire exposure should be from a common wood kitchen match or source with equivalent flame properties.
- The flame should be applied for 12 seconds

Method:

- The test should be performed in a draft-free and safe location free of other combustibles.
- The sample should be suspended (preferable by means of a spring clip, tongs, or similar device) with the long axis vertical, the flame supplied to the center of the bottom edge, and the bottom edge ½ inch above the bottom of the flame.
- After 12 seconds of exposure, the match is to be removed gently away from the sample.

Requirements:

- During the exposure, flaming should not spread over the complete length of the sample or, in the case of larger samples, in excess of 4 inches from the bottom of the sample.
- There should be not more than 2 seconds of afterflame.
- Materials that break or drip flaming particles should be rejected if the materials continue to burn after they reach the floor.

Summary

Limitations:

- The deficiencies and limitations of the field test method can lead to misleading or erroneous results, and the error can be in both directions. It is quite possible to have a too-small sample show several seconds of afterflaming, causing the material to be rejected. It is equally possible for improper or inadequate field procedures to incorrectly indicate satisfactory flame resistance. This can result in dangerous errors.

Precautions

- Field procedures are useful, but they must be used with good judgment and their limitations should be recognized. Field tests should not be relied on as the sole means for ensuring adequate flame resistance of decorative materials. They are, however, useful in augmenting a comprehensive regulatory program.



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