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# COMMITTEE CORRESPONDENCE

WM DOCKET CONTROL  
CENT.

committee: Subcommittee - Programmatic  
Activities  
subject: Proposed Main Committee Ballot  
on Changes to 17S-1

address writer Babcock & Wilcox Company  
care of: P.O. Box 10935  
Lynchburg, VA 24506-0935

date: December 17, 1987  
to: Mr. Ford W. Knight

copy to: D.B. Haynes  
S.D. Weinman  
Members WG-DC&RM

Dear Ford:

The Subcommittee Letter Ballot to approve the changes to 17S-1 to incorporate the 1986 editions of the NFPA-232 Fire Protection Codes has been approved by the following count:

- 12 - Approved
- 0 - Approved with Comment
- 0 - Disapproved
- 6 - Not Returned
- 18 - Total Members

The completed ballots will be sent to Dennis Haynes for the Subcommittee records.

Since this change was approved by the Subcommittee, I would appreciate your endorsement to Steve Weinman so that the change may be submitted for Main Committee ballot. I have attached a brief explanation of the change and a copy of the analysis which compared the 1975 to 1980 editions of NFPA-232.

Best wishes for the holidays.

Sincerely,

Arland L. MacKinney  
Chairman, WG - DC&RM

/dlw

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Keep ASME Codes and Standards Department Informed

MANUAL FOR FIRE PROTECTION  
FOR ARCHIVES AND RECORDS CENTERS

A COMPARISON 1975 VS. 1980

1. One of the main revisions to NFPA 1975 is the splitting up of information - the deciding factor in application being the size of vault in use. NFPA 232AM-1980 applies to file rooms 50,000 cu ft and all archives and records centers. NFPA 232-1980 applies to 50,000 cu ft and smaller.
2. Most of the history, i.e., Basic Need Section, etc. (pp. 5-7), has been deleted. Need for sprinkler systems also condensed to one paragraph (Chapter 5).
3. Definitions
  - a. 2021 Approved - 1975 - reads approved refers to material equipment tested listed by Underwriters Laboratories, Inc., or other nationally recognized testing lab.  
  
Approved - 1980 - reads acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction.
  - b. 2022 Vault - 1975 changed to read 1980 Standard Records Vault both stating a completely fire-resistant enclosure used exclusively for records storage. 1975 version states a standard vault size as 5,000 cu ft; 1980 version - no clear-cut difference stated.
  - c. Vault Door - mostly condensed wording; end result the same (two paragraphs to one line). 1980 version creates a new term referred to as "File Room" creating a whole new set of definitions to be considered; i.e., File Room Door, File Room.
  - d. File Room is not to be confused with a vault; definitely states File Room is fire-resistive enclosure which provides less fire protection than a vault and is used exclusively for the storage of records.
  - e. Fire-Resistive Building - no change.
  - f. Nonfire-resistive Building - no change.
  - g. Mobile Shelving - new in 1980; not addressed in 1975 (self-explanatory).
  - h. Labeled - New in 1980 - Equipment or materials to which has been attached a label, symbol, or other identifying mark of an organization acceptable to "authority having jurisdiction."
  - i. Listed - New in 1980 - Equipment or materials included in a list published by an organization acceptable to the "authority

having jurisdiction" concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspections of production of listed equipment or materials and whose listing states either equipment or material meets appropriate standards or has been tested and found suitable for use in a specified manner.

- j. Open-Shelf File Equipment - New in 1980 - Any shelving that does not enclose the compartments on six sides.
- k. Records Classes - concept remains same - wording greatly reduced; defines "shall," "should," and "slab."
- l. Standard Records Vault, Ground Supported Vault, and Structure Supported Vault - all remain the same.
- m. Vault Door, Vault Floor, Vault Roof - all changed to one-line definitions but gone into more detail in another chapter. Chapter 2, Standard Records Vault, examines in detail dimensions, standards, thickness, etc.
- n. Floors, Walls, Bonding Requirements, etc., - wording reduced; standards remain same.
- o. Classification, i.e., Two-, Four-, Six-hour vaults - remain the same.
- p. Door Closers - along with heat actuated releases - the addition of smoke actuated releases required.

NOTE: The piercing of walls, floors, and ceilings is now permissible per 1980 version provided the sealing of conduits, etc., is of approved, noncombustible material, i.e., grout, concrete, sealer, etc. (Also note: a number of ifs, ands, or buts--**READ CAREFULLY!!**)

- q. Fire Protection Equipment - major change - the allowance of Automatic Initiation Extinguishing System; i.e., wall/floor-ceiling penetrations.
4. The survey section in the 1975 version has been completely deleted.

### Explanation of Proposed Change to Incorporate NFPA-232-1986 Editions

Supplement 17S-1 currently references the 1975 edition of NFPA-232. Consequently, the Work Group on Document Control & Records Management initiated a comparison of the 1975 versus 1980 versions of this code. This comparison was performed by the staff of one of the utility members. A copy of the comparison is attached.

Subsequently, a review of the 1986 edition of this code was performed against the 1980 version. This review supported the preface to NFPA-232-1986, which states, "The 1986 edition is a reconfirmation of the 1980 edition and includes updates primarily to the reference publication chapters."

The Programmatic Subcommittee has voted to endorse the recommended changes, which are consistent with SPIN items no. 2 and 8.

4.4.2 Alternate Single Facilities. The following are acceptable alternatives to the criteria of para. 4.4.1 above for a single facility:

- (a) 2 hr fire rated vault meeting NFPA 232-1975;<sup>1</sup>
- (b) 2 hr fire rated Class B file containers meeting the requirements of NFPA 232-1975;<sup>1</sup> or
- (c) 2 hr fire rated file room meeting the requirements of NFPA 232-1975<sup>1</sup> with the following additional provisions:

- (1) early warning fire detection and automatic fire suppression capability with electronic supervision at a constantly attended central station;
- (2) records storage in fully enclosed metal cabinets;
- (3) adequate access and aisle ways;
- (4) prohibition in the room of work not directly associated with record storage or retrieval;
- (5) prohibition in the room of smoking, eating, or drinking;
- (6) 2 hr fire rated dampers or doors in all boundary penetrations.

4.4.3 Dual Facilities. If storage at dual facilities for each record is provided, the facilities shall be at locations sufficiently remote from each other to eliminate the chance of exposure to a simultaneous hazard. Each facility is not required to satisfy the requirements of either para. 4.4.1 or para. 4.4.2 above, but shall meet the other requirements of this Standard.

## 5 RETRIEVAL

Storage systems shall provide for retrieval of information in accordance with planned retrieval times based upon the record type.

A list shall be maintained designating those personnel who shall have access to the files.

<sup>1</sup>NFPA 232-1975 is contained in Volume 9 of the National Fire Codes published by the National Fire Protection Association, 470 Atlantic Avenue, Boston, MA 02210.

NFPA 232-1986 or

NFPA 232AM-1986 or both;<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>NFPA 232-1986 and NFPA 232AM-1986 are published by the National Fire Protection Association, Batterymarch Park, Quincy, Massachusetts 02269