

NFPA[®]

214

Standard on
Water-Cooling Towers

2021



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NFPA® 214
Standard on
Water-Cooling Towers
2021 Edition

This edition of NFPA 214, *Standard on Water-Cooling Towers*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Water-Cooling Towers. It was issued by the Standards Council on October 5, 2020, with an effective date of October 25, 2020, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 214 was approved as an American National Standard on October 25, 2020.

Origin and Development of NFPA 214

The subject of the protection of water-cooling towers was first considered by the NFPA Committee on Building Construction in 1957, and a progress report on the subject was published in the Advance Reports of that year. In 1958, a new Committee on Water-Cooling Towers was appointed, and a Tentative Standard on Fire Protection of Water-Cooling Towers proposed by the Committee was adopted by the Association. Final adoption of NFPA 214, *Standard on Water-Cooling Towers*, was secured in 1959. Revised editions were published in 1961, 1966, 1968, 1971, 1976, 1977, 1983, 1988, and 1992.

The 1996 edition of the standard reinforced a performance-based approach to fire protection for water-cooling towers. The scope was also changed to include protection of field-erected water-cooling towers.

The changes in the 2000 edition reflected the new *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. The 2005 edition added requirements for pilot line detectors.

The 2011 edition made several clarifications to improve NFPA 214's functionality for the user and to coordinate with other documents.

The 2016 edition better aligned the sprinkler requirements within the standard with the types of systems defined in NFPA 13, *Standard for the Installation of Sprinkler Systems*.

The majority of the changes made for the 2021 edition of the standard are limited to updating the references in the document. Two notable exceptions are the updated definition for *fire-resistant partition* and the requirement to evaluate certain factors when determining proper fire protections in Chapter 4. Previously, the definition of *fire-resistant partition* directed the user to a mandatory requirement, which is not allowed by the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*, while the update to Chapter 4 provides clearer requirements for the AHJ.

Technical Committee on Water-Cooling Towers

Robert J. Smith, Jr., *Chair*
Marsh USA Inc., IL [I]

Robert M. Gagnon, *Secretary*
Gagnon Engineering, MD [SE]

Clay P. Aler, Koffel Associates, Inc., MD [SE]
Brenton Lee Cox, Exponent, Inc., IL [SE]
Larry J. Edwards, F. E. Moran, Inc., IL [IM]
John R. Holmes, Sprinkler Fitters UA Local 709 JAC, CA [L]
Rep. United Assn. of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry
Scott T. Martorano, The Viking Corporation, MI [M]
Joseph L. Navarra, Exelon Corporation/Pepco, DC [U]
Rep. Edison Electric Institute

David M. Nieman, Bechtel Corporation, VA [SE]
Paul J. Pinigis, Hankins & Anderson, Architects & Engineers, VA
[SE]
Jess Seawell, Composite Cooling Solutions, TX [M]
Rep. Cooling Technology Institute
Peter M. Shank, Nuclear Service Organization, DE [I]

Alternates

Roland A. Asp, National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc., MD [M]
(Voting Alt.)
Kevin P. Bellew, Sprinkler Fitters & Apprentices Local 696, NJ [L]
(Alt. to John R. Holmes)
Daryl C. Bessa, F. E. Moran, Inc. Special Hazard Systems, IL [IM]
(Alt. to Larry J. Edwards)

James Bland, Composite Cooling Solutions, TX [M]
(Alt. to Jess Seawell)
James J. McKinnon, The Viking Corporation, MI [M]
(Alt. to Scott T. Martorano)
Terry L. Victor, Johnson Controls, MD [M]
(Voting Alt.)

Heath Dehn, NFPA Staff Liaison

This list represents the membership at the time the Committee was balloted on the final text of this edition. Since that time, changes in the membership may have occurred. A key to classifications is found at the back of the document.

NOTE: Membership on a committee shall not in and of itself constitute an endorsement of the Association or any document developed by the committee on which the member serves.

Committee Scope: This Committee shall have primary responsibility for documents on the design, construction, protection, and maintenance of water-cooling towers.