



THE INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM FOR FIRE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND THE ENVIRONMENT

About the ICFSHE

The International Consortium for Fire Safety, Health and the Environment (ICFSHE) is an organization committed to the integration, within national and international safety standards, of policies that will encourage the simultaneous achievement of the highest levels of fire safety, health and environmental quality. The mission of the ICFSHE is to promote balanced, science-based public safety, environmental and health policies and manufacturing practices. This can be accomplished only through the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders, including fire safety professionals; environmentalists, toxicologists and other health experts; industry executives; government regulators; academicians; materials scientists; engineers; and economists.

The ICFSHE has set out to eliminate the economic barriers that discourage industry from going beyond the current minimum, mandatory standards for safety, health and environmental quality. The ICFSHE seeks to harness the incredible power of the marketplace to encourage industries to compete with each other to produce the safest and cleanest possible products and materials. The ICFSHE recognizes that markets can move faster than governments in achieving safer, cleaner products. The ICFSHE does not set standards, nor does it represent any one interest. The ICFSHE is a place where people come together to understand and shape the ways in which the public need and commercial interests interact.

Organized in 2001 by safety, health and environmental officials in North America and Europe originally under the name Transatlantic Fire Safety Consortium, ICFSHE is a US-based 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation with European offices in Sweden. The ICFSHE and its programs involve environmental, health and fire safety regulatory officials and scientists from Belgium, Canada, Finland, Germany, the Netherlands, Sweden, the United Kingdom and the United States. The ICFSHE intends to invite authorities from other parts of the world to participate over time.

Guiding principles

- **Science.** How materials and products interact with people and the environment.
- **The real world.** How finished products perform when used by consumers in typical settings.
- **The need for clarity.** Fire safety, environmental, health and economic policy must be integrated so that industry has a clear path forward.
- **The reality of global harmonization.** Markets and public policy must work together to achieve true harmonization.



Active and planned programs

- Task forces, a joint initiative of the ICFSHE and the National Association of State Fire Marshals, are conducting research on how fires start and are best prevented in the home, public places and automobiles and what the environmental costs are of the most effective fire prevention technologies.
- For “the best of the best” the ICFSHE awards a Green Flame™ for companies that manufacture consumer products that are significantly cleaner and safer than the rest.
- ICESHE manages the Hydrogen Executive Leadership Panel (HELP) for the National Association of State Fire Marshals. This exciting program brings together automakers, energy companies, federal and state authorities, scientists and consumers to facilitate the safest possible transition from gasoline- and diesel-powered autos to hydrogen fuel cells and other alternative fuels.
- ICFSHE is working with toxicologists, environmental authorities and industry to come up with a model that can be used to evaluate flame retardant chemicals.
- ICFSHE has played a significant role in helping to define the next generation of standards for computers, TV sets and other consumer electronics equipment sold for use in the home.
- At the request of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute Education and Research Foundation, ICFSHE initiated a scientific study to better understand the fire and burn performance of catalytic converters that may soon be required on lawn mowers and similar equipment.

Funding

Initially the ICFSHE depended on small grants from US and Swedish authorities. Financial and in-kind start-up support was provided by the founding members of the ICFSHE. Today, however, each program must be self-supporting and capable of contributing to the ICFSHE’s modest administrative expenses. All resources must support directly and clearly the mission of the ICFSHE and the programs, projects and other activities approved by the Directors. Contracts specifying actions and goals may be sought and accepted by the ICFSHE and its programs. Materials produced by the ICFSHE and its programs may be sold. Registration and other fees may be charged for participation in ICFSHE activities.

For more information

Visit the ICFSHE website at www.clean-and-safe.org