



## FOUR HIGH STORAGE OF RELIEVING-STYLE STEEL DRUMS APPROVED

### NFPA Amendment to Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), at its annual meeting in Denver, Colorado May 14-17, 2000, approved an amendment to NFPA 30, the flammable and combustible liquids code. This code change allows steel drums filled with flammable and combustible liquids which are fitted with relieving style (fusible) plugs to be stacked four high in storage warehouses with foam-water fire suppression systems.

This decision doubled warehouse storage space while safely managing the fire hazards associated with the storage of hazardous materials. The NFPA Code is used by many state and local fire code authorities to establish storage requirements for warehouse storage of hazardous materials.

The NFPA 30 Committee considered and approved this change in the Code after an extensive review of the results of comprehensive fire tests conducted at the Southwest Research Institute, a non-profit engineering research and testing facility. The tests showed that relieving style steel containers could be safely stacked up to four high, effectively doubling warehouse space, safely managing risk due to fire loss and improving storage efficiencies. NFPA incorporated this change in NFPA Code 30.

ISDI in partnership with the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Paint and Coatings Association, insurers, chemical companies, fire protection equipment suppliers, drum manufacturers, and closure manufacturers, sponsored the \$360,000 fire tests. David Nugent, currently with Global Risk Management, was the Technical Advisor on the project.

For more information on the NFPA Code or for information on the fire tests at Southwest Research Institute please contact Susan Nauman, Executive Director of ISDI at 410-544-0385 or by e-mail at [snauman@industrialpackaging.org](mailto:snauman@industrialpackaging.org).

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