

NFPA 251

Standard Methods of Tests of Fire Resistance of Building Construction and Materials

2006 Edition



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An International Codes and Standards Organization

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2006 Edition

This edition of NFPA 251, *Standard Methods of Tests of Fire Resistance of Building Construction and Materials*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Tests and acted on by NFPA at its June Association Technical Meeting held June 6–10, 2005, in Las Vegas, NV. It was issued by the Standards Council on July 29, 2005, with an effective date of August 18, 2005, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 251 was approved as an American National Standard on August 18, 2005.

Origin and Development of NFPA 251

NFPA 251 originated in the recommendations of the International Fire Prevention Congress in London in 1903. It was presented to the NFPA by the Committee on Fire-Resistive Construction in 1914. It was adopted officially in a revised form in 1918. Successive editions were published in 1926, 1934, 1941, 1955, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1963, 1969, 1979, 1985, and 1990. It was overseen, in succession, by the Technical Committee on Fire-Resistive Construction, the Technical Committee on Building Construction, and, for the last three editions, by the Technical Committee on Fire Tests.

The 1995 edition of this document was a reconfirmation of the earlier edition with only a few items being addressed. Substantial investigation and record research was done on the topic of the hose stream application on test specimens. The findings of the committee did not support modification of the provision that permits a test assembly to be tested for one-half the time required for an hourly rating and then to be tested by a hose stream.

The committee also modified the title of this document in response to the research done to convey a truer sense of the standard's proper application.

The 1999 edition was a reconfirmation of the 1995 edition with minor editorial modifications.

The 2006 edition includes a complete editorial rewrite for compliance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. The title of the document was revised to more accurately reflect the subject matter, and further organizational and editorial changes were made to improve the application of the test method. Technical changes include the addition of definitions of *fire resistance* and *fire resistance rating* and modifications to the hose stream test requirements.

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