

**NFPA®**

# 262

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**Standard Method of Test for  
Flame Travel and Smoke of  
Wires and Cables for Use in  
Air-Handling Spaces**

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**2019**



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**NFPA® 262**

**Standard Method of**

**Test for Flame Travel and Smoke of Wires and Cables for Use in Air-Handling Spaces**

**2019 Edition**

This edition of NFPA 262, *Standard Method of Test for Flame Travel and Smoke of Wires and Cables for Use in Air-Handling Spaces*, 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 262 was approved as an American National Standard on November 25, 2018.

**Origin and Development of NFPA 262**

The test procedure covered by this standard was originally developed by Underwriters Laboratories Inc. and published as UL 910, *Standard for Safety Test for Flame-Propagation and Smoke-Density Values for Electrical and Optical-Fiber Cables Used in Spaces Transporting Environmental Air*. It is an adaptation of the Steiner tunnel test (NFPA 255, *Standard Method of Test of Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*; ASTM E84, *Standard Test Method for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*; UL 723, *Tests for Surface Burning Characteristics of Building Materials*), which was designed to provide information for evaluating the potential for fire spread along cables and wires housed in a plenum or other environmental space. The original 1985 edition was reconfirmed in 1990. The 1994 edition contained minor editorial changes.

The 1999 edition was revised to reflect the practices that were used with this type of test apparatus and procedure. Revisions were made to the requirements associated with the fire test chamber transition, exhaust blower instrumentation, and data acquisition. The title and scope were editorially revised to reflect the true application of the test procedures for the testing of flame travel and optical density of smoke for wires and cables used in an air-handling space.

The 2002 edition was revised to conform with NFPA's formatting requirements, in compliance with the provisions of the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. The chapters were reorganized to reflect the NFPA standard document format, metric conversions were reviewed and revised, and some editorial clarifications were made.

There were no substantive changes in the 2007 edition.

The 2011 edition was revised to create consistency with other test standards. Provisions on the Standard Insulated Conductor Test were removed and replaced with an annex on Reference Cable Tests (Annex D).

There were no substantive changes in the 2015 edition, and no substantive changes have been made in the 2019 edition.

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