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**LOG OF MEETING**  
**DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES**

SUBJECT: NFPA World Safety Conference and Expositions/National Electrical Code Annual Meeting

DATE OF MEETING: May 24-26, 2004

PLACE OF MEETING: Salt Palace, Salt Lake City, Utah

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Doug Lee, ESEE *DL*

DATE OF LOG ENTRY: June 28, 2004

COMMISSION ATTENDEES: Doug Lee, ESEE

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

NFPA members and guests

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

The NFPA held its annual meeting acting on several codes for final adoption including NFPA 70, the *National Electrical Code (NEC)*. Mr. Lee attended the electrical section committee session and the main session to hear floor actions and final arguments to revise the 2005 edition of the NEC. A motion was made on the floor by Walt Smittle, a representative from the National Association of State Fire Marshals, to add Living Areas to the requirement for AFCIs (Arc-Fault Circuit-Interrupters) in article 210.12. The motion was passed on the floor with a simple majority.

The present requirement for AFCIs is for outlets in bedrooms. The proposal was sent back to the technical committee (Panel 2) for re-balloting. A 2/3s majority is needed to pass (before the floor vote balloting results were 9 against-4 supporting). Subsequent first balloting was 7 against-5 supporting.

Another proposal for AFCI or LCDI requirements on portable heaters was rejected on the floor. Both Underwriters Laboratories and the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers were strongly against this proposal stating that the incident data did not support the proposal.

Another proposal for removing the smoke detectors from the present AFCI requirements in bedrooms was also rejected. The presenter wants the smoke detector that may have drained batteries to be able to function. The reasons provided for rejecting the proposal were that there are no technical substantiation to indicate that AFCIs are incompatible with the smoke detectors and would be subject to nuisance tripping. Additionally, it was stated that the AFCI is designed to prevent the fire from starting and it is desirable to keep the AFCI protection to prevent the fire.

The results of other floor actions are available on the NFPA website at:  
<http://www.nfpa.org/ProfessionalDev/EventsCalendar/WFCSEXpo/Highlights/ws04code/ws04code.asp#codes>