

LOG OF TELEPHONE CALL

Caller: Colin Todd, Consultant, Great Britain

Person Called: James F. Hoebel *James F. Hoebel*

Subject: Smoke Alarms

Date of Call: November 21, 1995

Summary: Great Britain issued this month their new Code of Practice covering installation of domestic smoke detectors. Mr. Todd, who has considerable background in the development of the British standard - he wrote the first draft - is preparing a guide to go along with the Code. The first part of the guide will be background, that will include information on the U.S. experience. He was aware of our recent work, and admitted that the U.S. was ahead of the British in the smoke detector field. He had drafted a paragraph, and wanted to be assured that the language was up to date. He read it over the phone: it seemed to be a reasonable summary of some of our findings, and properly emphasized the problems of non-working detectors, the importance of maintaining power to the detector, and the influence of unwanted alarms on consumer behavior. I told him that the language was acceptable.

Among other things, the new British standard (Code) requires detectors to have a means to silence an unwanted alarm. It also recommends photoelectric devices for installation near cooking, rather than ionization types. For hard-wired detectors, connection to a dedicated circuit is recommended with circuit breaker protection rather than fuses, so that an alarm caused by detector malfunction can be silenced safely.

I promised to send him copies of our two surveys and the IITRI contractor's report. He will try to send me a copy of the new British standard.

cc: A. G. Stadnik
J. Ayres
C. B. Church
M. Neily
C. Smith
L. Smith

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