NFPA® 90B

Standard for the Installation of Warm Air Heating and Air-Conditioning Systems

2015 Edition
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This edition of NFPA 90B, Standard for the Installation of Warm Air Heating and Air-Conditioning Systems, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Air Conditioning. It was issued by the Standards Council on April 29, 2014, with an effective date of May 19, 2014, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 90B was approved as an American National Standard on May 19, 2014.

Origin and Development of NFPA 90B

This standard dates from 1899, when committee attention was first given to blower and exhaust systems. Prior to 1936, the subject of air conditioning was covered in NFPA standards on blower systems. In 1937, it was decided to prepare a separate standard on air-conditioning, warm air heating, and ventilating systems. This standard was initially adopted in 1937 with subsequent amendments in 1938, 1939, 1940, 1942, 1950, 1952, 1955, 1956, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1964, 1965, 1968, 1971, 1973, 1976, 1980, 1984, and 1989. The 1993 and 1996 editions were reconfirmations of the 1989 edition. The 1999 edition contained changes that were mainly editorial in nature.

The 2002 edition incorporated format changes to comply with the Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents and new provisions for the removal of accessible abandoned materials in concealed spaces and plenums.

The only changes to the 2006 edition were to update “flame spread rating” to “flame spread index.”

The major change in the 2009 edition was to replace the references to NFPA 255 with ANSI/UL 723 and ASTM E 84, since NFPA 255 had been withdrawn. All three test standards are quite similar.

The changes in the 2012 edition were for the purpose of updating the editions of the referenced standards.

For the 2015 edition, the changes that have been made consist of primarily editorial alterations, reference updates, and clarifications of existing language. A section and test method for air dispersion systems has also been added.
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NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of systems for air conditioning, warm air heating, and ventilating including filters, ducts, and related equipment to protect life and property from fire, smoke, and gases resulting from fire or from conditions having manifestations similar to fire.
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Standard for the
Installation of Warm Air Heating and Air-Conditioning Systems

2015 Edition

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A reference in brackets [ ] following a section or paragraph indicates material that has been extracted from another NFPA document. As an aid to the user, the complete title and edition of the source documents for extracts in mandatory sections of the document are given in Chapter 2 and those for extracts in informational sections are given in Annex B. Extracted text may be edited for consistency and style and may include the revision of internal paragraph references and other references as appropriate. Requests for interpretations or revisions of extracted text shall be sent to the technical committee responsible for the source document.

Information on referenced publications can be found in Chapter 2 and Annex B.

Chapter 1 Administration

1.1* Scope. This standard shall cover construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of systems for warm air heating and air conditioning, including filters, ducts, and related equipment to protect life and property from fire, smoke, and gases resulting from fire or from conditions having manifestations similar to fire.

1.2 Purpose. This standard shall prescribe provisions based on minimum requirements for safety to life and property.

1.3 Application.

1.3.1 This standard shall apply to all systems for the movement of environmental air in structures that serve the following, except as described in 1.3.2:

1.3.2 This standard shall not apply to systems for the movement of environmental air in buildings of combustible construction over three stories in height, which shall comply with NFPA 90A.

1.4 Equivalency. Nothing in this standard is intended to prevent the use of systems, methods, or devices of equivalent or superior quality, strength, fire resistance, effectiveness, durability, and safety over those prescribed by this standard.

1.4.1 Technical documentation shall be submitted to the authority having jurisdiction to demonstrate equivalency.

1.4.2 The system, method, or device shall be approved for the intended purpose by the authority having jurisdiction.

Chapter 2 Referenced Publications

2.1 General. The documents or portions thereof listed in this chapter are referenced within this standard and shall be considered part of the requirements of this document.

2.2 NFPA Publications. National Fire Protection Association, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169-7471.


2.3 Other Publications.


2.3.2 ASTM Publications. ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, P.O. Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959.


2.3.3 SMACNA Publications. Sheet Metal and Air Conditioning Contractors’ National Association, Inc., 4201 Lafayette Center Drive, Chantilly, VA 20151-1209.


2.3.4 UL Publications. Underwriters Laboratories Inc., 333 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, IL 60062-2096.

