



October 30, 2018

To: Concerned Fire Safety Officials

Re: Rose Brand's Melt Out fabric

Existing US fire codes do not specifically address a material such as Melt Out. Hopefully, the following will explain how it works as part of venue's life safety systems.

Melt Out is a woven, synthetic textile with a single, fusible thread that runs the length of the fabric, placed in parallels once every 12 inches across the width. This fusible thread will melt when the fabric is exposed to a temperature of 160° Fahrenheit or higher.

Typically, this stretch fabric is suspended horizontally across a ceiling area to hide the ceiling mechanicals, which means the sprinkler heads end up above the stretched fabric "false ceiling". The perimeter edges of the fabric are secured in some manner and intermittent suspension points may be added as needed to keep the soft fabric from drooping too much. Should the temperature below the room reach this critical temperature, the fusible thread melts allowing the stretched knit to contract into small, bunched lines of material. This opens more than 75% of the ceiling area allowing the heat and smoke from below to pass upward to reach the sprinkler heads. Should the sprinkler heads open, water will be able to fall to the floor, mostly unimpeded. Take a look at this website link for a video of a simple demonstration of the fabric in action: <https://www.dropbox.com/s/20osowd4mxj4o7z/2016-10-07%2010.30.02.mp4> .

Melt Out passes the NFPA 701 standard, which means the fabric itself is resistant to ignition and slow to spread any flame. In the case of a fire, the collapsed curls of fabric are likely to remain secured in place until the sprinkler heads respond to the rising heat. The ends of these curled bunches of fabric will remain secured at their end points. There is little expectation that the fabric could burn loose and fall to the floor during the early stages of an evacuation.

This technical textile has been used for years in Europe and has been gaining steady acceptance in the United States as well. I am always willing to answer your questions about this product. Please do not hesitate to reach out.

Respectfully submitted,

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