

US Industry Perspective on Standard Harmonization



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September 23, 2004



Fire protection needs regulations

- Modern Fire protection is not simply fire extinguishment
- Three tasks
 - Protect life
 - Protect property
 - Protect Environments
- Standards emphasize all three & set bar for products



Codes/standards set min. requirements

- Acceptable agents
- Toxicity
- Fire performance
- Safety
- Design
- Installation & maintenance



US industry goal

- Provide highest quality products
 - Fire effectiveness
 - Efficient
 - Reliable
 - Low cost
- Continuous improvements
- New technologies



Industries actively involved in code/standard establishment

- Standard committee membership
 - NFPA
 - UL
 - ISO
- Provided products & data
- Assist in testing



Products meet standards

- Design for standards
- Obtain approval/ listing
- Approved products have sales advantages
- Approved products assurance
 - Performance
 - Quality
 - Liability



Go global

- Globalization in 21st Century
- U.S. products exported to
 - Europe,
 - Asia, China in particular
 - S. America
 - Australia
 - Middle East & Africa
- Products imported from these regions into U.S.
- China products go abroad, start coming into U.S.



China fire protection has made tremendous progress within last 10 years

- Fire protection law
- Code & standard development
- New products
- 4 fire research institutes & testing centers
- The fire protection market is growing rapidly – all major fire products have entered China market

Standards are different



- Different standards are used in countries and between countries for approval
- In China
 - National level
 - National Standard GB
 - Ministry Standard GA
 - Manufacture/enterprises standards
 - Provincial requirements
- In US
 - UL/ULC
 - FM
 - USCG (Coast guard)
 - Military Standards (Mil specs)

US vs. China requirements



	US	China
Pressure vessels	DOT & ASME	SQL
Fire systems testing	UL standards	GB, GA, MFR
After approval	Follow-up service procedure	Repeat in 3 years



A fire protection system need many approvals

An IG541 system

- US: UL/ULC, FM, USCG
- Europe: CE, EN
- China: Tianjin: agent, system
Shenyang: detection, panel
- Russia
- Japan
- Australia
- Korea
- Others as required

US industry to meet standards



- Repeat many tests
- High cost
- Long time
- Make different product versions
 - Common
 - Australia: Impact test
 - Japan: different gauge face
 - Korea: different QA testing



Standards harmonization benefits All

■ To manufacturers

- Reduce products variations
- Reduce inventory & cost
- Better products
- Focus on new products

■ To customers

- Lower price
- More choices
- Better products
- Newer technology

■ To governments

- Promote int'l trade
- Promote int'l cooperation
- Cheaper products

■ To approval agencies

- Better, improved standards
- Reduced cost
- Int'l cooperation

Standards standardization

- Work together - Workshop, conferences
- Int'l organizations: NFPA-CFPA
- Participate in other country's committees

- Committee work

- Participated foam agents, restaurant, aerosol standards
- Sent comments on GA 400

- UL & FM attended China committee annual meetings in 2004

- Welcome China representative in US committees





Standards standardization

■ Cooperation

- UL provided standards to Chinese committee
- UL provided technical support

■ Exchange standards

■ Request draft review





Standard harmonization “Win-Win” for all

- Better, improved standards
- Promote international trading
- More, better, newer, cheaper products
- International cooperation/
collaboration improvement:
approval & follow-up



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