



**MINUTES OF THE  
SECOND GAS SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2021**

**DATE:** April 22, 2021

**TIME:** 10:10 a.m. to 1:20 p.m.

**LOCATION:** videoconference

**PRESENT:** *Sub-Council Members*

Jason Helfrich, Chair

Cody Christman

Paul Delano

Mark Guderjan

Roy Herrington

Chuck Lemke

Nathan Lesage

James Maddocks

Marcel Mandin

Larry Miller

Randy Saunders

Darcy Toner

Mike Turek

Dale Walls

*Safety Codes Council*

Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach

*Alberta Municipal Affairs*

Sidney Manning, Perry Wager, Tom Knull, Bohdan Yard, Claude Valliere (until 11:00 a.m.)

**REGRETS:** Ron Beaudette, Cindy Kieu, Jeff Skeith

**GUESTS:** John Fontana

**RECORDER:** Kathryn Derkach

**2021 MEETINGS:** September 30, December 9

## 1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.

### 1.1. Agenda Adoption

**Nathan Lesage / Roy Herrington moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED**

### 1.2. Adoption of the January 28 Minutes

**Mike Turek / Cody Christman moved to adopt the minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED**

## 2. Matters for Decision

*None Identified*

## 3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date Initiated	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Combination Heating STANDATA	Review draft Combination Heating STANDATA <b>UPDATE:</b> Although expired, still being used as best practices	Sept 15/16	Beaudette	Item 4.1 on agenda
		Provide updates on B214, which may impact the content of the STANDATA and/or whether it is required.	Sept 15/16	Manning	Ongoing
2.	CAN/BNQ 1784-000	Code recommended for adoption by GSC on Nov 15/18; AMA to provide updates on adoption as available.	Nov 15/18	AMA	Recommendation has been noted by the sub-council, working with Municipal Affairs to plan next steps.
3.	Cylinders Below Grade at Construction Sites	A draft code change request will be put together	Feb 12/20	Guderjan / Miller	Discussed during working group session, see Appendix A

## 4. Matters for Discussion

### 4.1. Combination Heating STANDATA – updated draft

The updated draft of the Requirements for Combination Heating Systems STANDATA was included in the portal and reviewed.

Municipal Affairs has reviewed the STANDATA, keeping the intent the same. The majority of the changes apply to the language to realign with the National Building Code Alberta Edition and the CSA B214 as well as adding clarity around the use of domestic water.

The Gas Sub-Council will complete their review prior to the Plumbing Sub-Council's review. This topic will be added to the next agenda for members to provide comments and a recommendation to either support or delete the STANDATA. [Council Administration]

## **4.2. 2021 Strategic Plan Follow-Up**

The chair explained that these would be ongoing topics for the sub-council and each item was given a high-level introduction.

### **4.2.1. Storage of Containers**

The Gas Administrator explained some of the issues around bulk storage of containers including differing risk management approaches, code applications and understandings, and non-compliance. There appears to be a gap when it comes to assessing whether storage of an asset is considered an installation.

### **4.2.2. Food Trucks**

The sub-council has discussed this topic previously but further clarification is needed within the industry. Municipalities continue to handle food trucks differently, which has led to confusion about regulation. Municipal Affairs continues to deal with issues and is reviewing the current STANDATA for possible changes to provide further clarity. The role of the appendix in the B149.3 for food trucks is anticipated to impact further STANDATA development.

### **4.2.3. Temporary Installations**

There is confusion within the industry as to what constitutes temporary versus permanent installations. This issue ties in with the cylinders below grade discussion already happening at the sub-council.

## **4.3. Proposed Revisions to 14-BCV-007 Interior Stairways for Roof Access**

The draft STANDATA was sent by a member of the BSC asking for input around adding the ship ladder and the effect it may have on access to appliances required by the gas code.

It was discussed that ship ladders may be in conflict with the gas code because they are moveable and if you have to move something to get access then it does not meet the gas code requirement. It was noted that the focus of this review should be on the interpretation of the STANDATA because that is typically the issue. Members were in favour of further review and this item will be added to the next agenda. [Council Administration]

## **4.4 Issues Arising from “Engineer Authentication” Variance 20-GCV-02-Rev1**

Concern was expressed from an industry association over this variance and the wide range of opinions on what the variance means and how it is interpreted.

The Gas Administrator reported that there seems to be an overall lack of understanding within the industry of what variances are and how they are meant to be applied. This specific variance was used to further clarify that an engineer can follow a set of requirements to do field reviews similar to an inspection body and it is up to the AHJ to ensure that the code requirements are met. While it does not always add clarity to include rationale within a province-wide variance, an information bulletin to provide further clarification may be appropriate. Members were asked to provide any further feedback to the Administrator. [All]

## **4.5 Clarification on Sharing Draft Documents Relating to Sub-Council Work**

Council staff explained that when it comes to sharing draft documents, it is important to pay attention to the type of document and who owns it. In general, if a document is confidential it will

be clearly marked as such. When submitting documents for the sub-council, members should clearly state whether the document can be shared beyond the sub-council.

Sub-council agendas are public documents that can be shared with nominating organizations prior to a meeting to get input on agenda items. However, members were asked not to share minutes that are posted as draft. Members can summarize draft minutes to communicate with their nominating organizations or other industry groups. Once the minutes are approved and posted as final, they can be widely circulated.

The Gas Administrator reported that all Municipal Affairs documents are available for sharing at any point to anyone. Members were encouraged to share documents with their nominating organizations for input with the understanding that those documents are drafts and not in force until they are signed and posted on the Municipal Affairs website. Some of the information shared within the Administrators report may be considered more confidential until the minutes have been approved.

It was requested that a document be created that clearly outlines what is acceptable to share and what is not. [Council Staff / Municipal Affairs]

#### **4.6. Bonding Requirements in CSA B149.1-20**

Originally submitted to the ESC, a request was passed along for an interpretation/clarification around the new CSA B149.1-20 Natural Gas and Propane Installation Code specific to Articles 4.7.3 and 4.7.4.

Municipal Affairs created a diagram document that outlines a few different installation situations to help clarify what is required, and this could be developed into a STANDATA if needed. This document was included in the Portal and viewed on screen.

It was reported that SCOs in the industry are not inspecting these situations in a consistent way. There is confusion over which discipline should be doing the inspections, with some gas SCOs feeling that they are not qualified.

It was clarified that if there's no electrical permit associated with the installation, then the gas discipline would inspect it. If there is an electrical permit, the electrical SCO would inspect and there is no need for the gas SCO to inspect as well. The bonding requirement in the gas code is parallel to the electrical code and this duplication allows either the electrical or gas SCO to do the inspection.

This clarification will be shared with the Electrical Sub-Council. [Council Administration]

#### **4.7. Working Group Reports**

##### **4.7.1. CSA-B149.1.20**

The working group has not met and Municipal Affairs will ensure that the latest 3 column documents are saved in the Member Portal. [Municipal Affairs]

##### **4.7.2. CSA-B149.2.20**

A working group meeting is planned for June.

#### **4.7.3. CSA-B149.3.20**

A working group meeting will be planned prior to the next GSC meeting.

#### **4.7.4. CSA-B149.5.20 / CSA B109-21**

The working group is seeking support from the natural gas industry to find someone with more familiarity with the B109.

#### **4.7.5. CSA-B108-21**

No update.

#### **4.7.6. Hydrogen Fueling Stations**

No update.

#### **4.7.7. Single Family Dwelling**

The ESC approved the proposed definition of single family dwelling and the final working group report will be brought forward to the next GSC meeting.

#### **4.8. AMOS Report**

It was reported that the bonding requirements discussed under item 4.6. are of concern to the AMOS membership and further clarification is needed for industry.

#### **4.9. Administrator/AMA Report**

The Administrator reported:

- The B109 completed public review with proposed publication in fall 2021 but that may be pushed back to 2022. A complete 3 column document should be ready for the next GSC meeting for the working group's review.
- The B149.6 and BNQ 1784 are still with Municipal Affairs undergoing consideration and regulation development.
- A cross-ministry group has been created around hydrogen and the concerns about compatibility of hydrogen fueled products and appliances.
- A shift in technology could see more hydrogen use with upcoming projects, including fuel lines, planned for Edmonton in the next five years.
  - It was noted that there are renewable natural gas projects coming up in Lethbridge and Edmonton in partnership with ATCO.
- A gasfitter working group has been developed with PTAC/NPSAC to work on clarification and harmonization of gasfitter certification across the country.
  - Concern was expressed with the red seal certification and confusion that may occur since red seal certification allows for cross-province labour mobility.
- A noticed has been developed for uncertified fireplaces. 150 malfunction reports have been reported. 75 fireplaces have been certified with one failed inspection. Discussion from certification bodies is ongoing as Municipal Affairs continues to monitor the situation.
- Spring IGAC meeting is being held in June and the Administrator can bring items from the GSC forward to the national level.
- Municipal Affairs is monitoring decorative piping that is not indented to be used in the back end of a gas system.

- Pictures were showed on screen of roof top units that were moved and damaged by weather.
- A video was played that shows wax build up on a vaporizer that was set up incorrectly.

#### **4.10. Council Updates**

A written report was included in the portal and updates were provided on:

- Council staff continue working from home.
- Meeting invitations – members were reminded to send an email to Gerry Letendre confirming attendance if they don't see "accept and send response" options in the invitation. Cancellations from individuals other than Council staff can be ignored.
- Contacts for nominating organizations – a list was included in the agenda package and all members were asked to review and update if necessary. [All]
- Sub-council work is being split between Allison and Kathryn. Going forward, Allison will be the main contact for GSC.

### **5. Meeting Finalization**

#### **5.1. Round Table**

Nothing further was brought forward.

#### **5.2. Next Meeting**

The next meeting was reconfirmed for September 30, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

#### **5.3. Meeting Adjournment**

**Roy Herrington / Mike Turek moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED.**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

**4.1. Combination Heating STANDATA – updated draft**

This topic will be added to the next agenda for members to provide comments and a recommendation to either support or delete the STANDATA. [Council Administration]

**4.3. Proposed Revisions to 14-BCV-007 Interior Stairways for Roof Access**

Members were in favour of further review and this item will be added to the next agenda. [Council Administration]

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Members were asked to provide any further feedback to the Administrator [All]

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This clarification will be shared with the Electrical Sub-Council. [Council Administration]

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**4.10. Council Updates**

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**– MOTIONS –**

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**1.2. Adoption of the January 28 Minutes**

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**5.3. Meeting Adjournment**

**Roy Herrington / Mike Turek moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED.**



– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

<b>WORKING GROUP</b>	<b>WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (Chair)</b>
CSA-B149.1-20 – Natural gas and propane installation code	<b><u>Chuck Lemke</u></b> Jeff Skeith; Mike Turek; Paul Delano; Ron Beaudette
CSA-B149.2-20 – Propane storage and handling code	<b><u>Jason Helfrich</u></b> Jeff Skeith; Mike Turek; Ron Beaudette
CSA-B149.3-20 – Code for the field approval of fuel-related components on appliances and equipment	<b><u>VACANT</u></b> James Maddocks; Dale Walls; Roy Herrington;
CSA-B149.5-20 – Installation code for propane fuel systems and tanks on highway vehicles CSA-B109-21 – Natural gas for vehicles installation code	<b><u>Marcel Mandin</u></b> Jason Helfrich; Nathan Lesage
CSA-B149.6-20 Biogas and Landfill Gas Code	<b><u>Paul Delano</u></b> Nathan Lesage; Mark Guderjan
CSA-B108-18 – Natural gas fueling stations installation code	<b><u>Nathan Lesage</u></b> Marcel Mandin, Paul Delano
Hydrogen Fueling Stations	<b><u>Mark Guderjan</u></b> Larry Miller
Single Family Dwelling <i>(Joint with ESC)</i>	GSC: <b><u>Roy Herrington</u></b> , Mark Guderjan, Larry Miller ESC: Bert DeBruin, Barry Voogd

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## Appendix A: Cylinders Below Grade at Construction Sites Discussion

The B149.2-20 Code change proposal document was shared on screen and reviewed.

The Major Municipalities South representative prepared the proposal based on issues within the City of Calgary. An issue was highlighted by industry with sites that have limited grade level space for propane cylinders used for heat on construction sites. Clarification was requested around the approved location for cylinders in use in Section 6.5.3. The code change proposal includes a new clause 6.5.3.9.

Discussion around the proposal document included:

- There is a need to have more safety precautions in place before allowing cylinders below grade. Having some type of supervision or protocols in place would make sense.
- If this proposal goes through, it would be up to the AHJ to determine what is required for safety measures and protocols. It was noted that leaving too much up to the AHJ could cause confusion throughout the province, especially as workers move throughout the province.
- There is an issue with equipment being moved around the construction sites, making it difficult to maintain the code requirements at all times.
- Larger sites may have safety inspectors on site which could help with periodic tests to ensure no leaks or regulators that are bypassing.
- The goal of the proposal is to have flexibility for the AHJ so keeping it high level would help the AHJ have control over each specific site.
- It was noted by Municipal Affairs that because 6.7 applies to all cylinders and installations, the standing committee would see this proposal as a direct conflict to 6.7. If this moves forward, 6.7.4 should be included except as 6.5.3.9, which would give an opportunity to consider clarity that would provide a construction site is different from a site to fill cylinders.
- The Gas Administrator suggested that any changes around hose conductors should be in a separate code change request.
- The sub-council was reminded that there are various opportunities for education within the industry on this topic including an annex to the code, through STANDATA or programs with the Safety Codes Council.
- The B149 committee meetings are in the fall so there is time to work on the document before moving forward.
- Marcel and Mark will connect offline to review small details of the proposal.