

Memorandum

To: All Standards Board Members

Date: November 20, 2017

From: Michael Nelmidia, Senior Engineer, Standards

Subject: Petition 545 University of California, Office of the President
Flammable Liquids in Laboratories, Advisory Committee

On July 10, 2017, Board staff convened an Advisory Committee as directed by the Board in its Decision in the Matter of Petition File 545, approved on June 18, 2015.

The Petitioner, University of California-Office of the President, requested the Board consider:

- (1) updates to the definitions of Office Occupancy, Educational Occupancy and Institutional Occupancy; and
- (2) Harmonizing the flammable and combustible liquid storage quantities within Section 5538 of the General Industry Safety Orders with Table FL-2 of Section 5532.

The Board granted the Petitioner's request to the extent that an advisory committee be convened by Board staff to add within Section 5538, a definition of "laboratory" excluding "educational laboratory" and "instructional laboratory" and consider the increase in the container size limits, while maintaining existing safety can size limits for "educational and instructional laboratories."

During the Advisory Committee Meeting on July 10, 2017, the committee favored the inclusion of a definition of "laboratory" and did not conclude that necessity existed to increase safety can sizes from a 2-gallons to 5-gallons. The committee, however, did not recommend rulemaking to proceed in response to Petition 545 in accordance with the Decision. The Petitioner and the committee supports a recommendation to not proceed with rulemaking. The committee favors a much broader examination of the requirements within Section 5538 to address concerns over the lack of the clarity within the section.

This would have exceeded the Board's defined scope of the committee, in the Petition's decision. Board staff believes that the committee's suggestion are best taken under advisement, without further rulemaking proposal development at the present time.

Consequently, unless otherwise directed by the Board, this matter is terminated for further action by Board staff.