

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 12, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

As Co-Chairs of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, we are writing to urge the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) to update the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standard for the storage of flammable and combustible liquids (29 C.F.R. § 1910.106(d)) to include the most recent version of the Flammable and Combustible Liquids Code known as NFPA 30.

NFPA 30 was issued by the National Fire Protection Association to provide guidelines to reduce hazards associated with the storage and handling of these liquids. Currently, the applicable OSHA standard on the handling of these liquids references a version of NFPA 30 that dates back to 1969. NFPA 30 has since been updated 15 times based on advancements in research and technology, such as improvements in sprinkler systems and container types, yet OSHA has never updated its standards and continues to utilize the outdated version of this code.

Fires involving flammable and combustible liquids are a major risk to lives, safety, property, and the environment. According to a 2014 National Fire Protection Association report, during the period from 2007-2011, U.S. municipal fire departments responded to an estimated average of 51,600 fires per year starting with ignition of a flammable gas and another 160,910 fires per year starting with ignition of a flammable or combustible liquid. These fires resulted in more than 500 civilian deaths and upwards of \$1.5 billion in property damage. Losses such as these could be prevented with updated standards for handling the flammable and combustible liquids that start these fires.

As such, we urge you to update §1910.106(d) so that it incorporates the most recent edition of NFPA 30. The lives of first responders, workers, and other Americans should not be placed in jeopardy due to an outdated workplace safety standard.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Bill Pascrell, Jr.
Member of Congress



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Tom Carper
United States Senator



Steny Hoyer
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress