

**NFPA®**

# 285

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**Standard Fire Test Method for  
Evaluation of Fire Propagation  
Characteristics of Exterior  
Wall Assemblies Containing  
Combustible Components**

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**2019**



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NFPA® 285

## **Standard Fire Test Method for Evaluation of Fire Propagation Characteristics of Exterior Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components**

**2019 Edition**

This edition of NFPA 285, *Standard Fire Test Method for Evaluation of Fire Propagation Characteristics of Exterior Wall Assemblies Containing Combustible Components*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Fire Tests. It was issued by the Standards Council on November 5, 2018, with an effective date of November 25, 2018, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 285 was approved as an American National Standard on November 25, 2018.

### **Origin and Development of NFPA 285**

The 1998 edition was the first for this standard. It established a test method, developed through a consensus process, for determining the flammability characteristics of exterior non-load-bearing wall assemblies or panels. The Committee's intention was to establish a standard that could be adopted or referenced by other applicable documents, such as the model building codes. The standard was introduced to regulate and address the introduction of combustible materials into exterior walls of all construction types.

The 2006 edition included a complete editorial rewrite for compliance with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. Further organizational and editorial changes were made to improve the application of the test method, and the scope and purpose of the document were revised to clarify the document's intent. Technical changes addressed details about the test specimen, documentation of the fire test, and testing instrumentation. Historical information describing the development of NFPA 285 was also added as annex material.

The 2012 edition included organizational, editorial, and technical changes that addressed clarifications and corrections of both requirements and figures. The changes provided consistency throughout the document and updated the standard to reflect current construction and testing practices. Technical changes included new requirements, acceptance criteria, and diagrams for thermocouple locations for new types of wall systems.

The 2019 edition includes many substantial changes. The document has been revised to include both bearing and non-load-bearing assemblies. Additionally, the scope has been expanded to apply to buildings of any construction type. New sections were added in Chapter 5 to address joint and seam locations and window header construction.