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Fire Code Changes Could COST YOU Big Bucks

By: Lee Miller, President

Volume III, Issue III
July - September, 2005

Setting the Stage

The National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) develops and publishes over 300 codes, standards and other documents regulating all aspects of fire, electrical, building and life safety. NFPA documents are widely adopted and used as a basis for safety regulation by government agencies and also by insurance companies, industry and private professionals. NFPA documents are regularly revised through a process involving one or more Technical Committees and ending at an in-person vote of NFPA members at an annual meeting of the association.

The Issues

- Changes could be retroactive!
- Capital cost increases
- 10 to 30% storage revenue loss!

Several NFPA documents have a direct bearing upon the records and information management services (RIMS) business. For many years PRISM International, in cooperation with many member companies, has been very actively involved in the ongoing revisions to NFPA 232, *Standard for the Protection of Records* and NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*, which is currently undergoing revision. The then current NFPA 13 is generally adopted into law in the Building Codes of nearly every state.

The following NFPA proposals are pending:

• **Flue Space Requirement**

The 2002 edition of NFPA 13 required a 6" longitudinal flue space and 50% open deck shelving or the installation of sprinklers 6" above the top box of every shelf. This change basically eliminated the use of solid shelving increasing rack costs significantly. These changes were placed in the 2002 edition without the benefit of testing and were based on interpretations of 35-year old test data that was inconclusive on solid shelving and allowed to exist if longitudinal and transverse flue spaces were maintained. There was and is no fire loss experience to justify these changes.

The proposed 2006 edition continues to include the 2002 requirements and adds a requirement of 6" transverse flue spaces every 4 to 5 feet (approximately 20 square feet of shelf) for the order picker installations and every 2.5 to 3 feet for catwalk installations. Again there is no testing of fire loss experience to support these changes.

• **Sprinkler Head Requirements**

The 2002 edition of NFPA 13 required sprinklers at approximately 12 to 15 feet vertical intervals for order picker installations when 50% open shelving is used and under each catwalk for catwalk installations. If solid shelving is used, then sprinklers must be in-

stalled under every shelf and the sprinkler position must be 6" above the top of storage. In a storage system 35 feet high the shelving would have to move to accommodate the sprinklers and 5 levels of cartons would be lost. Normally there would be 34 cartons vertically in a 35 ft. rack system but with the additional sprinklers there would only be 29.

The proposed 2006 edition does not change the 2002 sprinkler requirements, however, in other parts of the code nearly all flue spaces are sprinklered. Therefore, some would speculate that future editions of the code will require sprinkler heads in the transverse flue space – the same as are currently required in the longitudinal spaces.

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Updates to the Warehouse Scanning Application

The warehouse application for the PT2000 scanner has a new program available. The collection routine for the warehouse scanner application has been enhanced in the "BOX IN" and "FILE IN" collection sections.

The Changes...

"Box In"

When a user selects Warehouse-Bar-Scan In-Box there will be a menu option prior to the "Scan Customer Box?" asking if you want to scan "Location, Box, Location" or "Location, Box, Box". If you select "Location, Box, Location", the scanner will force you to scan the location-box, location-box, just as it does now, except the location will be scanned first and then the Box, reverse of what it is today. If you select "Location, Box, Box", the scanner will force you to scan the location then the box, box, box, etc. The user will have to press the F8 button before scanning a new location. The prompt to scan the Customer Box number will remain the same as it is currently.

"File In"

When a user selects Warehouse-Bar-Scan In-File there will be a menu option asking if you want to scan "Box, File, Box" or "Box, File, File". If you select "Box, File, Box", the scanner will force you to scan box, file, box, file, just as it does today. If you select "Box, File, File", the scanner will force you to scan box, file, file, file, etc. The user will then have to press the F8 button before scanning a new box number.

The Benefits

This change allows for more flexibility when scanning in boxes and files. It can save you labor time and money.

This new program does not require any outside dumping utilities and can be dumped in VCK just as it always has been. All scanners will need to be re-programmed with a new operating system and the enhanced warehouse application.



If you are interested in this new program please contact Andrews Software Support. They will be happy to walk you through the steps required to implement this new program.

2005 ASI User's Seminar

Don't forget this years User's Seminar is being held in Cleveland, October 25-27th. We have an agenda planned that is jammed packed with lots of great information you can't afford to miss.



If you haven't already registered please don't forget to do so. If you register by September 14th, you can take advantage of the pre-registration discount. The User's Seminar information packet, which includes the registration form, can be downloaded from <http://www.andrewssoftware.com>.

ASI... New Additions

Jennifer Fröhlich and her husband Michael are the proud parents of a daughter, Avery Nicole Fröhlich. Avery was born on August 18 and was 7 lbs 8 oz. Mom and baby are doing well. We look forward to having Avery on the ASI Team in the future!!



Tana Schaad is the latest addition to the Support staff. Her responsibilities will include customer support and eventually new installations and training. Tana has worked for Andrews Records Management, now Cintas Document Management, for the past 5 years. She began working in the office and has spent the last few years as an outside customer service representative. Tana is well versed in VCK and brings an array of records management knowledge with her.

Jim Miller has joined the ASI Team as an Account Representative. Jim comes from a sales background where he sold Internet technology and software since 1996. As you can probably tell from the name he is also a member of Lee's family, his nephew.

We are happy to have Tana and Jim as part of our team.

ASI Bids Farewell

Please join us in wishing Mindy Arnold, Customer Support Representative, the best-of-luck in her future endeavors. She was married in late September and has moved to the Columbus area with her husband. Her last official day at ASI was September 9th. She will be missed!

VCK Tips-N-Tricks and More!

Printing or E-mailing Invoices while some are Adjusted

When an invoice is adjusted the Print button on the Invoicing screen becomes disabled. However, there is a way to print or email a group of invoices while others are adjusted. To accomplish this use the Set Filter Option located in the upper right hand corner of the Invoicing Screen. Select Adjusted = False and Grand Total > 0. Also, select E-Billing = True if you want to email invoices. Since no Adjusted invoices are present in the current view the Print button becomes enabled.

ASI Accounting Package Interfaces

ASI has created several different programs that interface with popular Accounting Packages. Those accounting packages include QuickBooks, Sage and Cyma. If your business uses one of these accounting programs contact ASI Sales for more information on our interface programs.



Scan Error Notification

Scan Error Notification is a warehouse operations feature in VCK that allows the record center to track boxes and files that receive certain errors during scanning. For example, if a box gets scanned by mistake for destruction the error generated is "Box was NOT requested for Destruction". What happens if the user dumping the wand doesn't see the error? The box can potentially get destroyed in error. By using Scan Error Notification you can track all boxes that receive this error. The person responsible for checking the Scan Error Notification log daily will see this box was scanned in error and can ensure that the box does not get destroyed by mistake. Once the box has been scanned back in, the user can mark that the box has been fixed and verified in the Scan Error Notification Log.



Fire Code Changes Continued...

• **Retroactive vs. Grandfathered**

In the past, NFPA code changes only applied to new facilities and additions while existing facilities were Grandfathered. However, 2002 NFPA 13, Section 1.4 gives local authorities the power to apply new requirements retroactively at any time – if the authority having jurisdiction determines “the existing situation presents an unacceptable degree of risk.” There are a number of court cases supporting the local fire marshal who retroactively applied new regulations to existing facilities. Bottom line, the local fire marshal has total control. Imagine the cost to retroactively comply with the current code for all installations prior to 2002/2006!!

The NFPA 2006 Committee's statements following their proposed changes stressed the importance of a flue space every 20 square feet. As a member of PRISM's Regulatory Affairs Committee, I can tell you that PRISM has taken exception to this and other statements and filed negative comments on the proposal. Given the committee's voting at the proposal stage, it is anticipated that PRISM's proposed change will be rejected when the NFPA committee meets in November 2005.

We will continue to challenge the NFPA committee but believe it will ultimately be settled in a vote on the floor of the NFPA Convention in Orlando on June 7-8, 2006.

If you share our concern and have a genuine interest in working with us on this issue, please consider taking the following steps:

- Educate yourself regarding this subject.
- Join NFPA by **December 1, 2005** (\$135.00) – Go to the NFPA website, <http://www.nfpa.org>; 2) at the top, click “NFPA Catalog” and then click “Join NFPA”; 3) Follow the instructions through the screen to purchase a “New US/Canadian Membership”; and 4) unless you are an existing NFPA member, click on “All Other Visitors” and follow the instructions to provide an E-mail address, personal password of your choice, and address for mailings.
- Attend the NFPA meeting in Orlando on June 7-8, 2006 and vote. NFPA is a “one member – one vote” institution and you must attend the meeting in person. Voting generally takes place Thursday afternoon, the 8th; however, the daily schedule could be changed.
- Attend the ASI Users Meeting Tuesday – Thursday (October 25 through October 27, 2005) where NFPA 13 will be discussed in greater detail.
- Look for communication from PRISM regarding this subject.

4th Quarter WebShare WEBINAR Schedule

Please visit the ASI Users section of our website to download the registration form - <http://andrewssoftware.com>.

Date	Topic	2 Available Times (Each WebShare is Approx. 1 Hour)
Wednesday, October 12	Invoicing	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EST 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST
Wednesday, November 2	General Maintenance of VCK	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EST 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST
Wednesday, November 16	InfoKeeper	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EST 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST
Wednesday, November 30	Veri-Shred	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EST 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST
Wednesday, December 7	ASI QuickBooks Interface	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EST 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST
Wednesday, December 21	Management/System Integrity Reports	10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. EST 2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. EST

ASI Moves to New Scanner Technology

By: Scott Bidwell

Driver scanning has received an extreme makeover. While many of our users have taken advantage of the automation our current driver scanning program brought to the table, it was lacking when it came to point of delivery validation. In the past your driver would have to wait until they returned to the office to verify if he or she delivered the correct items to the correct location. While this approach did inform the operation of the level of accuracy, often times it required another visit to rectify any problems. Scanner technology has improved dramatically since the first release of driver scanning in 1997 and ASI has capitalized on the new technology by incorporating the latest equipment from Symbol Technologies.



Significant research went into selecting the correct operating platform and state of the hardware. ASI redefined the business rules for how Driver Scanning was to perform which resulted in the birth of ASI Mobile. ASI Mobile runs on Microsoft Pocket PC with SQL Server and .NET and recently received "Designed for Windows Mobile Certification" from Microsoft. Communication to the QL220 is handled by Bluetooth, no more cables to get in the way and break. Not only does ASI Mobile contain the Driver Scanning application, it also houses the Veri-Shred, and Warehouse scanning applications. All users from VCK are also uploaded into the 8860 so users and passwords are validated against the VCK application. No user name and password, no access to ASI Mobile. So whether your driver is servicing a destruction bin, delivering a carton or file, or working in the warehouse, ASI Mobile is the one solution for all activities.



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