

**RESOLUTION EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR APPROPRIATE REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF CONSENSUS
STANDARD REQUIREMENT WAIVERS FOR ASSISTANCE TO FIREFIGHTER GRANT AWARDS**

Offered by:
National Fire Protection Association

Whereas, the primary goal of the Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) is to meet the firefighting and emergency response needs of fire departments and nonaffiliated emergency medical service organizations;

Whereas, AFG has helped firefighters and other first responders to obtain critically needed equipment, protective gear, emergency vehicles, training, and other resources needed to protect the public and emergency personnel from fire and related hazards;

Whereas, the Federal Fire Prevention and Control Act requires that new equipment purchased through federal assistance meet(s) or exceed(s) applicable voluntary consensus standards;

Whereas, compliance with the consensus standard requirement can be waived by the Grant Program Administrator if the applicant can provide justification for why non compliant equipment will serve the needs of the applicant better than the compliant equipment or systems;

Whereas, the firefighting environment is inherently dangerous and responders need the highest levels of protection;

Whereas, the National Fire Protection Association is a voluntary, ANSI accredited, consensus standards developing organization and has a library of standards addressing design, selection, care and maintenance of tools, personal protective equipment, electronic safety equipment and apparatus used by responders;

Whereas, equipment compliant with ANSI accredited voluntary consensus standards are recognized as providing the minimum acceptable level of protection and service to the fire service;

Whereas, some vendors maybe encouraging AFG applicants to seek waivers to purchase equipment that does not comply with voluntary consensus standards:

Be it resolved that the Congressional Fire Services Institute supports the goals and requirements of the Fire Prevention and Control Act which require equipment purchased with grant dollars to meet voluntary consensus standards requirements;

And, be it further resolved that waivers be granted only when it is clearly demonstrated that compliant equipment will not serve the needs of the applicant.