



April 7, 2016

Senator Melisa Franzsen
95 University Avenue West
Office 3403
St. Paul, MN 55155

Via Email: Thomas.melton@senate.mn

Dear Senator Franzen,

The Fire, Life Safety, Security and Emergency Communication Section of the National Electrical Manufacturers Association (NEMA) is writing to express its support for HF 3310 / SF 2678 which, if enacted, would require carbon monoxide (CO) detection equipment to be installed on motorboats at least 16 feet in length and that have an enclosed cabin below deck.

CO poisoning is a leading cause of accidental poisoning death in the United States. High concentrations of CO—a colorless, odorless gas that is produced when fossil fuel is incompletely burned—can cause cognitive impairment, loss of consciousness, coma, and often death. In fact, the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) reports that more than 400 people die in the U.S. each year from accidental CO poisoning and estimates that approximately 20,000 Americans seek medical attention annually due to carbon monoxide.

The CDC also recommends that boat owners install CO detection devices, recognizing the inherent risks. “On larger boats CO builds up above the water near the water platform. CO that builds up in the air space beneath the stern deck or on and near the swim deck can kill someone in seconds. Traveling at slow speeds or idling in the water can cause CO to build up in a boat’s cabin, cockpit, bridge, and aft deck, or in an open area. Wind from the aft section of the boat can increase this buildup of CO.”

Unfortunately, the risk highlighted by the CDC turned into a tragedy in October 2015 when a seven-year-old Minnesota girl died from CO poisoning that she sustained while boating with her family on Lake Minnetonka. CO poisoning occurs more frequently on boats than many people realize: Michigan, Oklahoma and Texas all had CO-related deaths on boats in 2015. Minnesota has an opportunity to be among the first states to pass important legislation requiring CO detection on boats, which could prevent future tragedies such as these. Thank you for your attention to life safety and please do not hesitate to reach out should you have any further questions.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan Stewart', with a horizontal line extending from the end of the signature.

Jonathan Stewart
Manager, Government Relations
703-841-3245
Jonathan.stewart@nema.org

NEMA is the association of electrical equipment manufacturers, founded in 1926 and headquartered in Rosslyn, Virginia. It represents nearly 400 electrical and medical imaging manufacturers. Our combined industries account for more than 400,000 American jobs and more than 7,000 facilities across the U.S. Domestic production exceeds \$117 billion per year. NEMA Fire, Life Safety, Security and Emergency Communication members manufacture fire, smoke, and carbon monoxide detection and warning equipment.