SFPE Policy on Development of Technical Works by SFPE Chapters
Adopted: January 9, 2020

Introduction

SFPE first published the Handbook of Fire Protection Engineering in 1988. The Handbook is considered the authoritative source for fire protection engineering and has established the Society and the profession as a distinct and discrete engineering profession.

SFPE began developing fire protection engineering guidance documents in 1995, with the first guide published in 1999. Since then, many more guidance documents have been published. SFPE engineering guidance documents are written in non-mandatory language (i.e., they contain suggestions instead of mandatory requirements.)

SFPE also began developing fire protection engineering standards in 2004, with the first standard published in 2011. Unlike guidance documents, standards are written in mandatory language and are suitable for reference in building codes and standards.

SFPE's fire protection engineering standards and guides are international in scope. They are intended to be suitable for use throughout the world.

SFPE is an ANSI accredited standards developing body, as such, all SFPE standards must comply with the ANSI Accredited Standards Procedures.

To address local and regional issues, SFPE Chapters may propose to produce guidance documents.

The intent of this policy is to ensure harmonization amongst technical works being produced and published under the SFPE logo and to ensure that works are not being created by chapters that repeat or contradict existing technical works or future works. Additionally, this policy will ensure that documents being created by SFPE chapters are being collected and disseminated to the general membership through SFPE.

Policy

Proposals for technical works should be sent to the SFPE Technical Director at info@sfpe.org and will receive and respond to all proposals as follows: 1) Acceptance of the work for development, 2) Rejection of the work for development, or 3) Recommendation of integration of work into an existing or planned work.

Technical works which do not fall under the scope of the Technical Director (e.g. white

papers, position statements, etc.) will be circulated to the appropriate SFPE Standing Committee for review and response.

Causes for rejection could be a similar or existing work already exists, the proposed work is not suitable for SFPE publication, or the proposed work explicitly contradicts existing works or positions of the Society.

Chapters who receive a rejection on their proposal may then appeal. For technical documents, a chapter should follow the appeals process as outlined in the *Technical Document Development Procedures, Section 20- Appeals.* For technical works which would not fall under the scope of the *Technical Document Development Proceduers,* chapters may appeal by submitting in writing to the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of SFPE through info@sfpe.org. This request will be sent from the CEO to the Board of Directors for review. The Board of Directors may then decide to overturn the rejection of the technical work, at which point the SFPE Standing Committee responsible for the development of the technical work will respond with an acceptance of the technical work for development onto its existing work program.

Approved technical works will be listed on the SFPE website and members will be notified electronically upon the approval to develop new technical works.

Technical works include, but are not limited to, the following: SFPE Handbook, Standards, Guides, white papers, position statements, educational courses, and webinars.

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