



ALLIED MOULDED PRODUCTS, INC.

222 N. Union St. P.O. Box 587
Bryan, Ohio 43506-0587
Phone 419-636-4217
Fax: 419-636-2450
www.alliedmoulded.com

January 15, 2005

To: Dave Gordon

From : Tom Knecht

Subject: Portland, Oregon "Authorities Having Jurisdiction" acceptance of the Allied Moulded Products fiberglass reinforced polyester boxes reduced separation.

I am happy to report that the Portland A.H.J. has now accepted the reduced horizontal separation for our fiberglass boxes.

I was not able to convince them with the documentation that I provided, but with help from the NEMA field representative, the A.H.J. has now accepted the boxes installed per their listing and in the assemblies for which they had been tested by UL®.

The attached article written by the NEMA field rep was published in Feb. 05 issue of Electro Industry magazine. The article explains the NEMA field representatives' involvement in setting the record straight with regard to Allied Moulded's industry exclusive reduced horizontal separation rating.

Thomas Knecht
Technical Service Manager

TK/dlc

Enclosure: Article "NEMA turns back electric box ruling" Feb. 05 issue of ei

RETURN ON INVESTMENT

NEMA turns back electrical box ruling

One of a series of articles illustrating the return on investment electrical manufacturers achieve through their involvement with NEMA.

The Challenge

The building department in the City of Portland, Oregon had rejected an installation of non-metallic electrical boxes in a fire rated wall with less than 24 inches of horizontal separation between the boxes. Supported by the building official, an inspector asked for compliance with Sections 712.3.1.1 and 712.3.1.2 of the newly adopted 2003 *International Building Code* (The IBC was adopted in the State of Oregon on October 1, 2004).

The electrical boxes in question had been successfully tested by Underwriters Laboratories as a component of the fire rated assembly without additional components added to the boxes. The boxes passed the test in the 50+ different fire rated assemblies shown in the UL fire resistance directory. No amount of product information and explanation by the manufacturer of the boxes, however, proved sufficient to change the decision of the building department.

The Plan

The manufacturer contacted the Western Field Representative for assistance to show that these boxes may be installed as indicated in the listing as a “stand-alone” item without resorting to additional materials, such as fire rated “putty-pads” or other listed components intended to address “through penetrations” of a fire rated assembly. The NEMA Western Field Representative would contact the building inspector to discuss the code interpretation. He would also consult with the primary

designated engineer for this product category for Underwriters Laboratories and the UL Regulatory Services representative assigned to the region. Finally, NEMA’s field representative would petition the International Code Council for an interpretation of the requirements and intent of Section 712 of the IBC.

The Result

Initial conversations with the Portland building department revealed skepticism over the ability of a non-metallic electrical box to maintain the same fire rating as an unbroken section of gypsum board. The 24-inch minimum spacing and use of additional systems to maintain the integrity of the assembly are traditional, long recognized means of protecting buildings and occupants from fire, and these proven approaches are difficult to “give up” in favor of new technology. The first forward step was convincing the



inspector that the IBC language required either that the box be tested and listed as part of the assembly or that the opening be protected by one of the listed and tested fire-stop systems, but not both. A call to the ICC regional office in Whittier, California, confirmed the code wording and intent. Consulting with other local building officials provided insight into the reasoning and methodology behind the code requirements, and that was passed on to the Portland building department for consideration by the NEMA field representative. After over two weeks of conversations and research, the building official stated that they had “seen the light” and agreed to accept the boxes installed per their listing and in the assemblies for which they had been tested.

The Value

Manufacturers invest considerable time, effort, and money to bring a new product to market. Acceptance of any product by the inspection authority is crucial to recovering the investment. For manufacturers of boxes tested as a component of a fire rated assembly, the investment in testing and certification is substantial. Gaining recognition of these products in a major west coast jurisdiction protects the investment of the manufacturer of the boxes in question as well as that of any company wishing to develop similar products.

While it is difficult to accurately estimate how much money was saved by the reversal of the initial ruling, it is certain that the investment in the technology, testing, and certification of these boxes has been protected in a significant market, and that the image of the manufacturer, NEMA, and the electrical

continued on page 21

Trade... *from page 5*

products “national treatment.” “This year, NEMA will continue to demand that China honor its WTO commitments,” says Pitsor.

The definition of international standards is an issue worldwide, not just in China. NEMA’s 2005 position on the issue remains firm. “If we are to obtain a level playing field for the manufacturers of electrical products,” says O’Hagan, “we have to avoid the mistake of allowing standards to act as technical barriers to trade. We are urging the U.S. government to continue working to dispel the mistaken notion that the use of the term ‘international standards’ in the World Trade Organization’s Technical Barriers to Trade Agreement (TBT) applies only to IEC, ISO, and ITU standards.” The interpretation of the term, he concludes, should include widely used norms

such as North American standards and safety installation practices that meet WTO TBT guidelines. “The importance of openness and transparency,” says O’Hagan, “are lost when focus is placed only on those three standards bodies.”

NEMA is also concerned about the widespread counterfeiting of electrical products, which creates problems with trading partners, particularly in China. “China is one of the world’s top sources of counterfeit products,” according to Clark Silcox, NEMA counsel, “These products can often be unsafe as well as ineffective. Counterfeiting not only puts at a disadvantage manufacturers of high quality, tested products, but puts the public safety at considerable risk.” ■

*John Meakem, (703) 841-3243
e-mail: joh_meakem@nema.org
Craig Updyke, (703) 841-3294
e-mail: cra_updyke@nema.org*

Pro-growth... *from page 7*

tional system and reverse the global rise in trade of illicit goods that has marked a decline in exercise of trademark rights.

- Provide increased funding for federal science programs and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program.
- Enact appropriate funding and reauthorization of needed infrastructure construction, modernization and security projects for all modes of transportation and energy distribution.
- Modernize and strengthen the Social Security system without

increasing taxes or reducing benefits for current retirees or those nearing retirement age. Personal retirement accounts for younger workers can help to both secure their individual retirement futures and assure the future financial soundness of the public system.

- Enact legislation making permanent the temporary interest rate used to determine current funding liabilities for defined benefit plans and to build on and make permanent provisions that encourage participation in defined contribution plans. ■

ROI... *from page 9*

industry has been enhanced. In addition, this product itself allows for a quicker and less costly installation of electrical boxes than installation of additional fire-stop systems to maintain the rated assembly. An installation, that maintains equivalent safety at a reduced cost, benefits everyone.

A byproduct of the negotiations, conducted respectfully and courteously, is good will. Any future disagreements over code application will likely be conducted in a similarly cordial and respectful atmosphere in which NEMA’s contribution will be appreciated and valued. ■

*Joe Andre
jandre@verizon.net*

Washington Report... *from page 15*

counterfeit product mandatory. “Not only is this amendment important for domestic law,” O’Hagan said, “but it also enables the United States to encourage our trading partners to adopt this kind of remedy during free trade agreement negotiations.”

IPR czar position created

As part of its mammoth spending bill passed at the end of 2004, Congress mandated creation of a “czar” position that would formally serve as coordinator for the interagency National Intellectual Property Law Enforcement Coordination Council (which coordinates domestic and international intellectual property enforcement). Congress was silent on the location of the position, but the White House is being mentioned. Congress also authorized the establishment of a chief negotiator position for intellectual property enforcement within the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative, and created an office of IPR enforcement office at the State Department.

*John Meakem, (703) 841-3243
e-mail: joh_meakem@nema.org
Craig Updyke, (703) 841-3294
e-mail: cra_updyke@nema.org*

NEMA EHS Council to conduct REACH web casts in March

The NEMA Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) Council will begin its 2005 EHS Web Cast series with a presentation entitled “Introduction to the European Commission’s proposed Registration, Evaluation and Authorization Chemicals (REACH) Legislation.” The web cast on Tuesday, March 1, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon Eastern Standard Time, will be conducted by Steven Russell, Esq., assistant general counsel of the American Chemistry Council (formerly CMA).

The web casts are open to all NEMA members and select non-members, all of whom can register individually (one person on a computer) or as a group (more than one person per computer).

For more information, a synopsis of the training, and to register, go to www.nema.org/gov/ehs/webcasts/register.cfm. ■

*Richard LaLumondier, (703) 841-3237
e-mail: ric_lalumondier@nema.org*