

CONTACT THE NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION TO REQUEST EXTENSION ON NEW FOAM FIRE SUPPRESSION SYSTEM REQUIREMENT!

January 22, 2009

What's at Issue

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), which develops building fire codes including requirements for aircraft hangars, recently issued new guidelines mandating that Group II hangars incorporate foam fire suppression systems.

Background

NFPA is widely recognized as the authority for the development and implementation of fire building codes. For the general aviation industry, NFPA 409 provides fire codes for all aircraft hangars in most jurisdictions throughout the United States. Specifically, general aviation entities adhere to fire code requirements for Group II hangars (hangars that are over 12,000 square feet with hangar doors 28 feet high or less) and Group III hangars (hangars that are less than 12,000 square feet) under NFPA 409.

[To review NFPA 409, please click here.](#)

Why It's Important

The new NFPA 409 mandate will require aircraft hangar owners to incorporate foam fire suppression systems needing an enormous amount of water and will also require the foam and water to be collected in a cistern or other safe containment device. These two requirements would place a huge financial burden on aircraft owners, equaling the cost of the aircraft hangar itself by some estimates.

What to Do

Contact the NFPA today utilizing the association's form letter requesting a six-month extension to the March 6, 2009 comment period deadline. The form letter also requests that the NFPA convene a group of general aviation aircraft hangar owners to review and develop a new code appropriate to our industry, accounting for implementation cost and benefit.

[Click here to download the association's form letter.](#)

NATA Position

The NFPA 409 code is incredibly complicated according to experts and is interpreted differently throughout the country. Aircraft hangar owners, most of whom operate small businesses, will find this new requirement's cost impractical and not justifiable. The NFPA must consider the impact this requirement will have on small businesses and convene a special group of general aviation aircraft hangar owners to review and develop a new code appropriate to our industry.

MORE...

Status

Contact the NFPA today to ask for an extension to the March 6, 2009 comment deadline and request that the general aviation community have a seat at the table in the development of a new code appropriately scaled to the aircraft hangars used in the general aviation industry.

Staff Contact: Eric R. Byer
Vice President, Government & Industry Affairs
ebyer@nata.aero