

From: [Paul Patton](#)
To: [Warfield, Lisa](#)
Cc: richard.lewis@agr.georgia.gov; [Butcher, Kenneth S.](#); [Sefcik, David](#)
Subject: Re: Firewood measurement proposal
Date: Wednesday, January 06, 2016 1:24:57 PM

Hello Lisa and Richard,

Unfortunately I am unable to join the event next week but I hope you will accept these comments.

My company, SBC Firemaster Ltd. is one of the largest firewood bundle manufacturers in North America and have been supplying our markets for over 30 years. I am more than willing to answer any questions regarding the firewood business from the perspective of a manufacturer.

First, we are very supportive of any initiative that formalizes how firewood bundles are measured. As you know, the lack of a national standard has caused much confusion in the marketplace for consumers, manufacturers and retail stores. In 2014, my company hired a university student full time for 6 months in order to study all of the different methodologies of measuring firewood in the markets we supply, and how we qualify under these different methodologies. It was a very interesting report and clearly showed the confusion resulting from a lack of a national standard.

My main concern is that the new standard recognizes that each piece of firewood is unique. It is possible to make sure that exactly 20 cigarettes go into a package of cigarettes but it is not possible to make sure that exactly .75 cubic feet of firewood go into a bundle. I've noticed an emerging trend for firewood manufacturers to simply change their label to something much smaller like .6 cubic feet. While it does protect the manufacturer from selling a bundle that is too small, it simply brings confusion to the marketplace. I am support of an average bundle size (say taken from 5 - 10 samples) that match the volume stated on the label.

Ease of measurement is also a concern. For example, drawing on graph paper is time consuming so manufacturers have a tough time implementing quality control programs. A simple but accurate test can be incorporated into assembly lines thereby providing real time compliance information. If the bundles are too small (or too big), adjust the line to change the volume. If there was a tool to measure this, I will assure you that it would be on our assembly line and that would guarantee our compliance.

Please feel free to ask us any questions. If you feel that we may be assistance in your upcoming meeting in Colorado, please let me know and I will gladly do a presentation, speak on the topic, join a manufacturers panel, etc. We'd like to help.

Thanks,

Paul Patton

On Tue, Jan 5, 2016 at 6:19 AM, Warfield, Lisa <lisa.warfield@nist.gov> wrote:

| Paul,

My apologies for just getting back to you, I was out on holiday leave. I have received your voicemail message in regards to the L&R Agenda proposal for firewood. If you are unable to attend the NCWM Interim Meeting in San Diego next week you could submit your comments (via email) to the L&R Committee for consideration. This will assist the Committee in how to move forward with the agenda item. Please note that there are two separate proposals for firewood and your comments should clearly state which item they are for.

I am in the office until close of business Thursday and next week I will be in attendance at the NCWM Interim meeting. Please give me a call if you would like to further discuss.

Please submit your comments to L&R Chair Richard.lewis@agr.georgia.gov and myself.

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Lisa Warfield

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www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/index.cfm

From: Warfield, Lisa

Sent: Wednesday, November 18, 2015 4:10 PM

To: 'Paul Patton' <ppatton@sbcfiremaster.com>

Cc: kenneth.butcher@nist.gov; Sefcik, David <david.sefcik@nist.gov>

Subject: RE: Firewood measurement proposal

Paul

I wanted to let you know that the National Conference of Weights and Measures has released Publication 15- 2016 Interim Meeting Agenda.

<http://www.ncwm.net/meetings/interim/publication-15>

Firewood as several different proposals on the Laws and Regulations Agenda

NIST Handbook 130- Uniform Method of Sale - Item 232-4 Section 2.4. Fireplace and Wood Stove

NIST Handbook 133 -

Item 260-3 Section 3.14 Firewood – Volumetric Test Procedure (submitted by NIST)

Item 260-4- Section 3.14 Firewood – Volumetric Test Procedure (submitted by California Hotwood)

During the Interim Meeting the L&R Committee will determine a status to these Proposals [(V)= Voting, (D)= Developing, (W)=Withdrawn]. If there is not a consensus to new language, they could move the item forward and leave it up to the Committee and States. The Committee could also decide to continue to develop and get feedback from the Regions.

NIST – Handbook 130 - <http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/pubs/hb130.cfm>

NIST – Handbook 133 - <http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/pubs/hb133.cfm>

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www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/index.cfm

From: Paul Patton [<mailto:ppatton@sbcfiremaster.com>]
Sent: Monday, August 17, 2015 11:27 AM
To: Warfield, Lisa <lisa.warfield@nist.gov>
Subject: Firewood measurement proposal

Hi Lisa,

My name is Paul Patton and I am the owner of a large firewood bundle manufacturing company called SBC Firemaster Ltd. I have reviewed your notes and I want to add my support for any initiative that will make reporting of firewood bundles consistent and clear.

Please keep me on your communication list so I may ensure that my company complies with any changes.

Thanks,

Paul

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