

# Steel Packaging Alliance for Public Safety

## What is the Steel Packaging Alliance for Public Safety?

The Steel Packaging Alliance for Public Safety, or the Alliance, is a consortium of steel drum and pail manufacturers, steel producers, risk managers, insurers, and others who support the wider use of steel packaging in the supply chain for transporting flammable and combustible liquids.

## Who Belongs to the Alliance?

The initial members of this growing Alliance are the Steel Shipping Container Institute (SSCI), U.S. Steel, Nucor Steel, Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel, Esmark, and the International Packaging Network.

## What Makes Steel a Superior Packaging for Flammable and Combustible Products?

Extensive fire testing at the Southwest Research Institute in San Antonio, Texas, has demonstrated that 55-gallon steel drums filled with highly flammable heptane and fitted with plastic (fusible) 2-inch and ¾-inch fittings survive a blaze, while the drums' contents vent as the packagings' fittings melt from the heat of the fire. Due to the venting, the first test showed that the drums did not expand from the buildup of heat-related internal pressures. They may vent product and show the effects of the fire, but they remain intact. Thus, the fire tests determined that appropriately arrayed and equipped steel drums do not become an additional hazard facing first responders.

## What Else Did the Fire Test Results Show?

The fire test results demonstrated that highly flammable or combustible liquids can be safely stored in a warehouse environment provided that facility meets the requirements of NFPA 30, the National Fire Protection Association's code prescribing a national standard for the safe practices of storing such products. (See the SSCI's brochure entitled, *What is NFPA 30? What Can it Do For Me?* for more details.)

## How Can the Alliance Make a Difference?

The Alliance's objective is to raise awareness of the safety and economic virtues of NFPA 30. Most state and municipal ordinances are derived from nationally administered codes such as those developed by NFPA. For NFPA 30 to have standing, it has to be incorporated into state or municipal fire regulations by the appropriate authoritative body. Once adopted, NFPA 30 prescribes the requirements for safely storing flammable and combustible liquids in 55-gallon steel drums palletized and stacked up to four high – twice the limit previously allowed.

## Why Should This Matter to My Company?

If your company produces and/or stores flammable and/or combustible products recognized by the Hazardous Materials regulations, it could benefit from your state's or municipality's adoption of NFPA 30 into their current fire regulations. The Alliance seeks to work with petroleum and chemical companies, warehouse operators, risk managers, insurers and others who have a vested interest in improving safety while, perhaps, lowering costs. It will take a cross-section of industry interests – fillers, steel drum manufacturers, and others – to effectively inform those who can facilitate adoption of NFPA 30 at the state or municipal level.

## How Can My Company Participate in the Alliance?

Contact the SSCI staff at (202)408-1900 if you are interested in joining the Alliance and working to foster adoption of NFPA 30 in locales where you fill and/or store 55-gallon steel drums of flammable and/or combustible liquids. Add your company's voice to this effort today to enhance safety and reduce risk.