



James A. Graham
Commissioner

North Carolina
Department of Agriculture
Standards Division

N. David Smith
Director

April 8, 1993

Mr. Sam Parks, President
Carolinas Balloon Association
106 Evanswood Drive
Greenville, NC 27858

Dear Mr. Parks:

This is in response to questions from your association regarding the certification of qualification of hot air balloon pilots to fill the propane tanks used in hot air balloons.

We have consulted with Mr. Don Cline, FAA balloon pilot certification official, and reviewed the flight manuals for Aerostar, BFA, Cameron Balloons US, and The Firefly 7 Balloon. Since FAA Balloon Pilot Certification includes thorough knowledge of all flight manual information and procedures, and since all these flight manuals include acceptable propane tank filling procedures, it is our interpretation and ruling that FAA Balloon Pilot Certification meets the requirements of Paragraph 1-6 of NFPA 58. This FAA Balloon Pilot Certification is a valid certification of qualification to fill propane tanks used in hot air balloons. Be aware that this interpretation and ruling is valid only in North Carolina.

If we can be of further help, please feel free to contact us.

Sincerely,

James L. Michelle, CSP
LP-Gas Engineer
Standards Division

JLM/mdj