



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards

AGENDA

NFPA Technical Committee on Chimney, Fireplaces, and Venting Systems for Heat-Producing Appliances (CHI-AAA) NFPA 211 Second Draft Meeting (Annual 2023)

September 12th, 2022
1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Web/Teleconference

To join the meeting, please contact Sarah Caldwell (scaldwell@nfpa.org)

- 1. Call to order.** Randy Brooks.
- 2. Introductions.** See committee roster attached.
- 3. Chair report.** Randy Brooks.
- 4. Staff liaison report.** Alex Ing.
- 5. Previous meeting minutes.** August 2021 Web/Teleconference. See attached.
- 6. NFPA 211 Second Draft.**
 - a. **Public Comments.** See attached.
 - b. **Task group report(s).**
 - i. **Exceptions Task Group.** Leo Herrmann.
 - ii. **NFPA 31/54/211 Terminology Task Group.** Tim McNulty.
 - c. **Committee Inputs.** See attached.
- 7. Other Business.**
- 8. Future meetings.**
- 9. Adjournment.**

Attachment: Technical Committee Roster

Address List No Phone

06/22/2022

Alex Ing

Chimneys, Fireplaces, and Venting Systems for Heat-Producing

CHI-AAA

Randy Brooks Chair Brooks Chimney Sweeping 1302 Cruzero Street Ojai, CA 93023-3821	IM 8/9/2011 CHI-AAA	Mohammad Ahasan Principal New York City Department of Buildings 18 Huntington Road Edison, NJ 08820	E 04/14/2021 CHI-AAA
Jonathan Brania Principal UL LLC 12 Laboratory Drive Research Triangle Park, NC 27709-3995 Alternate: Robert J. Zimmerman, Jr.	RT 04/02/2020 CHI-AAA	James P. Brewer Principal Rooftop Safety USA LLC 1812 Haby Lane Virginia Beach, VA 23464 National Chimney Sweep Guild	IM 07/22/1999 CHI-AAA
Jonathan E. Cross Principal D.J. Cross, Inc. 2 Old Pennell Road Media, PA 19063-5937	IM 04/08/2015 CHI-AAA	Nicholas A. Dawe Principal Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office 1595 County Services Parkway Marietta, GA 30008	E 3/21/2006 CHI-AAA
Michael DeBlasio Principal M. DeBlasio, Inc. 409 King Street PO Box 1121 Littleton, MA 01460	IM 8/2/2010 CHI-AAA	Royal Edwards Principal 10050 Joe Ebert Road Seffner, FL 33584	SE 4/17/2002 CHI-AAA
Marvin Evans Principal CSA Group 178 Rexdale Boulevard Toronto, ON M9W 1R3 Canada Alternate: Nick Shrewsbury-Gee	RT 04/02/2020 CHI-AAA	Dale W. Feb Principal Fireplace Investigation, Research & Education Service 5325 Commerce Avenue, Unit 5 Moorpark, CA 93021	SE 10/27/2005 CHI-AAA
Larry Grogan Principal AHPBA RMHPBA 1130 Riparian Drive Columbia Falls, MT 59912	SE 04/04/2017 CHI-AAA	Adam Habegger Principal Van-Packer Company 302 Mill Street Buda, IL 61314	M 04/14/2021 CHI-AAA
Robert D. Harper Principal Hearthman Specialties 713 Edmonds Avenue Drexel Hill, PA 19026	SE 10/29/2012 CHI-AAA	Leo Herrmann Principal Leo Herrmann Fireplace Inc. 103 Trenton Circle Fairless Hills, PA 19030	SE 11/30/2016 CHI-AAA

Address List No Phone

06/22/2022

Alex Ing

Chimneys, Fireplaces, and Venting Systems for Heat-Producing

CHI-AAA

Dale D. Hersey Principal State of Maine Department of Professional & Financial Regulation 35 State House Station Augusta, ME 04333	E 10/4/2007 CHI-AAA	Vickie Hodges Principal State Farm Insurance Companies One State Farm Plaza, HDQ D-1 Bloomington, IL 61710-0001	I 1/16/2003 CHI-AAA
Marek Kulik Principal Technical Standards and Safety Authority Fuels Safety Program 345 Carlingview Drive Toronto, ON M9W 6N9 Canada	E 10/6/2000 CHI-AAA	Timothy McNulty Principal RM Manifold Group Inc., dba US Draft Company 220 South Sylvania Avenue Suite 207 Fort Worth, TX 76111	M 11/30/2016 CHI-AAA
Todd Metzger Principal Schaefer Engineering Inc. 6 Quality Court Wentzville, MO 63385	SE 08/17/2015 CHI-AAA	Anthony R. O'Neill Principal 32 Harris Point Road PO Box 553 Boothbay Harbor, ME 04538	C 10/3/2002 CHI-AAA
Harold L. Ornstein Principal EFI Global, Inc. 2309 Honeystone Way Brookeville, MD 20833	SE 7/28/2006 CHI-AAA	Keith Page Principal Selkirk/Hart & Cooley, Inc. 5030 Corporate Exchange Blvd. Grand Rapids, MI 49512	M 4/14/2005 CHI-AAA
Brian Peck Principal Travelers Indemnity Company 90 Lambertson Road Windsor, CT 06095	I 04/04/2017 CHI-AAA	Thomas A. Pierce Principal Pierce Fire Investigations 17 S. Center Avenue Miles City, MT 59301	SE 7/26/2007 CHI-AAA
Robert A. Priesing Principal Havelock's Chimney & Venting, Inc. PO Box 1045 Havelock, NC 28532	IM 04/04/2017 CHI-AAA	Shaun Ray Principal Metal-Fab, Inc. PO Box 1138 Wichita, KS 67201-1138 Air-Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Institute	M 1/15/2004 CHI-AAA
Robert A. Rucker Principal CMS Industries, Inc. 25 Timberlake Drive PO Box 60 Orchard Park, NY 14127	M 1/1/1998 CHI-AAA	Brian Ryglewicz Principal Chimney Design Solutions Inc. 649 Lafayette Avenue, Suite 3 Hawthorne, NJ 07506	M 12/07/2018 CHI-AAA

Address List No Phone

06/22/2022

Alex Ing

Chimneys, Fireplaces, and Venting Systems for Heat-Producing

CHI-AAA

Michael L. Savage, Sr. Principal Marion County Building Safety 2710 E. Silver Springs Blvd. Ocala, FL 34470	E 01/16/2003 CHI-AAA	Paul B. Stegmeir Principal 17887 Roberds Lake Boulevard Faribault, MN 55021-2231	SE 1/1/1987 CHI-AAA
Richard Vlahos Principal National Fireplace Institute 1901 N. Moore Street Suite 600 Arlington, VA 22209 Hearth Patio & Barbecue Education Foundation (HPBEF) Alternate: Richard William Sedgwick	SE 04/04/2017 CHI-AAA	Brian Ziegler Principal Intertek 8431 Murphy Drive Middleton, WI 53562	RT 10/29/2012 CHI-AAA
Richard William Sedgwick Alternate National Fireplace Institute 1901 N. Moore Street Arlington, VA 22209 Hearth Patio & Barbecue Education Foundation (HPBEF) Principal: Richard Vlahos	SE 04/14/2021 CHI-AAA	Nick Shrewsbury-Gee Alternate CSA Group 178 Rexdale Boulevard Etobicoke, ON M9W 1R3 Canada Principal: Marvin Evans	RT 08/24/2021 CHI-AAA
Robert J. Zimmerman, Jr. Alternate UL LLC 333 Pfingsten Road Northbrook, IL 60062-2096 Principal: Jonathan Brania	RT 7/1/1994 CHI-AAA	Janet Buyer Nonvoting Member US Consumer Product Safety Commission 4330 East West Highway Bethesda, MD 20814 US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)	C 10/1/1999 CHI-AAA
Alex Ing Staff Liaison National Fire Protection Association One Batterymarch Park Quincy, MA 02169	CHI-AAA		

Attachment: Previous Meeting Minutes



NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION

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Technical Committee on Chimneys, Fireplaces, and Venting Systems for Heat-Producing Appliances

NFPA 211 FIRST DRAFT MEETING Minutes

August 25th – 26th, 2021

1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Eastern)

Web (Microsoft Teams)/Teleconference

1. **Call to Order.** Call meeting to order by Chair Randy Brooks at 1:00 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday, August 25th, 2021.
2. **Self-Introduction of Committee Members and Guests.** For attendance, see page 3.
3. **Opening Remarks.** Chairman Randy Brooks
4. **Approval of the April 13, 2021 Second Draft Meeting Minutes were approved as submitted**
5. **NFPA Staff Liaison Report.** Alex Ing.
6. **NFPA First Draft**
 - a. Public inputs were resolved and first revisions were created.
7. **New Business.**

The following task groups were created at:

 - a. Exceptions Task Group
 - i. Scope: This task group will look at removing exceptions or converting them to requirements
 - ii. Members
 1. Chair: Leo Herrmann
 2. Larry Grogan
 3. Todd Metzger
 4. Michael DeBlasio
 - b. NFPA 31/54/211 Terminology Task Group
 - i. Scope: This task group will look at coordinating terminology and definitions between NFPA 31, 54, and 211
 - ii. Members
 1. Chair: Tim McNulty
 2. Todd Metzger
 3. Shaun Ray
 4. Brian Ryglewicz



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5. Keith Page
6. Bob Harper

8. Adjournment.

- a.* The meeting was adjourned approximately 3:00 pm Eastern on August 26th.



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ATTENDANCE:

Chair Staff Liaison				Day 1	Day 2
	Randy Brooks	Brooks Chimney Sweeping	IM	Yes	Yes
	Alexander Ing	National Fire Protection Association	-	Yes	yes
	Mohammad Assan	New Your City Department of Buildings	E	No	No
	Jonathan Brania	UL	RT	Yes	Yes
	James Brewer	Rooftop Safety USA Rep. National Chimney Sweep Guild	IM	No	Yes
	Jonathan Cross	D.J. Cross	IM	Yes	Yes
	Nicholas Dawe	Cobb County Fire Marshal's Office	E	No	Yes
	Michael DeBlasio	M. DeBlasio	IM	Yes	Yes
	Royal Edwards	-	SE	No	No
	Marvin Evans	CSA Group	RT	Yes	Yes
	Dale Feb	Fireplace Investigation, Research, & Education Service	SE	No	No
	Larry Grogan	AHPBA RMHPBA	SE	Yes	Yes
	Adam Habegger	Van-Packer Company	M	No	No
	Robert Harper	Hearthman Specialties	SE	Yes	Yes
	Leo Herrmann	Leo Herrmann Fireplace	SE	Yes	Yes
	Dale Hersey	State of Maine	E	Yes	Yes
	Vickie Hodges	State Farm Insurance Companies	I	Yes	Yes
	Marek Kulik	Technical Standards and Safety Authority	E	No	No
	Timothy McNulty	RM Manifold Group Inc., dba USA Draft Company	M	Yes	Yes
	Todd Metzger	Schaefer Engineering	SE	Yes	Yes
	Anthony O'Neill	-	C	No	No
	Harold Ornstein	EFI Global	SE	No	No
	Keith Page	Selkirk/Hart & Cooley	M	Yes	Yes
	Brian Peck	Travelers Indemnity Company	I	No	No
	Thomas Pierce	Pierce Fire Investigations	SE	Yes	Yes
	Robert Priesing	Havelock's Chimney & venting	IM	No	No
	Shaun Ray	Metal-Fab Rep. Air-Conditioning, Heating, & Refrigeration Institute	M	Yes	Yes



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Alternates *voting

Robert Rucker	CMS Industries	M	No	Yes
Brian Ryglewicz	Chimney Design Solutions	M	Yes	Yes
Michael Savage	Marion County Building Safety	E	Yes	Yes
Paul Stegmeir	-	SE	Yes	Yes
Richard Vlahos	National Fireplace Institute Rep. Hearth Patio & Barbecue Education Foundation	SE	Yes	Yes
Brian Ziegler	Intertek	RT	No	No
Richard Sedgwick	National Fireplace Institute Rep. Hearth Patio & Barbecue Education Foundation	SE	No	Yes
Robert Zimmerman	UL	RT	No	No
Janet Buyer <i>Nonvoting Member</i>	US Consumer Product Safety Commission	C	No	No
Guests				
Gary Braun		-	Yes	No

Attachment: NFPA 211 Public Comment Report



Public Comment No. 14-NFPA 211-2022 [Global Input]

The terms "clean", "cleaned" and/or "cleaning" as they pertain to maintaining a chimney, vent or fireplace system should be removed from the standard. These words should be replaced with "sweep", "swept" and/or "sweeping". The reason for this recommendation is that these systems are not typically clean or cleaned after standard service or maintenance. They have had combustible and/or corrosive combustion by-products removed to help reduce the risk of ignition of deposits and/or damage to the system. While the systems have been serviced to an operational condition, minimal deposits and/or stains typically remain in areas, therefore the system isn't actually clean.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Clients are often left thinking their systems are "clean", when in actuality they are not. This has resulted in unsatisfied clients for decades. While not an epidemic or regular occurrence, accurate terminology and the use of it would help eliminate expectations from some clients.

Related Item

- FR

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Michael Segerstrom

Organization: Bridgewater Chimney Sweeps Llc

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Submittal Date: Sat May 21 23:22:07 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 15-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 1.1]

1.1 Scope.

This standard applies to the design, installation, maintenance, and inspection of all chimneys, ~~fireplaces~~, venting systems, and solid fuel-burning appliances and fireplaces .

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

This change is necessary to clarify the NFPA 211 does not regulate gas fireplaces. Gas appliances and fireplaces are within the scope of NFPA 54, not NFPA 211. NFPA 211 does not contain any guidance or requirements for gas fireplaces so this change is necessary to correct the confusing "all fireplaces" reference in the existing scope statement.

Related Item

- Public Input # 2

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: James Brewer

Organization: Rooftop Safety USA LLC

Affiliation: National Chimney Sweep Guild

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Submittal Date: Fri May 27 15:22:31 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 5-NFPA 211-2022 [New Section after 3.3.49]

3.3.49.3 Connector Joints

The joints where the sections of a connector are fastened together, as well as the joints where a connector is fastened to a flue collar on a fuel-burning appliance and where a connector is fastened to a chimney, gas vent or Type L vent on a fuel-burning appliance.

Additional Proposed Changes

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Section_211_Narrative_4-19-2022_Revised.docx	Section 211 Narrative	

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

See attached narrative

Related Public Comments for This Document

<u>Related Comment</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
Public Comment No. 6-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 9.7.9]	
Public Comment No. 7-NFPA 211-2022 [New Section after 9.7.9]	
<u>Related Item</u>	
• Resolution CI-1-NFPA 211-2021	

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Gary Braun

Organization: None

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Submittal Date: Fri Apr 29 15:56:35 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA

- Section 211 requires clarification regarding fastening the connector to the flue collar on a fuel burning heating appliance
- The intent of the proposed revisions to Section 211 is to have 3.3.49 define the term “connector joint”, and for 9.7.9 and 9.7.10 to clearly and expressly apply to the joint between the connector and the flue collar on a heating appliance and to require some type of fastener or fastening system at all “connector joints” including the connector joint at the point where the connector joins the flue collar
- The intent of the proposed revisions to Section 211 is to have 3.3.48 and 9.7.10 clearly and expressly apply to the joint between the connector and the flue collar on a heating appliance – i.e. the “connector joint”
- The use of a so-called “friction-fit” or “slip-fit” to attach a connector to the flue collar of a heating appliance at the “connector joint” should never be permitted
- The use of “slip-fits” and “friction-fits” only to attach the connector to a flue collar on a heating appliance is inherently dangerous and unnecessarily poses the risk of exposing occupants of the structure being heated to the release of carbon monoxide or other toxic gases in the event the connector becomes detached or loosened from the flue collar
- My mother died of carbon monoxide asphyxiation in 2016 when her oil-fired boiler malfunctioned causing a delayed-ignition event. The delayed-ignition event blew the connector completely off of the flue collar and out of the chimney opening, causing the entire connector to fall to the floor of the basement where the boiler was located
- No screws, rivets, straps or other approved means of attaching the connector to the flue collar on my mom’s boiler were used. Instead, only a “friction-fit” was used to attach the connector to the collar. I am convinced that the connector would have remained attached to the flue collar on mom’s boiler had sheet metal screws, straps or bands been used at the collar, and that she would have survived the delayed-ignition incident in such case
- No other person should die in the fashion my mom did for the lack of a few sheet metal screws and/or a couple of pieces of metal strapping

- Connectors that are not securely fastened to a flue collar with screws, rivets, strapping or other approved means are at **significant** risk of becoming detached from the flue collar as a result of a delayed-ignition event, vibrations from operation of the heating appliance or some external source, or the connector being moved or bumped into including accidentally
- Section 211 requires screws or other fasteners at the joints where the separate sections of the connector are joined together, and also specifically prescribes the method for securely attaching the connector to a masonry chimney including via use of mortar. See 9.7.1
- However, Section 211 is effectively and presently silent as to the specific means of attaching the connector to the flue collar
- I am proposing that 3.3.48 be revised to expressly define “connector joint” to include the joint where the connector joins the flue collar on a fuel burning heating appliance. I am further proposing that 9.7.10 be revised to create an unambiguous standard requiring that the “connector joint” be secured to the flue collar in the same or equivalent fashion as are the separate sections of the pipe making up the connector
- The venting system for a heating appliance is only as good as its weakest link. Permitting the use of a so-called “friction-fit” at the joint where the connector attaches to the flue collar operates to diminish or eliminate the protection otherwise afforded by 9.7.1 (requiring cementing of thimble where connector joins a masonry chimney) or the current version of 9.7.9 (which requires screws or other fasteners where the connector pipe sections are joined together). Simply put, why require screws, rivets, banding or strapping, or the cementing of the chimney-end of the connector into a chimney when the flue-collar end of the connector is simply slipped over and is not securely fastened to the flue collar?
- Requiring fasteners of some type of the joint between the collar and the connector is low-cost and requires minimal time and effort. The cost-benefit rationale for revising the standard as proposed is *overwhelmingly compelling*. Lives will be saved by adopting the proposed revisions at little or no cost in terms of money, time and effort!

- The equivalency provisions at 1.4 effectively provide that means other than those expressly described in the revised standard may be employed to provide the protection required including when the means expressly described in the proposed, new standard are impractical. For example, if the collar to which the connector is attached is made of cast iron and a concern exists about drilling a hole in the collar in order to use screws at the “connector joint”, then the straps or bands is permitted as are “any other approved means” or “equivalent” means



Public Comment No. 7-NFPA 211-2022 [New Section after 9.7.9]

9.7.10 The connector joint where the connector joins a masonry chimney shall be secured in accordance with 7.1.9.

Additional Proposed Changes

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Section_211_Narrative_4-19-2022_Revised.docx	Section 211 Narrative	

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

See attached narrative

Related Public Comments for This Document

<u>Related Comment</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
Public Comment No. 6-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 9.7.9]	Part of new standard for "connector joints"
Public Comment No. 5-NFPA 211-2022 [New Section after 3.3.49]	Definition of "connector joint"

Related Item

- CI-1 NFPA 211-2021

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Gary Braun

Organization: None

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Submittal Date: Fri Apr 29 16:06:22 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA

- Section 211 requires clarification regarding fastening the connector to the flue collar on a fuel burning heating appliance
- The intent of the proposed revisions to Section 211 is to have 3.3.49 define the term “connector joint”, and for 9.7.9 and 9.7.10 to clearly and expressly apply to the joint between the connector and the flue collar on a heating appliance and to require some type of fastener or fastening system at all “connector joints” including the connector joint at the point where the connector joins the flue collar
- The intent of the proposed revisions to Section 211 is to have 3.3.48 and 9.7.10 clearly and expressly apply to the joint between the connector and the flue collar on a heating appliance – i.e. the “connector joint”
- The use of a so-called “friction-fit” or “slip-fit” to attach a connector to the flue collar of a heating appliance at the “connector joint” should never be permitted
- The use of “slip-fits” and “friction-fits” only to attach the connector to a flue collar on a heating appliance is inherently dangerous and unnecessarily poses the risk of exposing occupants of the structure being heated to the release of carbon monoxide or other toxic gases in the event the connector becomes detached or loosened from the flue collar
- My mother died of carbon monoxide asphyxiation in 2016 when her oil-fired boiler malfunctioned causing a delayed-ignition event. The delayed-ignition event blew the connector completely off of the flue collar and out of the chimney opening, causing the entire connector to fall to the floor of the basement where the boiler was located
- No screws, rivets, straps or other approved means of attaching the connector to the flue collar on my mom’s boiler were used. Instead, only a “friction-fit” was used to attach the connector to the collar. I am convinced that the connector would have remained attached to the flue collar on mom’s boiler had sheet metal screws, straps or bands been used at the collar, and that she would have survived the delayed-ignition incident in such case
- No other person should die in the fashion my mom did for the lack of a few sheet metal screws and/or a couple of pieces of metal strapping

- Connectors that are not securely fastened to a flue collar with screws, rivets, strapping or other approved means are at **significant** risk of becoming detached from the flue collar as a result of a delayed-ignition event, vibrations from operation of the heating appliance or some external source, or the connector being moved or bumped into including accidentally
- Section 211 requires screws or other fasteners at the joints where the separate sections of the connector are joined together, and also specifically prescribes the method for securely attaching the connector to a masonry chimney including via use of mortar. See 9.7.1
- However, Section 211 is effectively and presently silent as to the specific means of attaching the connector to the flue collar
- I am proposing that 3.3.48 be revised to expressly define “connector joint” to include the joint where the connector joins the flue collar on a fuel burning heating appliance. I am further proposing that 9.7.10 be revised to create an unambiguous standard requiring that the “connector joint” be secured to the flue collar in the same or equivalent fashion as are the separate sections of the pipe making up the connector
- The venting system for a heating appliance is only as good as its weakest link. Permitting the use of a so-called “friction-fit” at the joint where the connector attaches to the flue collar operates to diminish or eliminate the protection otherwise afforded by 9.7.1 (requiring cementing of thimble where connector joins a masonry chimney) or the current version of 9.7.9 (which requires screws or other fasteners where the connector pipe sections are joined together). Simply put, why require screws, rivets, banding or strapping, or the cementing of the chimney-end of the connector into a chimney when the flue-collar end of the connector is simply slipped over and is not securely fastened to the flue collar?
- Requiring fasteners of some type of the joint between the collar and the connector is low-cost and requires minimal time and effort. The cost-benefit rationale for revising the standard as proposed is *overwhelmingly compelling*. Lives will be saved by adopting the proposed revisions at little or no cost in terms of money, time and effort!

- The equivalency provisions at 1.4 effectively provide that means other than those expressly described in the revised standard may be employed to provide the protection required including when the means expressly described in the proposed, new standard are impractical. For example, if the collar to which the connector is attached is made of cast iron and a concern exists about drilling a hole in the collar in order to use screws at the “connector joint”, then the straps or bands is permitted as are “any other approved means” or “equivalent” means

**Public Comment No. 6-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 9.7.9]****9.7.9**

Connectors shall be supported, and connector joints shall be fastened using sheet metal screws, rivets, banding or strapping, or other approved means.

Additional Proposed Changes

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Section_211_Narrative_4-19-2022_Revised.docx	Section 211 Narrative	

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

See attached narrative

Related Public Comments for This Document

<u>Related Comment</u>	<u>Relationship</u>
<u>Public Comment No. 5-NFPA 211-2022 [New Section after 3.3.49]</u>	New standard per revised 9.7.9 and new 9.7.10 for new definition of "connector joint" proposed for 3.3.49.3
<u>Public Comment No. 7-NFPA 211-2022 [New Section after 9.7.9]</u>	
<u>Related Item</u>	
• CI-1-NFPA 211-2021	

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Gary Braun

Organization: None

Street Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Submittal Date: Fri Apr 29 16:02:27 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA

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- No other person should die in the fashion my mom did for the lack of a few sheet metal screws and/or a couple of pieces of metal strapping

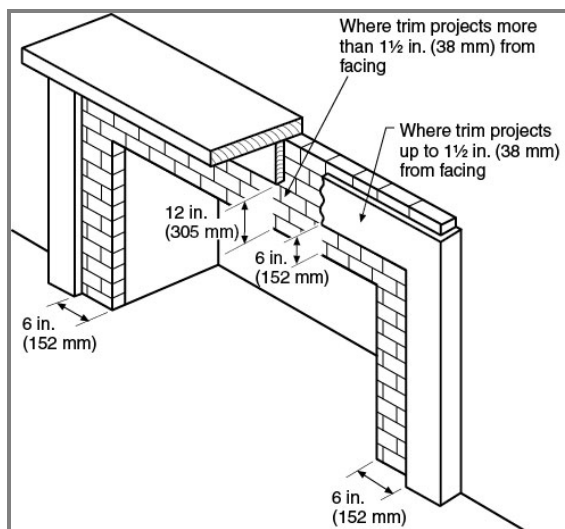
- Connectors that are not securely fastened to a flue collar with screws, rivets, strapping or other approved means are at **significant** risk of becoming detached from the flue collar as a result of a delayed-ignition event, vibrations from operation of the heating appliance or some external source, or the connector being moved or bumped into including accidentally
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- Requiring fasteners of some type of the joint between the collar and the connector is low-cost and requires minimal time and effort. The cost-benefit rationale for revising the standard as proposed is *overwhelmingly compelling*. Lives will be saved by adopting the proposed revisions at little or no cost in terms of money, time and effort!

- The equivalency provisions at 1.4 effectively provide that means other than those expressly described in the revised standard may be employed to provide the protection required including when the means expressly described in the proposed, new standard are impractical. For example, if the collar to which the connector is attached is made of cast iron and a concern exists about drilling a hole in the collar in order to use screws at the “connector joint”, then the straps or bands is permitted as are “any other approved means” or “equivalent” means

**Public Comment No. 13-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 11.2.5.4]****11.2.5.4**

Combustible material ~~above and projecting~~ material projecting more than 1½ in. (38 mm) from a fireplace opening shall ~~off the facing of a fireplace~~ not be placed less than 12 in. (305 mm) from the top or sides of the fireplace opening. (See Figure 11.2.5.4.)

Figure 11.2.5.4 Fireplace Clearance to Combustible Material.

**Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment**

By adding this requirement for the sides of a fireplace opening, it will be more consistent with the International Residential Code/Building Code. The Standard 211 currently does not have language that prevents a 10" projection 7" from the sides of a fireplace opening. This addition would place a 10" projection or even a perpendicular combustible wall 12" from the sides of the opening.

Related Item

- FR

Submitter Information Verification

Submitter Full Name: Michael Segerstrom

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Submittal Date: Sat May 21 23:13:53 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 1-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 11.2.10]

11.2.10* Masonry Fireplace Accessories.

Fireplace accessories shall be ~~one~~ all of the following:

- (1) Installed by a qualified agency
- (2) Listed and installed in accordance with the terms and conditions of their listing
- (3) Installed in accordance with the accessory manufacturer's installation instructions

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Currently there is disconnect between the IRC and the NFPA211. This would include inserts and many other accessories. Currently IRC requires that we install products in accordance with the terms and conditions of their listings and in accordance with the manufacturer installation instructions. As qualified agencies and professionals in the industry we should be meeting both of these requirements as the IRC is code in nearly all jurisdictions to varying degrees in all 50 states. The NFPA211 is a guide and is at this time less restrictive than code. Professionally and ethically per the agreements we sign in becoming certified we agree to uphold the codes and standards of the industry and follow industry best practices. When requirements conflict industry best practice says we go with the more restrictive of the two. In this case the IRC and the terms and conditions of listing would be more restrictive than some of the manufacturers instructions. As an industry we should be setting a standard that gives us a solid baseline requirement backed by all the facts. If people would like to choose to do otherwise they may do so at their own risk and the risk of their clients. If we do not draw our own firm lines in the sand then litigation and regulation will do so for us down the road.

Related Item

- 11.2.10* Masonry Fireplace Accessories

Submitter Information Verification

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Submittal Date: Wed Mar 02 15:31:58 EST 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 16-NFPA 211-2022 [New Section after 15.1]

TITLE OF NEW CONTENT

Add new section 15.1.3 * Inspections required by this chapter shall be limited to appliances and systems regulated by this standard.

Add new Annex A15.1.3 Inspections required by this chapter are not required to include inspection of appliances not covered by this standard. For example, when a gas or oil-fired furnace is connected to a chimney the inspector is required to inspect the connector and chimney but not the appliance.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

NFPA 211 does not provide any guidance on the inspection of gas or oil fired appliances. It needs to be clear that when inspecting systems with these appliance types the inspection is limited to the venting system. This standard should not make the inspector responsible for inspection of an appliance without providing the criteria for that inspection.

Related Item

- Public Input # 5

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Submittal Date: Fri May 27 15:42:34 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 9-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 15.2.6]

15.2.6

Where inspections are ~~indicated~~ required or requested at a specific level of inspection but circumstances prevent the completion of that level, the inspector shall do the following:

- (1) Indicate the level of inspection completed
- (2) Document the reasons the higher level inspection was not completed_

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

Chapter 15 of Standard 211 uses the term/word "shall" approximately 45 times. This added section should use language that supports this chapter of the standard.

Related Item

- FR

Submitter Information Verification

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Submittal Date: Sat May 21 22:00:50 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 11-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 15.4.2.4]

15.4.2.4 –

~~The requirement to inspect all chimney flues and all flue liners in 15.4.2.3 shall be limited to the chimney flues and flue liners requested to be inspected.~~

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

For more than 20 years the inspection chapter of Standard 211 has not left the scope of the Standard of Care inspections up to the client. The professional advises the client of the appropriate level of inspection based on conditions, circumstances and indicators reported by the client. By adding this section and including the word "requested", it allows the client to request less than what has been the Standard of Care or Industry Standard for chimney inspection for more than 20 years. In addition to being a general disservice to clients and the industry, it creates a variety of concerns and issues for both the client and the individual or firm performing the inspection.

The most obvious concern is the ability of the client to prevent inspection of a portion of the system that will directly affect continued use and/or proper and suitable repairs to the system. Example: the inspector only inspects the heating appliance flue of a 2 flue masonry chimney that also has a fireplace system and flue. The client does not "request" inspection of the fireplace system or flue which results in the inspector having no knowledge of the heating appliance flue clay liner exposed in the fireplace smokechamber. This is just one basic example. There are many.

For 20 years the inspector has been compelled to complete a level 2 inspection (when indicated) based on the requirements of the inspection chapter and the use of the word "shall" throughout the chapter. By adding this section and the word "requested", it allows the client to determine the scope of inspection, in complete contrast to the Standard. Adding this section and language does far more than just simplify inspection of chimneys that have multiple flues owned by someone other than the client. This section is not specific to that, and covers all chimneys, not just those that contain systems owned by more than one client.

This section should be deleted as the new section, 15.2.6 covers documenting when a chimney can't be fully inspected. If this section is not deleted, it should be fully rewritten to eliminate the word "requested" and must include language that indicates it is specific to only chimneys or chimney chases that contain multiple systems and/or flues owned by multiple clients.

Related Item

- PI

Submitter Information Verification

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Submittal Date: Sat May 21 23:01:12 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 4-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 15.4.2.4]

15.4.2.4 –

~~The requirement to inspect all chimney flues and all flue liners in 15.4.2.3 shall be limited to the chimney flues and flue liners requested to be inspected.~~

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

I see that the circumstances that require a Level II inspection have not changed, just the requirement to inspect via image scanning all enclosed flues. This does not change the requirement to still inspect the structure at all accessible areas (of course not being able to access adjacent units in a common chimney would still render them inaccessible). I believe that in a masonry system for example all flues and flue liners should be inspected as part of a Level II inspection every time, if circumstances and access permits. This opens the door to require otherwise.

Overall I think this section should simply be removed, need not be mentioned, and will only cause confusion. Because you added in 15.2.6 the wording suggested for 15.4.2.4 is unnecessary as in those circumstances we would just be required to follow 15.2.6 and indicate the level of inspection completed, and why the higher level inspection was fully completed. 15.4.2.4 already addresses this issue. Overall the requirement to perform a Level II would still apply... The only thing this changes is whether or not you are required to scan the other flues in the system. We would still be required as part of a Level II to measure fireplace openings, size flues, inspect construction, clearances, hearth extensions, etc...

This statement is too broad and goes too far, allowing any client to specify what shall or shall not be inspected based on their request. There will be many time when we will not be able to determine the serviceability of a system or appliance as a result. The rationale for this statement gives examples of homes built with common wall masonry chimneys serving different occupancies, or shared chases... but this would open it up much further than that.

Reading this, to my understanding does not change the requirement to inspect the remainder of a masonry structure and all attached appliances (clearances, opening dimensions, etc...), only whether or not a video inspection is performed on the flues not requested to be inspected? If the other systems are in use however this could result in issues as smoke or creosote leakage from one flue can affect another flue in the same masonry structure. A chimney fire in one flue without a wythe, or even with a wythe, could damage or shatter flue tiles in an adjacent flue. Without the requirement to perform an image scan of that flue and fully inspect the flue and flue lining this could be missed, and not included in inspections for insurance purposes. This poses a blind spot and a potential liability issue for inspectors.

Related Item

- 15.4.2.4

Submitter Information Verification

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Submittal Date:	Wed Mar 02 16:02:37 EST 2022
Committee:	CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 12-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 15.4.2.5]

15.4.2.5

Where multiple factory built fireplaces or chimneys are installed in a common structure or chase, the inspector shall not be required to inspect more than the system(s) ~~requested to be inspected~~ owned and/or occupied by the inspector's client.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

The word "requested" is unnecessary in this section as the client only owns and/or occupies what they own and/or occupy. It goes without saying that a client can't allow us to inspect their neighbor's system. This language with my recommended removal of "requested" provides simple clarification to the inspector.

Related Item

- PI

Submitter Information Verification

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Submittal Date: Sat May 21 23:03:22 EDT 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 3-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. 15.4.2.5]

15.4.2.5

Where multiple factory built fireplaces or chimneys are installed in a common structure or chase where flues serve different occupancies , the inspector shall not be required to inspect more than the system(s) requested to be inspected by the inspector's client. If during the course of inspection, however, deficiencies or concerns are noted with an adjacent chimney, vent, or appliance installation noted deficiencies or concerns shall be disclosed and further inspection recommended in the inspectors report. This shall not require the inspector to perform further inspection on these systems.

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

This still needs discussion to make sure that it does not create weird loop holes or cause inspectors and sweeps to not disclose issues they see with other systems while completing their inspection. This could still leave them liable if they do not disclose something in their report. It could be added as a separate item. Without this requirement sweeps and inspectors may not tell homeowners about issues with their neighbors chimney in a common structure/chase... and could be leaving them open to a fire even if their system is properly installed as their neighbors could still light the structure on fire.

Also I believe that we need to include the line "where flues serve different occupancies" as that was given as the rationale for the change.

Related Item

- 15.4.2.5

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Submittal Date: Wed Mar 02 15:58:17 EST 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA



Public Comment No. 2-NFPA 211-2022 [Section No. A.3.3.48]

A.3.3.48 Concealed (Inaccessible).

The following generally are considered concealed or inaccessible:

- (1) Areas of the chimney that can be viewed only by damaging finished surfaces of the home or removing permanently attached components of the home
- (2) Attics that provide less than 48- 30 in. (1.22 m) of vertical clearance or 24 in. (0.61 m) of horizontal clearance
- (3) ~~Attics without walkways and having insulation that conceals the ceiling joists~~
~~Attics with a temperature exceeding 115°F (46°C)~~
- (4) unobstructed head room at some point above the attic access, where attic access opens into a space greater than 30 square feet in size, or where an attic access is not present
- (5) Crawl spaces that provide less than 24 in 18 in . (0.61 m) of vertical clearance space between the bottom of the floor joists and the ground beneath the bottom of the floor joists at the point of crawlspace access
- (6) Areas within inaccessible and attached common dwelling units through which the chimney or venting subject to inspection are located

Safety hazards that generally will render an attic or crawlspace inaccessible include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) Standing water
- (2) Sewage or animal waste
- (3) Broken glass
- (4) Exposed or unsupported electrical wires
- (5) Dangerous animals or insects

Statement of Problem and Substantiation for Public Comment

This list as originally drafted is too broad and use measurements that do not match real world conditions or IRC requirements. These could also be interpreted to not get into the attic or crawlspace at all, even if accessible per IRC requirements. Requirements as specified in the IRC are referenced below.

First off, we are here to inspect a chimney system and verify it is suitable for continued use. As written this will effectively negate the requirement of technicians to perform their job by removing one of the most important requirements in many attics and crawlspaces today. Even those built to code per the IRC have smaller clearances/requirements than those shown here. And we are not termite inspectors, we are chimney professionals inspecting homes built to IRC requirements, with chimneys and appliances that should also be built to IRC requirements. Our minimum should at least mirror the IRC minimums.

Wording and terminology is also important. Many attics, especially when chimneys are at the eaves of the home will have less than 48" of 'vertical clearance' around the chimney system and thus many may elect not to crawl out there and check clearances. Virtually every attic does not have a walkway and will have insulation covering the joists. Adding in this exception will only give inspectors an excuse not to inspect the areas where fires generally start and occur and allow them to simply say it's not accessible and not be held liable for not performing a full inspection. This could result in increased fires. This will open up the way for litigators to get involved after losses and eventually determine what

constitutes an accessible attic for our industry outside of our purview.

In point 2, the use of the word 'clearance' could be misleading... clearance from the piping or chimney system... or clearance for a body to fit. Explanation/suggestion: per requirements in the IRC for attic access R807, which delineates the minimum size attic space for which an access is required we see that attic access are required anytime 30" of unobstructed head room is present at some point above the attic access or the space above is more than 30 square feet. Requiring anything less would result in many attics being considered inaccessible even when constructed per current code, wording is taken from the section mentioned. A look could also be made backward through the codes to see from what measurements this requirement noted in R807 evolved and the smaller of the two be used as many of older houses built to older codes are still around today.

In point 4, now deleted - the 115 degree requirement for an attic seems unrealistic as well. At that temp measures taken to be hydrated. We must also consider that in areas like Phoenix and other areas temperatures outside during the summer will often exceed 115 degrees and people still work outside and in attics as well. We could simply leave this out as this is also already covered under the newly proposed addition to A.3.3.1 Accessible (for Inspections) where it says "Access does not require the inspector to enter areas that, in the professional judgment of the inspector, likely will be hazardous to the inspector, other persons, or the property."

In point 5, now point 3, current code in the IRC in Figure R403.1(3) shows that a minimum 18" distance is required between the floor joists and the ground beneath inside the crawlspace, as such no measurement should be larger than this... A look could also be made backward through the codes to see from what measurements this requirement evolved and the smaller of the two be used as many of older houses built to older codes are still around today.

Also added a note about common dwelling units where access cannot be obtained

Related Item

- A.3.3.48 Concealed (Inaccessible)

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Submittal Date: Wed Mar 02 15:40:35 EST 2022

Committee: CHI-AAA

Attachment: NFPA 211 Committee Input Report



Committee Input No. 10-NFPA 211-2021 [Global Input]

The technical committee is looking at extracting and revising venting definitions to align NFPA 31, NFPA 54, and NFPA 211. See attached PDF document for proposed revisions and extracted definition.

Supplemental Information

<u>File Name</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Approved</u>
NFPA_211_Consolidation_Refined.pdf		

Submitter Information Verification

Committee: CHI-AAA

Submittal Date: Thu Aug 26 13:21:09 EDT 2021

Committee Statement

Committee Statement: Currently, engineers, code officials, and manufacturers must consult several standards to correctly design chimney/vent systems for appliances. As NFPA 31, 37, 54 and 211 have developed venting and chimney standards separately over time, some of the terminologies in each standard either don't exist in other standards or worse, conflict. With modern appliance technology and draft control system technologies, it is possible to have vent/chimney combinations that are not covered by a single standard. Conflicting terminologies can create confusion with users. We are proposing to add relevant terminologies to NFPA 211 from NFPA 54, NFPA 37 and NFPA 31 to introduce a complete terminology list to provide guidance to our users. We believe NFPA 211 is the proper place for this consolidation as the standard currently cover chimneys and vents. Consolidating the terminologies is the first step to creating a single more comprehensive documents to cover the requirements and sizing for all types of appliances.

Response Message: CI-10-NFPA 211-2021

[Public Input No. 21-NFPA 211-2021 \[Global Input\]](#)

Terminology	Final Recommendation	Substantiation
Appliance	Any device that utilizes a fuel to produce light, heat, power, refrigeration, or air conditioning, <u>or any device that compresses fuel gas.</u>	This is a more well defined terminology for Appliance and is included in NFPA 54
Appliance Categorized Vent Diameter/Area.	The minimum vent diameter/area <u>permissible for Category I appliances to maintain a nonpositive vent static pressure when tested in accordance with nationally recognized standards.</u>	This definition will be required for sizing requirements of Category I appliances
Automatic Vent Damper.	Subset of Damper. See <u>Automatically Operated Damper</u>	Automatic dampers have separate terminologies across various standards, this is an attempt to define a single terminology
Baffle.	An object integral to an appliance to <u>change the direction of or retard the flow of air, air-gas mixtures, or flue gases</u>	Baffles should be included in NFPA 211 as not be confused as manually operated dampers
Balancing Baffle.	An object placed in an appliance connector <u>to change the direction of or retard the flow of air, air-gas mixtures, or flue gases</u>	Balancing baffles are currently being utilized in chimney/vent systems and should be defined
Barometric Damper.	See Barometric Draft Regulator	The proper term for a barometric damper is Barometric draft regulator
Breeching.	The conduit conveying flue gas from <u>one or more appliances</u> to the vent or chimney.	Since Breeching, Common Vent, Common Vent Manifold, & Manifold are all defining the same portion of the vent (or chimney) system, one term should be selected as the primary term and the other three terms should then reference the primary. NFPA 54 also uses "Vent Connector Manifold" as a section title.
Btu.	Abbreviation for British thermal unit, <u>which is the quantity of heat required to raise the temperature of 1 pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit (equivalent to 1055 joules).</u>	This is a more well defined terminology for Btu and is included in NFPA 54
Burner.	A device for the final conveyance of gas, or a <u>mixture of gas and air, to the combustion zone.</u>	The terminology should be included to define this part of the appliance in NFPA 211
Category I Vented Appliance.	An ANSI listed appliance that operates with a <u>nonpositive vent static pressure and with a vent gas temperature that avoids excessive condensate production in the vent.</u>	The categorized appliance terminologies should be broken out to make the terms more accessible. The venting of categorized appliances should not be determined by the listing of the appliances
Category II Vented Appliance.	An ANSI listed appliance that operates with a <u>nonpositive vent static pressure and with a vent gas temperature that can cause excessive condensate production in the vent.</u>	The categorized appliance terminologies should be broken out to make the terms more accessible. The venting of categorized appliances should not be determined by the listing of the appliances



Committee Input No. 16-NFPA 211-2021 [Global Input]

The committee is looking at revising or removing exception language to better meet the NFPA Manual of Style.

Submitter Information Verification

Committee: CHI-AAA

Submittal Date: Thu Aug 26 16:09:26 EDT 2021

Committee Statement

Committee Statement: The committee is looking at revising or removing exception language to better meet the NFPA Manual of Style.

Response Message: CI-16-NFPA 211-2021



Committee Input No. 1-NFPA 211-2021 [Section No. 3.3.48]

3.3.48 Connector.

3.3.48.1 Chimney Connector.

The pipe that connects a fuel-burning appliance to a chimney.

3.3.48.2 Vent Connector.

The pipe that connects a fuel-burning appliance to a gas vent or Type L vent.

Submitter Information Verification

Committee: CHI-AAA

Submittal Date: Wed Aug 25 14:29:44 EDT 2021

Committee Statement

Committee Statement: The technical committee is looking to revise the definition of connectors to include the connection between the connector and the appliance as well as the connector and the chimney. The task group that is looking into correlating NFPA 31/54/211 will also be looking at this item to standardize the 3 documents where connections between the appliance and connector exist.

Response Message: CI-1-NFPA 211-2021

[Public Input No. 20-NFPA 211-2021 \[Section No. 9.7.12\]](#)