



EUROPEAN FIRE SPRINKLER NETWORK

April 2009 Report

In April the IFSA approved the final EFSN request for funding, this time for \$50,000. It also approved in principle the co-funding of national country managers, to a limit of \$50,000. Spain has already expressed an interest in this offer. The other main item of news is that I believe I have found someone to be the Country Manager for France. I hope to make an announcement next month. In parallel I am in discussion with a French lobbyist to find a way to launch a political campaign for sprinklers in France.

IFSA Meeting

In April I gave a presentation to the International Fire Sprinkler Association board, IFSA, in which I made two separate requests for funding. The first was a request for \$50,000 to assist the EFSN to fund a Country Manager for France. This was approved but the IFSA board said it will not approve future requests of this type. The second request was for the IFSA to co-fund Country Managers, with a limit on the IFSA contribution of \$50,000. Countries participating in this scheme would have to contribute at least €10,000 directly to the EFSN and have at least five EFSN members or have their national trade association be a member of EFSN. The Country Manager would be paid and managed by the EFSN and report to a joint national board of which the EFSN would be a member. The IFSA board approved this proposal on the condition that a business plan be submitted in each case. At present Spain is the country most likely to be first to take advantage of this offer.

EFSN Technical Committee

The Technical Committee met at FM Global offices in Paris on 21 April. Gösta Holmstedt had to step down as Vice Chairman and Brendan MacGrath of FM Global was elected in his place. I have circulated the minutes of this meeting to EFSN members so will not report on it here. Technical Committee meetings are open to all EFSN members. The next meeting will be held at Lubrizol offices in Brussels on 8th September.

France

I believe I have found the person to be the EFSN Country Manager for France and hope to be able to announce a name in next month's report. I also met a French lobbyist who has successfully advanced regulations at a political level in favour of flame retardants and domestic smoke detectors. We will discuss how she can advance the sprinkler campaign in French political circles.

UK

I met representatives from BAFSA and NFSN to discuss our future plans. A seminar in the House of Commons in July will feature a sprinkler from France to explain the background to the French requirement to fit sprinklers in warehouses larger than 3,000m². By contrast the threshold in England and Wales is 20,000m² and 14,000m² in Scotland. We agreed that I would approach Nick Raynsford MP again to see if he now has the time to campaign for sprinklers in Parliament. If he does not we will approach some other MPs who have shown an interest in fire safety matters. We are also planning our campaign for the next review of Approved Document B, which in effect is the fire safety building code for England and Wales. I have arranged to meet a government official in May with Stewart Kidd of BAFSA to discuss this and other issues such as the conclusions of government-sponsored research on car park fires and fires in high-risk buildings.

Online Seminars

On Monday, 20th April Sinikka Freidhof of Lubrizol and Rick van Meesen of Anvil gave an online seminar on sprinkler piping systems, covering CPVC and grooved coupling systems. The ninth and final seminar in our first series will be given by Alex Playfair of SPP Pumps on Monday 11th May and will be on sprinkler system pumps. This seminar will begin at 15:00 Central European Time (14:00 UK time) and will last for 90 minutes. To register and pay for this seminar go to www.eurosprinkler.org and click on seminars. The fee is €100 for EFSN members and €200 for non-members. Online seminars are a cost-effective way to learn; all you need is an internet connection and several people can follow the seminar together at no extra charge. The Technical Committee is planning a second series of seminars, beginning in September.

Next Steps

- 1) Meet Sadiq Khan, British Fire Minister.
- 2) Presentation in Greece on the need for sprinklers to protect the disabled.
- 3) Participate in CEN sprinkler rules panel meeting in Cologne.
- 4) Give a training seminar on sprinklers in Slovenia.
- 5) Advance preparations for the 2010 Conference in Brussels.