



Safety Codes Council

MINUTES OF THE FIRST BUILDING SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2020

DATE: January 15, 2020

TIME: 1:05 p.m. to 4:40 p.m.

LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office, Edmonton

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*

Andy Smith, Chair

Greg Beck

David Flanagan

Rick Gratton

Stephen Hill

Keith Jansen

Corey Klimchuk

Robert Kralka

Matthew Kramer

Ken Roskell

Darin Sceviour

Bruce Schultz, Vice Chair South

Ulrik Seward

Safety Codes Council

Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Paul Chang, Richard Frederick, Renna Alqasrani

REGRETS: Russell Croome, Vice Chair North; Lee Phillips; Colin Belliveau

GUESTS: Laura Ritchie, AACA; Terrance O'Flaherty, MCAA; Chris Taylor, FSC Liaison;
Karen Muir, BFSC Liaison; Cameron Bardas, FSC (item 2.1 only)

RECORDER: Kathryn Derkach

2020 MEETINGS: February 19, March 19, May 14, September 17, November 5

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. A round table introduction was held.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

The following was added to the agenda:

- 4.10 Architect seals on development permit drawings - Seward

Ken Roskell / Ulrik Seward moved that the agenda be adopted, as amended; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Breweries and Distilleries Working Group – Final Report and Recommendations

The working group final report was included in the portal. Highlights of the report included:

- It was established early in the group's work that 'micro' breweries did not present a significant safety risk, so the subsequent work and resultant recommendations focused on distilleries.
- Industry wants consistency in the way AHJs deal with distilleries.
- Many distilleries could meet the building code requirements, which have more flexibility, but the fire code is more restrictive.

One key issue for industry was a lack of timely information about safety code requirements for prospective distillers. An industry guide was created, which contains basic steps for opening a distillery presented in a chronological fashion to help ensure that code requirements are considered prior to securing a location, as some locations may never be able to meet code. A draft of this document was included in the portal.

A document outlining all the building, fire and electrical code requirements that are relevant to distilleries was included in the portal. This document gives background information for the classification of distilleries. It was noted that most craft distilleries will need alternative solutions because of the desire for a tasting room next to the distilling operations.

A document was included in the portal that explains fire risk indexing and how it can be used to develop an alternative solution that would allow an F1 high hazard occupancy (i.e. the distillery) to be adjacent to an assembly occupancy (i.e. the tasting room, restaurant, or bar). Specifically, the Dow Fire & Explosion Index was used. It was explained that risk indexing provides a quicker, less costly way to assess risk than a full quantitative risk analysis, but professional involvement would still be required.

Discussion around the working group report included:

- Code changes were discussed, but it was thought that any code change requests would be best lead by industry rather than the working group.
- An Interpretation STANDATA that provides guidance for AHJs on evaluating applications for alternative solutions was considered better than a province-wide Variance STANDATA because no two distilleries are alike and each need an alternative solution tailored to its specific situation.

- The STANDATA would apply only to new and existing noncompliant distilleries. If an existing distillery has all the appropriate approvals, it would be considered compliant and the STANDATA would not apply.
- It was believed by the working group that creating a new classification for craft or micro distilleries, such as an F1 sub-classification, would create more inconsistency across the province. Keeping the F1 classification ensures an equal starting point for all distilleries.
- A large part of this issue is industry awareness, not just for distillers but building owners who are leasing space to a distillery.

Ulrik Seward / Corey Klimchuk move to recommend:

- **That Municipal Affairs issue a joint Building, Fire and Electrical STANDATA based on the content provided by the working group which highlights the applicable Building, Fire and Electrical code sections which apply to distilling.**
- **That Municipal Affairs include in the STANDATA a clear interpretation that all distilleries shall be categorized as F-1 High Hazard Industrial major occupancy classification, and that all relevant code requirements for this major occupancy type shall apply.**
- **That Municipal Affairs include in the STANDATA a “road map” to Alternative Solution using the DOW F&EI Risk Index to address prohibition of occupancy combinations.**
- **That Municipal Affairs support that a link to the Alberta Craft Distillers Association’s ‘Industry Guide’ be placed on the Safety Codes Council website.**

CARRIED.

It was noted that industry also had issues with some operations that may or may not be considered distilleries, such as producers of ready-to-drink beverages, bitters and alcoholised Kombucha. Because the working group could not come to consensus on whether the definition of distillery would apply to these operations, they would like to continue to work on this specific topic.

Ulrik Seward / Corey Klimchuk moved to request that the Building and Fire Administrators provide clarification on whether independent ready-to-drink facilities fall under the distillery definition; CARRIED.

2.2 STANDATA Review

A document summarizing the review of all existing STANDATA was included in the portal and reviewed.

2.2.1 Newly issued STANDATA

19-BCV-001 Relocatable Industry Accommodation Labeling

- This STANDATA removes duplication and decreases costs around the labeling program for Part 10 buildings.

Stephen Hill / Bruce Shultz moved to support the issuance of STANDATA 19-BCV-001; CARRIED.

19-BCV-002 Alberta Labeling for CSA Constructed Homes

- This STANDATA clarifies that a label from Alberta Municipal Affairs is not needed if a CSA A277 label is applied.

Stephen Hill / David Flanagan moved to support the issuance of STANDATA 19-BCV-002; CARRIED.

2.2.2 Reissued STANDATA

Stephen Hill / Gregory Beck moved to support the reissuance of all STANDATA presented with the exception of 19-BCV-010, 19-BCI-001 and 19-BCB-001; CARRIED.

19-BCV-010 Oil and Gas Processing Facilities

- There was discussion around the intent of this STANDATA and the value it provides. The Building Administrator will work with Laura Ritchie and bring revisions back to the March meeting. [Chang / Ritchie]

19-BCI-001 Application of 9.36 Energy Efficiency Requirements to Existing Buildings

- It was questioned why the STANDATA only addresses an alteration to a building and not an addition and it was clarified that an addition would be considered “new” rather than existing. It was questioned whether a similar STANDATA is being considered for the NECB but it was felt that the application of the NECB is clear within the code.

Keith Jansen / David Flanagan moved to accept STANDATA 19-BCI-001 as is; CARRIED.

19-BCB-001 Steel Building Systems

- There was discussion around confusion about the term “steel building systems” and when CSA A660 would apply. The Building Administrator will work with Laura Ritchie and bring revisions back to the March meeting. [Chang / Ritchie]

2.2.3 Input on Draft STANDATA

Input on draft STANDATAs will be addressed under other agenda items or at future meetings.

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Description	Action	Responsible	Date Initiated	Priority	Status/Update
1.	Stacked Townhomes	Consideration of a code change proposal re: 9.10.14 and 9.10.15, AMA does not support the existing wording for a STANDATA		Chang	Jan 25/18	High	AMA has reviewed various bylaws on crossing property lines and drainage into other properties. AMA cannot do a variance on something that relating to bylaws, but an information bulletin could be done referencing AHJs and bylaws. The Building Administrator will continue to work on this.
2.	Off Site Review Clarification re: Pre-manufactured Structures	Development of an Information Bulletin on pre-manufactured structures.	Info Bulletin	Chang	Sep 3/15	High	With AMA
3.	Professional & Constructor Responsibilities / Letters of Assurance?	AMA, APEGA, AAA and Council meet regularly on this topic and will provide updates to BSC; will be meeting every 2 weeks	Review w/ AMA, APEGA and AAA	Smith/Beck		High	Schedules have been re-drafted and will be going to APEGA and AAA members for review. The group will incorporate comments and provide to AMA for review, with the BSC's review expected after that.
4.	Engineering Judgements for Fire Stop System	Consideration of the publication of a STANDATA based on the report provided to AMA; draft reviewed by BSC	STANDATA	Chang	Sep 3/15	Mid	With AMA
5.	Elevator Permits – FEO Upgrades	Building, Fire, Elevator and Electrical Administrators are discussing a joint STANDATA to require a Building permit or at least a flag to the Building discipline	STANDATA	Chang	Nov 16/17	Mid	With AMA

6.	14 BCI Residential Children's Homes	Draft supported by BSC April 2018	STANDATA	Chang			With AMA
7.	14-BCV-007 Interior Stairways for Roof Access	BSC requests that AMA consider revisiting this STANDATA to take into consideration AEDARSA and OHS requirements.	Revisit published STANDATA	Chang	Mar 21/19		Item 4.4 on agenda
8.	Fire Protected Joists	The Director of Codes and Standards will ensure this item is also added to the next PTPACC meeting agenda. This is not anticipated to be in the 2020 Codes.		Orr	Sep 27/18	Mid	This is on hold. AMA received an inquiry from NRC related to fire timelines used for i-joists verses solid lumber and responded that there is no criteria for single family homes. It was noted that the NRC task group on i-joists will be meeting soon and may touch on this .
9.	Requirements of Engineering Letter for Accepting Material or System Not in Code	Greg Beck will bring this issue back to AAA.		Beck	Sep 27/18	High	Greg Beck will pass this item onto his successor.
		Mag Board SIP issue propagated this issue. Applicable to other proprietary products as well. APEGA has a Standard of Practice for Product Authentication. Product could be accepted as alternate solution if signed off by a professional. Recent Gas Variance about engineering authentication may be pertinent.		Chang	Jan 17/19		Item 4.5 on agenda
10.	Permit Requirements for Refrigeration Systems	Request that AMA consider drafting a STANDATA to clarify permitting	STANDATA	Chang	Nov 8/18	Low	A draft is being circulated at AMA before it is sent for review by HVAC

		requirements for refrigeration systems.					industry and will likely be brought to the March BSC meeting.
11.	Structural Design of Residential Buildings re. STANDATA 14-BCV-016	Consider the proposed revisions to STANDATA 14-BCV-016 Manufactured Structural Components in the Construction of One- and Two-Family Dwellings.	STANDATA	Chang	Nov 8/18	High	AMA received communication from the Western Wood Truss Association and will be working with them on industry updates to be brought back to the BSC at a future meeting.
12.	Draft FAQ on Flashing	BSC reviewed and suggested it be presented as and Information Bulletin rather than FAQ.	Info Bulletin	Chang	Nov 8/18	Low	AMA has not received feedback from manufacturers that could be used for a STANDATA. It was noted that if there is a need, industry is able to issue their own best practice guide. This item will be removed from list.
13.	Tiny Homes	Municipal Affairs is not considering a province-wide variance. Continued follow-up from members as needed/available.		All	May 9/19		AMA's position on this issue is the same. Remove item from list.
14.	Depressurization STANDATA – path forward without cfm number	Bring this issue back to BILD to determine whether an industry group would be willing to take this on this work.		Jansen/Flanagan	May 9/19		Keith Jansen will talk to David Flanagan to investigate development of an information bulletin.
15.	Building Anchorage – box ladder (9.23.6.1.2.c) /sill plate (9.23.6.1.3)	It was suggested that clarification be requested on the reason for the changes between the 2010 and the 2015 code requirements. The Administrator will review this relative to harmonizing with the NBC and will report back to the BSC.		Chang	Sept. 12/19		There is no new information from AMA. It is an uncommon issue but may become more common with the energy code. New action assigned to Rick Gratton (see below)

		Gather information from BILD and bring an update to the March meeting.		Gratton			
16.	Electromagnetic Lock Release in Care Facilities (STANDATA 14-BCV-011)	Russell Croome and Bruce Schultz will review the addition information provided and will bring back any concerns at the next meeting.		Croome / Schultz	Sept. 12/19		Item 4.6 on agenda
17.	Professional involvement re: stamping structural designs for small buildings	The City of Edmonton is currently waiting for confirmation from APEGA in relation to a specific request on this topic and follow up comments		Smith	Nov. 7/19		As there has been no response from APEGA, this item will be removed.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Skills matrix

This item will be deferred to the March meeting.

4.2. Update on QMP Revisions Presentation

Peter Thomas, Administrator of Accreditation at the Council, was welcomed to the meeting and provided a presentation on Quality Management Plan Revisions. Highlights of the presentation included:

- Background on the QMP templates—the current template was released in July/August 2016
- An overview of the reasons for the current review
- An overview of the ages of QMPs currently in place and progress made to transition QMPs to the current templates

Upcoming changes to the QMP Template include:

- The requirement for municipal councils to approve minor updates to the QMP was removed and in 2020 this will also include scope changes (i.e. adding or removing a discipline from the QMP), but municipal council approval is still required for new accreditation.
- A “Duly Authorized Individual” rather than a specific official may now sign off on updates and scope changes.
- Changes were made to Inspection Service Delivery Standards, including terminology, inspection timelines, and addition of project classification.

- In the Corporate QMP, changes were made to the process regarding disagreements on corrective action and non-compliance.
- The requirement that background documentation be submitted when registering variances with the Council was removed.
- Municipal and Corporate QMP templates were changed to allow jurisdiction-wide variances, in accordance with a recent notice on variances from Municipal Affairs
- Timelines regarding written notice for cancellation of accreditation, change in municipal status, or change in corporate ownership, structure or status have been removed.
- A Joint Municipal Accreditation QMP template was created.
- Cancellation of Accreditation section was revised to include the organization's responsibility to close outstanding permits and orders.
- Annual Internal Reviews section was revised to include standardized submission dates and requirements.
- Wording was added to clarify that an SCO does not have to accept a Verification of Compliance.
- General reorganization, formatting, and updates to references.

The revised templates will be rolled out on the Council website by the end of January 2020 and QMP Managers will be contacted directly. To ensure consistent rollout of the information, members were asked to refrain from reporting this information to any outside organizations until after the rollout.

This led to a discussion regarding the value of reporting variances and it was reported that the Minister has mandated that the Council register variances. It was questioned how the Council would analyze data if supporting documentation is no longer required. It was reported that the code reference is what's reviewed but if more details are needed, the Council would ask the AHJ for details.

Concern was expressed about changing the inspection timeline requirement for a final inspection to be done one year after permit issuance rather than within 180 days of work being completed, because many projects take more than a year to complete. It was reported that the permit could be extended at a cost. More information on this was requested and the Administrator of Accreditation will send the new template to Rick Gratton. [Thomas]

4.3. Planning for Second Public Review

There are 127 proposed code changes to the National Building Code published by NRC in their Winter 2020 Public Review. A summary document included in the portal was reviewed and each member was assigned code changes to research before the February 19th meeting.

4.4. 14-BCV-007 Interior Stairways for Roof Access

Deferred to the January 16th meeting.

4.5. Engineering Authentication for Products Not in Code – Gas Code Regulation Variance 03-19 Engineer Authentication at Oil and Gas Production Facilities

A STANDATA was issued under the gas discipline that is being discussed and reviewed by other disciplines that may be affected. Municipal Affairs will report further at the next meeting.

[Chang]

4.6 Electromagnetic Lock Release

An interpretation was received from NRC and no further issues have been noted. With no further action, this item is considered closed.

4.7 Working Group Reports

Deferred to the January 16th meeting.

4.8 Administrator/AMA Report

The following written report was provided:

- Request to AMA to present at a CSC (Construction Specifications Canada) meeting in March.
- All Parts of the Building Code update information three column documents were uploaded to the Safety Code Council website.
- HDD below 15°C uploaded on AMA site. <https://www.alberta.ca/energy-codes.aspx>
 - NECB 2017 Heating Degree Days - Below 15°C (HDD)
 - <https://www.alberta.ca/assets/documents/ma-necb-2017-heating-degree-days.pdf>
- A number of STANDATAS were issued in December and January circulated via the Safety Codes Council and the list subscription server.
 - 13-Variations
 - 10-Interpretations
 - 2-Bulletins
- Two Variations related Alberta labeling program requirements were issued.
 - Removal of Part 10 labeling requirements and the MA Factory Certification
 - Removal of Alberta MH labels for Part 9 modular housing.
 - Confirmation that CSA-A277 is already recognizing construction to the objectives of the Code as applicable to these two program areas.
 - These variations were supported by Industry: Canadian Home Builders Association-Modular Construction Council and the Modular Building Institute (MBI)-an international association representing modular construction and Part 10 manufacturers.
- Updated Fillable pdf format of Forms for Barrier Free Relaxation and Assessment are being drafted for upload to the web.
- STANDATA status list to date provided to BSC.
- Provided introductions for SCC related to the AGM Building Discipline speakers for breakout sessions separate from the AMA session.
- AMA responses submitted to NRC for the Fall Public comments shared with BSC.

In addition to the written report included in the portal, the Building Administrator reported that the Public Safety Division at Municipal Affairs has changed its name to Technical and Corporate Services Division.

The Administrator was thanked for submitting the comments from the fall public code review and for all his hard work on the review of the STANDATAS.

4.9 Council Updates

Deferred until January 16th meeting.

4.10 Architect Seals on Development Permit Drawings

Currently, AHJs in Alberta only require architect seals on drawings submitted for a building permit application. The Architects Association of Alberta (AAA) is requesting AHJs require seals on development permit drawings to help limit the cases of unauthorized practice. Issues have arisen from non-architects designing buildings and hiring a registered architect to stamp the drawings. A document was included in the portal that outlined the issue.

Discussion around this issue included:

- It was noted that development permits fall under the Municipal Government Act and not under the Safety Codes Act.
- This is a longstanding issue and appears to be getting worse.
- Larger municipalities often have standards that include a requirement for architect or engineer's involvement throughout the process but rural municipalities may not have the capability to include such requirements.
- The level of detail included in drawings submitted for a development permit application has evolved over the years but it is felt that the regulation has not kept up.
- The City of Calgary is working on community engagement before making any changes to the current process.

Commented [AK1]: Which regulation?

After discussion, it was felt that this issue is outside the scope of the sub-council and no further action was suggested.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

Deferred to the January 16th meeting.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for January 16, 2020 at the Council office at 8:30 a.m.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

-- NEW ACTION ITEMS --

2.2.2 Reissued STANDATA

19-BCV-010 Oil and Gas Processing Facilities

There was discussion around the intent of this STANDATA and the value it provides. The Building Administrator will work with Laura Ritchie and bring revisions back to the March meeting. [Chang / Ritchie]

19-BCB-001 Steel Building Systems

There was discussion around confusion about the term “steel building systems” and when CSA A660 would apply. The Building Administrator will work with Laura Ritchie and bring revisions back to the March meeting. [Chang / Ritchie]

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[Chang]

-- MOTIONS --

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Ken Roskell / Ulrik Seward moved that the agenda be adopted, as amended; CARRIED

2.1. Breweries and Distilleries Working Group – Final Report and Recommendations

Ulrik Seward / Corey Klimchuk move to recommend:

- That Municipal Affairs issue a joint Building, Fire and Electrical STANDATA based on the content provided by the working group which highlights the applicable Building, Fire and Electrical code sections which apply to distilling.
- That Municipal Affairs include in the STANDATA a clear interpretation that all distilleries shall be categorized as F-1 High Hazard Industrial major occupancy classification, and that all relevant code requirements for this major occupancy type shall apply.
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- That Municipal Affairs support that a link to the Alberta Craft Distillers Association’s ‘Industry Guide’ be placed on the Safety Codes Council website.

CARRIED.

Ulrik Seward / Corey Klimchuk moved to request that the Building and Fire Administrators provide clarification on whether independent ready-to-drink facilities fall under distillery definition; CARRIED.

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Stephen Hill / Bruce Shultz moved to support the issuance of STANDATA 19-BCV-001; CARRIED.

Stephen Hill / David Flanagan moved to support the issuance of STANDATA 19-BCV-002; CARRIED.

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