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**Congress of the United States  
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December 14, 2005

The Honorable Jonathan Snare, Acting Assistant Secretary  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Honorable Snare:

I am writing to bring your attention to a matter of importance to workers and owners of recreational boat building facilities and the manufacturers of products made from reinforced plastic. In the 1970's, OSHA adopted the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Standard for Spray Application Using Flammable or Combustible Materials (NFPA 33). At the time of adoption, the standard focused primarily on enclosed spray painting operations like those used in auto body shops and not on larger open-air manufacturing operations that spray resin.

OSHA referenced NFPA 33 in developing its 29 CFR 1910.107 spray application regulations. The NFPA consensus committee has since issued new editions of the NFPA 33 standard including Chapter 17, which reflects new work safety procedures specific to the risks of boat building and manufacturing of reinforced plastic products. Unfortunately, OSHA has yet to update its regulation to reflect these newer provisions of the NFPA standard.

I believe that it is important for OSHA to regularly update its references to voluntary consensus standards in order to protect U.S. workers with the most up-to-date, state-of-the-art codes and standards. In this case, I would encourage OSHA to update its fire safety regulation by adopting the latest edition of NFPA 33

I appreciate your consideration of my request and look forward to learning of the progress that the agency has made to update this regulation

Sincerely,



Robert Andrews  
Member of Congress

REA:jns