



September 2022 Report

Our conference in Rome was a success and I am hopeful it will serve as a platform for us to establish an organisation to promote sprinklers in Italy. We also saw some code progress as The Netherlands published an update to its building regulations to require sprinklers in car parks below sleeping risks, while Spain published a draft update to its fire code for industrial buildings. Standards moved ahead, with the CEN standard for pump sets published for enquiry as that for earthquake bracing passed the enquiry. The European Assessment Document for ESFR sprinklers was cited in the Official Journal of the European Union, meaning it can be used to assess ESFRs for CE-marking.

EFSN Council Meeting

We took advantage of the presence of so many council members for the conference in Rome to hold a short meeting. Volker Bechtloff, Robert Reinermann and Steve Broadley were re-elected chairman, vice-chairman and treasurer respectively. The council reviewed EFSN activities and finances, including a proposed budget for FY2024. It also supported a 5% fee increase in membership fees, these not having changed for seven years. I will write to members about this in October.

EFSN Technical Committee

The EFSN Technical Committee met on 27th September in Rome, the day before the conference. We reviewed progress with standards and discussed various technical issues. We also began to form a programme committee for Fire Sprinkler International 2023, which will be held in Amsterdam 31 May to 1 June. We will issue a call for papers but you can send me suggestions at any time.

Please let me know if you were not invited to this meeting and would like to attend future meetings. The next meeting will be online on 7 March.

Belgium

Working from my draft we refined our business plan for the Belgian Fire Sprinkler Network. We are looking to increase the budget, so that we can pay for more hours from the eventual replacement for François. Some installers are not yet members and others could contribute more. The key will be to present them with a vision that addresses their interests.

France

I have been asked to speak on 13-14 April at a conference on fire protection of cultural heritage in Chantilly, north of Paris. The conference is the culmination of work funded by Renault following the Notre Dame disaster to generate French guidance for the protection of cultural heritage buildings. We are expecting key influential people to attend.

Italy

I attended SafetyExpo in Bergamo where Gaetano Coppola of Jensen Hughes introduced me to many people. Our conference in Rome is intended to be a launch pad to start activities in Italy, so it is important that as many like-minded people as possible are aware of our aims.

FSE 2022 – Rome was a success with 90 delegates, of whom almost 40 were Italian, including several officials. We have found some companies that are interested in working with us to set up an organisation to promote the use of sprinklers and water mist in Italy. I will now organise a meeting, probably in Milan, before the end of this year to bring everyone together and agree next steps.

Netherlands

The Dutch government published an update to its building code to introduce a requirement for sprinklers in car parks below sleeping risks. This is the first sprinkler requirement in the Dutch building code. After a number of very large fires where firefighters were unable to prevent spread to many vehicles it became clear that sprinklers were needed.

Spain

The Spanish government published a draft revision to its industrial fire safety building code, the RSCIEI. We will now review the draft and seek to make comments.

UK

We held a third online meeting to discuss quality issues in the UK water mist market and have agreed on a number of avenues to improve the situation, one being third party installer accreditation.

I participated in a comment review meeting for BS 9991.

CEN TC/191/WG5

I participated in an online meeting and an in-person meeting in Rome to address comments on the draft revision of EN 12845-1. We have now addressed about 17% of the 4,000 comments.

prEN 17451, the draft European standard for sprinkler system pump set assemblies, has been published for the CEN enquiry.

prEN 12845-3, the draft European standard for earthquake bracing, passed the CEN enquiry. The comments will now be addressed.

CEN TC/127/WG8

For a September meeting of this working group on fire engineering we received a draft of the revised ISO EN 13943 Fire safety – Vocabulary, which is now out for comment.

The working group discussed the framework for recommended national regulations on fire safety engineering, to support the work of the Joint Research Centre, funded by the European

Commission. It concluded there were two routes, one that sets out functional requirements and another that allows a fire engineer to demonstrate equivalency to a deemed-to-satisfy solution.

EAD for ESFRs

European Assessment Document 100002-00-1106 *Early Suppression, Fast Response (ESFR), K240 to K480, Upright and Pendent Automatic Fire Sprinkler* was cited in the Official Journal of the European Union on 12 September. Laboratories that are members of EOTA can apply to their national accreditation body to have it added to their scope and can then issue CE certificates based on European Technical Assessments conducted using this EAD.

EU Fire Safety Week

I will speak briefly at a seminar on 16 November during EU Fire Safety Week. EFSN is one of six organisations hosting the seminar in Brussels. The day before I will attend a meeting in the European Parliament. While the European institutions do not have legal competence over buildings regulations, there are some policy areas which touch on fire protection, such as sustainability and citizen safety. I will ensure the benefits of sprinklers are not forgotten.

Next Steps

- 1) Give a presentation at a residential sprinkler seminar in The Netherlands.
- 2) Participate in the CEN TC/191 plenary meeting and working group meetings to address enquiry comments on prEN 12845-1.
- 3) Participate in a comment review meeting for BS 9991.
- 4) Attend the UK fire summit in London.
- 5) Follow up the momentum created by FSE 2022 – Rome.
- 6) Begin planning the programme for FSI 2023 in Amsterdam.