

From: cbeebe.aha@gmail.com

To: gehrker@hotmail.com

Subject: ASHE at NFPA Conference in Boston

Date: Sat, 11 Jun 2011 21:24:14 -0700

Dear Roger Gehrke,

A lot of people have asked me to keep them in the loop on what happens at the NFPA Conference and Expo June 12– 15 in Boston. As you know, many changes have been proposed for NFPA 99. ASHE's position on many of those changes is summarized here:

- ASHE will oppose the newly introduced redundancy requirements in NFPA 99 for category 1 mechanical and plumbing systems.
- ASHE is trying to clarify that Instrument Air is an optional system and is not required by the code. The current language on this is vague, which has led to many misinterpretations.
- ASHE supports the change to require over current protection devices serving the essential electrical system to be selectively coordinated down to .1 second.
- ASHE will support motions on wet locations to change the responsibility for performing the risk assessment and give the facility the authority to determine when an OR is a wet location. (The current language considers all ORs to be wet locations until a risk assessment proves they are not.)
- ASHE will oppose motions to return the document to committee.

Our ability to communicate “play-by-play” results of the debates on these issues will be limited, but we have set up several ways to communicate the results of the meetings over the next week.

- Twitter: You can follow my posts on Twitter @ChadEBeebe or on the Web at <http://twitter.com/#!/ChadEBeebe>.
- LinkedIn: You can connect with me and follow my posts on LinkedIn, a business-oriented social networking site: <http://www.linkedin.com/pub/chad-beebe/35/466/593>.
- Summary Report: After the meeting, we will prepare a summary report and post it on the ASHE website.
- Annual Conference in Seattle: Several sessions at the ASHE Annual Conference July 17–20 will cover changes to the 2012 editions of the NFPA codes and standards: <http://www.ashe.org/annual>.

As with any codes and standards project, many steps are involved in updating NFPA codes. Although the votes of the membership carry a lot of weight, they are not the final step in the process so all results from the meeting will be preliminary until they have been vetted by the NFPA Standards Council. Remember, if you're in Boston at the NFPA Conference and Expo, ASHE invites you to meet your Advocacy team, Chad Beebe and Doug Erickson, at the NFPA Health Care Section hospitality room on Tuesday at noon. The hospitality room will be in Room 152 of the Boston Conference and Exposition Center.

Sincerely,

Chad E. Beebe

AIA, CHFM, CFPS, CBO Associate Director, Advocacy

American Society for Healthcare Engineering of the American Hospital Association