

Media Release

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Technical Structure revised at FPA Australia

FPA Australia has recently undergone a revision of its technical structure, revising the rules for committees and increasing the opportunities to be involved.

The restructure introduces new committees to mirror the Standards Australia Fire Protection Committees that develop the Australian Standards for fire protection.

Also, as part of this restructure, Technical Committees (TCs) have now been renamed Technical Advisory Committees (TACs) and six new TACs have been introduced – some replacing Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

The new TACs include:

TAC/1 Maintenance of Fire Protection Systems and Equipment (replaces Maintenance SIG)

TAC/17 Emergency Planning (replaces Workplace Emergency Response SIG)

TAC/18 Fire Safety

TAC/20 Bushfire Safety (replaces Bushfire Planning and Design SIG)

TAC/23 Tunnel Fire Safety

TAC/T Training (replaces Training SIG)

The name of the passive fire protection committee has also changed from TC/18 to TAC/19 because it is Standards Australia FP-019 committee that covers passive fire protection.

With SIGs evolving into TACs (and in collaboration with FPA Australia's membership restructure) members of the SIGs that were previously unable to be involved in the Technical Committees due to the membership level restrictions can now be involved.

Corporate Bronze and Organisation members are now eligible to apply for representation on Technical Advisory Committees.

Corresponding membership for Technical Advisory Committees has also been introduced, allowing people to keep up-to-date with TAC activity without making the commitment of attending in meetings.

This increase in the number of committees has also meant an increase in the number of committees which members can apply for. The following table summarises the TAC membership eligibility for Organisation, Corporate Bronze, Corporate Silver, Corporate Gold and Corporate Platinum members.

Table 1 Types of membership allowed on TACs based on FPA Australia membership

Level of Membership	Max. no. of participating members per committee	Max. no. of committees a company can have participating members on	Max. no. of corresponding members
Corporate Bronze or Organisation	2	2	0

Corporate Silver	3	3	10
Corporate Gold	3	4	20
Corporate Platinum	3	All committees	60

Note: If Joe Fire is a corresponding member of TAC/1 and TAC/2 this counts as two corresponding memberships – one to TAC/1 and one to TAC/2. Therefore if he was a Corporate Silver member, this would mean his company would have only 8 corresponding positions left (not 9). Although four Special Interest Groups have now become Technical Advisory Committees, the Inspectors and Certifiers SIG and Residential SIG remain. Also, FPA Australia is seeking to revive the currently inactive Aviation and Marine SIGs.

As previously, Special Interest Group membership (both participating and corresponding) remains open to all financial members of FPA Australia.

With new membership categories and an increased number of Technical Advisory Committees, FPA Australia looks forward to an increased technical presence in the fire protection industry and an increased benefit to all FPA Australia members.

ENDS

The Fire Protection Association Australia is the country's peak body for fire safety, providing information, services and training to the fire protection industry and broader community. For more information, please see www.fpaa.com.au or contact FPA Australia – (03) 9890 1544.