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Hamburg, 18th June 2020

The Publication of EN 14972 (Position Paper)

In connection with the planned publication of EN 14972, the International Water Mist Association (IWMA) would like to stress the following: IWMA is proud to have been part of the process to develop this European Standard. Many top experts from all over Europe have contributed to the document and we are absolutely certain to have created a strong and safe document for the water mist community and its customers.

IWMA are aware of the letter of complaint, enunciated by FSH/18/5, dated 7th May 2020 and sent to CEN/TC 191/WG10 and also of the reply from CEN/TC 191/WG10, dated 27th May 2020, sent to FSH/18/5 (Ms Susan Revell) and also Dr. Mike Leggett (CEN/TC 191 secretary).

In this context, IWMA would like to underline that – in the name of the members of IWMA, especially those based in the UK – the organisation fully supports not only the publication of EN 14972 but also the response from CEN/TC 191/WG10 to the letter of complaint in every way and in all points made.

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As far as IWMA is concerned, the road ahead looks as follows:

- In a first step, EN 14972-1 (Fixed firefighting systems – water mist systems – Part 1: Design, installation, inspection and maintenance) will be published.
- In a second step, EN 14972-2 to EN 14972-17 will be published. This part of the standard includes the fire test protocols. (Which are based on protocols and fire tests which have been developed and carried out by fire test laboratories such as BRE, VdS and FM amongst other. However, in the document the protocols have been anonymised)

The core and centrepiece of the EN 14972 series is the manufacturer's manual, the so called "DIOM" (Part of EN 14972/4.2.3. content of the DIOM manual and 5.1.1. installation / DIOM manual). DIOM stands for "design, installation, operation and maintenance". This approach of producing specific DIOM manuals by application and system evaluated in full scale fire tests makes the water mist technology unique and different from other water-based fire suppression / extinguishing systems. Every system is proprietary and performance-based. Interoperability (one fits all) does not apply to water mist systems.

The requirements for the manufacturers' manual have been specified in EN 14972-1, in order to ensure that every water mist manufacturer knows the specifications that need to be followed, the information and limitations that need to be provided, the points that need to be considered and the steps that need to be followed.



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The fire test protocols will be published once they have been referenced. However, the cross reference between EN 14972-1 and parts 2 to 17 is already included in EN 14972 in as much as there is a clear statement saying that all water mist systems shall be designed and installed according to the results of the already published and therefore available fire test protocols.

The EN 14972 series follows the same approach as the in 1996 published North American standard NFPA 750 which is also based on the DIOM principal based on full-scale fire test results. This is further evidence that the whole water mist industry supports this approach.

In June 2017, prEN 14972 was published and superseded TS 14972. From that point onwards the industry had a document that it could use and refer to in contracts.

Bettina McDowell

i.V. Bettina McDowell

IWMA General Manager

Please note: This letter will be published on the IWMA webpage and on LinkedIn. IWMA members will be made aware of the publication via the IWMA newsletter. Apart from that, the letter will be sent to the following organizations and their representatives:

- FIA Fire Industry Association (Ian Moore, Will Lloyd and Robert Thilthorpe, who is also chairman of CEN TC 191)
- FPA Fire Protection Association (Jon O'Neill and Dr. Jim Glockling)
- FSH/18/5 (Ms Susan Revell)
- BASFA (Keith MacGillivray, CEO)
- National Fire Chiefs Council (Jason Thelwell, Gavin Tomlinson and Nick Coombe as well as chairman Roy Wilsher)
- London Fire Brigade (Gareth Steele, Ben Mossop and Nick Coleshill)
- CEN/TC 191 (Dr. Mike Leggett, secretary)
- CEN/TC 191/WG10 (Dr. Joachim Böke, chairman)