



April 24, 2025

Michael Schmeida

ASTM E05 Committee
100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700
West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, USA
mschmeida@gypsum.org

Dear Mr. Schmeida:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff¹ is requesting that the ASTM E05 committee develop a new voluntary standard to determine the classification for consumer products in a wildfire defensible zone² of a residential structure to address fire hazards presented by consumer products in wildland urban interface (WUI) communities.

Initiating an E05 activity to develop a new standard could be an effective, multipronged strategy to contain and minimize wildfire risks related to consumer products used in proximity to residential structures. There are many consumer products that could be within the defensible zone of a home. Several consumer products (e.g., building materials that form a structure such as a deck or fence, mulch, sheds, trash cans, outdoor furniture, swing sets, and vents) play a role in the initiation and propagation of the fire spread. Embers from nearby wildfires can ignite these products and potentially lead to WUI³ fires.

WUI fires can cause catastrophic destruction of homes and communities. The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and CalFire recommend creating a defensible zone around a home and using “fire safe” construction materials and consumer products to mitigate and limit fire spread in WUI communities. CPSC staff is not aware of any standards that categorize products as “fire safe” or appropriate for use in the defensible zone. Therefore, despite the specific guidance, consumers often do not know what products are appropriate when establishing a defensible zone on their property. However, staff recognizes that there has been substantial research in the identification and characterization of these products that will provide

¹ The views in this letter are those of the staff and have not been reviewed or approved by, and may not reflect the views of, the Commission.

² Defensible zone is defined as the zone that acts as a barrier to slow or halt the progress of fire that would otherwise engulf a structure or other property during a wildfire. <https://www.fire.ca.gov/dzone>

³ WUI definition- The U.S. Fire Administration defines WUI areas as the zone of transition between unoccupied land and human development. It is the line, area or zone where structures and other human development meet or intermingle with undeveloped wildland or vegetative fuels. <https://www.usfa.fema.gov/wui/what-is-the-wui/>



a foundation on which to develop these standards.

Several stakeholders have expressed interest to CPSC staff in supporting the development of standard test methods and participating in determining the classification for consumer products in the defensible zone. CPSC staff looks forward to working with the ASTM E05 Committee to establish this new activity.

Sincerely,

S. Nazare

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Enclosure(s):

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