Item No._______
(For NSF International internal use)

NSF Standard(s) Impacted: NSF 61i110.r1.1 – Fire Sprinkler exemption from 0.25% requirement per NSF 372

Background:
Provide a brief background statement indicating the cause and nature of concern, the impacts identified relevant to public health, public understanding, etc, and any other reason why the issue should be considered by the Committee. Reference as appropriate any specific section(s) of the standard(s) that are related to the issue.

I would like the Joint Committee to reconsider the vote on the ballot which approved the exemption for fire sprinkler from having to meet NSF 372. I have had some discussion with Julius Ballanco, the original proponent. We did exchange some correspondence on the issue, and I do have to agree with Julius that the addition of fire prevention systems residentially is a desirable thing. Unfortunately, when the issue came up at the last two Joint Committee meetings, I did not speak up, and missed my chance. Once we were presented with the ballot, I had more time to think through the issue and the past history surrounding an important principal within NSF 61, I will explain more below. Since in the adjudication ballot, the Joint Committee reaffirmed the decision to grant exemption from NSF 372, perhaps I had not made myself clear enough in the arguments presented in my negative ballot.

Recommendation:
Clearly state what action is needed: e.g., recommended changes to the standard(s) including the current text of the relevant section(s) indicating deletions by use of strike-out and additions by highlighting or underlining; e.g., reference of the issue to a Task Group for detailed consideration; etc.

From the beginning in 1984, with respect to Lead and other contaminants, NSF 61 has contemplated that such contaminants usually have multiple sources within both the water distribution and plumbing systems. For that reason the individual product SPAC limit was set at 1/10th of the MCL on the basis that there could easily be at least 10 fittings within either distribution plumbing systems, which might all contribute to contaminant levels at the tap.
Julius originally explained that sprinkler systems might be designed and installed in one of two ways. 1). As a separate fire suppression system, piped independently from the plumbing system (this is most often the case in Commercial and Office Buildings similar to the NSF Headquarters; and, 2). A system in which the fire suppression sprinkler heads are installed along a path that might also end up with a Section 9 terminal fitting. My understanding of the sprinkler head fittings is that essentially they are made up of a tee with the water line passing through the inlet and outlet, and the sprinkler head with fusible link fitted into the part of the tee perpendicular to the normal water flow.
My concern here is that in the type 2 system, there could be a series of tee fittings that if they were exempt from the NSF 372 requirements, they could easily contain more than 0.25% lead and all of them could contribute a significant amount of lead leachate that would be delivered to the terminal fitting which might be a source of water for drinking and cooking. For that reason, I think, that just like any other Section 4 pipe fitting. The requirement to meet NSF 372 should also be in effect.
Supplementary Materials (photographs, diagrams, reports, etc.):
If not provided electronically, the submitter will be responsible to have sufficient copies to distribute to committee members.

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*Type written name will suffice as signature