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259

Standard Test Method for Potential Heat of Building Materials

2023

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2023 Edition

NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts
An International Codes and Standards Organization

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Standard Test Method for

Potential Heat of Building Materials

2023 Edition

This edition of NFPA 259, *Standard Test Method for Potential Heat of Building Materials*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Tests. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 29, 2022, with an effective date of December 19, 2022, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 259 was approved as an American National Standard on December 19, 2022.

Origin and Development of NFPA 259

This standard is based on a test method developed at the National Bureau of Standards in 1961. Consideration of the test method by the NFPA began in 1973 and culminated in the standard that was adopted in 1976, reconfirmed in 1981, and revised at the 1986 Fall Meeting. The 1993 edition was a reconfirmation of the 1987 edition.

The 1998 edition was completely rewritten to incorporate editorial changes and eliminate nonmandatory language. The only significant technical change was the incorporation of the requirement for two tests to be performed for a product to determine its heat of combustion. A maximum 10 percent variation was permitted; otherwise, a third test was required.

Also in 1998, a new Appendix A was added, providing explanatory material. A new Appendix C containing material extracted from Appendix C of NFPA 220, *Standard on Types of Building Construction*, was added for informational purposes.

The 2003 edition of NFPA 259 was updated to meet the requirements of the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*.

The 2008 edition of NFPA 259 was a reconfirmation of the 2003 edition.

The 2013 edition included a new test limitation, revised oxygen bomb calorimeter requirements, and revised annex material.

The 2018 edition of NFPA 259 included new Annex B material on the use of potential heat data.

The 2023 edition contains minor changes to Annex B and updates to reference documents.

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