THE WATER MIST TECHNOLOGY

CEN TS 14972 – Current Developments

Or better: how we spent the last summer holidays…. 

Luciano Nigro
The starting point

- We have a document – TS 14972 - that has been prepared by the working group - dated September 2010.
- It is already a first revision of the first document, that was dated back to 2008.
- It includes a main part, for design and installation, and a set of fire test protocols (7 in total) ranging from combustible liquid fires to deep fat fryers, and also including office spaces and cable tunnels.
- We do not have anything yet for components.
The standardization process

• The water mist fire fighting systems are not included (yet) in the mandate M109 given by the commission to TC 191 to answer to the CPD. … that means we do not go towards any CE marking
• The current document has been published as Technical Specification, that is a sort of “Tentative Document”, pretty similar to the DD used in UK to develop new standards. It must be transformed into an EN within 6 years, or canceled.
• Otherwise it can be published as a TR
What about the real world

• How is the TS 14972 received by the real world and how it is considered?
• We may say that it is not generally well accepted!
• Some countries are developing their own standard, because they do not “like” the European ones;
• others are using it because they find it a “better than nothing” document to deal with water mist fire protection
• Definitely the standard is not well considered in the United States… but in that country the entire water mist technology is having problems....
What about the rest of the world

• UK has published a Draft for Development document, concerning Design and Installation of commercial water mist systems, followed by a series of test protocol documents
• France has published the D2 document, concerning installation of water mist systems
• NFPA has published already the 4th edition of NFC 750 dealing with design and installation, that only mention the test protocol as an appendix.
• FM publish a DS 4-2 and the approval document 5560
Could we do anything better?

• It appeared quite clear that the current status of the European Document was a bit “too week” versus the other documents available.

• An action was to be taken to try to get at least at the same level as the others, whether not ahead a little bit.

• It was a strong decision of the Chairman of the European Working Group to reconsider the work done so far and to put it under discussion.

• It was also a good decision (we hope) to trust the IWMA proposal to create a task group to re-draft the standard, at least for the design and installation part.
The summer 2011 TG

• The problem was brought to the attention of the IWMA Board
• A tentative was made to ask a “specialist” to do the re-drafting activity on a fee basis.
• We soon realized that the standard writing is an expensive activity nobody wants to make...
• And than an internal working group was set up that included a number of persons small enough to be “agile” in the discussions and the decisions.
• We met quite a few times, in the period between the spring 2011 and last september
The Drafting process

• Because of the very short time available, we soon decided to have a “volunteer” doing the “dirty job” of writing it!
• Therefore we created a structure for the new draft, having the characteristics of a Design and Installation standard.
• We took all the contents of the already developed TS14972 into the new structure.
• Then we examined all the other available documents and the comments received by other members of the CEN group that had not the possibility to directly participate
• We mixed it all together…
The Document was completed

• In September the document was completed.
• It has been delivered to the secretary of the working group for distribution about 10 days ago and it is now available to the group members.
• Here the index is shown... just as an evidence of the work done.
• It will be discussed in the next week meeting in Cologne and after that I think it will become publicly available and I hope everybody will have something to say about it...
• Except: “Why didn’t find a better way to spend the 2011 summer holidays!!!!
THANK YOU

International Water Mist Association