



**MINUTES OF THE
FIFTH ELECTRICAL SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2022**

DATE: December 5, 2022

TIME: 8:33 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.

LOCATION: Videoconference

PRESENT: **Sub-Council Members**
Gerry Wiles, Chair
Patrick Conway
Bert DeBruin
Hussein Desouki
Tim Driscoll
Ken Forbes
Adam Ghani, Vice Chair South
Glenn Hedderick
Ken Hood
Nicolas Leblanc
Lori Monaghan
Barry Voogd

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Kevin Glubrecht, Bob Hall

REGRETS: Ed Knaggs, Scott Basinger, Brad Dougherty, Gerry Doan

GUESTS: Clark Redden; Jason Drenth, EUSC Liaison

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2023 MEETINGS: February 6, April 24, June 26

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m. A round table introduction was held and videoconference functionality was reviewed. Members were reminded that their primary duty is to act in the interest of safety in the built environment for the benefit of all Albertans and that real and perceived conflicts of interest must be avoided.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Hussein Desouki / Glenn Hedderick moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; **CARRIED**

1.2 Adoption of the October 3, 2022 Minutes

Patrick Conway / Hussein Desouki moved to adopt the minutes of the October 3, 2022 meeting, as circulated; **CARRIED**

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Closed Session

Tim Driscoll / Ken Forbes moved to enter into closed session; **CARRIED**

Glenn Hedderick / Tim Driscoll moved to exit closed session; **CARRIED**

2.1.1. Skills Matrix Review

Ken Hood / Tim Driscoll moved that the ESC finds its skills matrix appropriate as presented; **CARRIED**

2.1.2. Nomination of Clark Redden to represent Safety Codes Officers

Glenn Hedderick / Barry Voogd moved to recommend to the Board appointment of Clark Redden to the Electrical Sub-Council to represent Safety Codes Officers for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; **CARRIED**

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date Initiated	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	CE Code-072 Concrete Encasements	Consider drafting a Proposed Change to CE Code Part 1 UPDATE: Submittal completed. Item will be kept open for updates on the proposal from CSA.	Feb. 6/17	Basinger	No update available.
2.	Mast Couplers	A letter to the manufacturer will be drafted to request the rationale for this note in the product guide, and will be	Feb. 7/22	Ghani, Basinger, Wiles, Forbes	Awaiting response from major manufacturer.

		copied to the Standards Council of Canada so they are aware of this inconsistency.			
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4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Shipping Containers Draft STANDATA

A joint working group between the Building and Fire Sub-Councils developed draft STANDATA content to address the use of shipping containers as buildings and when they would be subject to the building and fire codes. It was suggested that this be issued as a joint STANDATA under the building, fire, electrical, plumbing, and gas disciplines to heighten awareness and reinforce the requirement for permits for electrical, plumbing, and gas installations.

It was noted that from the electrical discipline perspective, there may be various considerations but given the focus of this STANDATA, it would be sufficient to keep it simple and indicate that any electrical installations in shipping containers must follow CE Code Part 1.

Bert DeBruin / Tim Driscoll moved to support the issuance of the Shipping Containers STANDATA as a joint STANDATA that includes the electrical discipline; CARRIED

4.2. PV Solar Panel Couplers

An overview was given of inconsistencies among SCOs about the acceptability of a type of coupler used on solar panels—some are not allowing the couplers even though they have approval marks. It was noted that they can be opened easily, but there is an additional part that can be used that solves that problem, and as long as the additional part is used in accordance with manufacturer’s instructions, they are acceptable. After consultation with Municipal Affairs, it is felt that this situation is resolved because there is a way to use them that meets the code.

4.3. Working Group Reports

4.3.1. Low Voltage Lighting

A recommendation was made to clarify in STANDATA that permits are required for these lighting systems. Municipal Affairs is doing additional research and intends to issue such a STANDATA. The Chair of the working group will ensure that all documentation is sent to Municipal Affairs.

[Ghani]

Ken Forbes / Ken Hood move to dissolve the Low Voltage Lighting Working Group; CARRIED.

4.3.2. Colour Coding

- The code change proposal has been submitted to CSA and a copy is included in the member portal.
- David Pickering at the City of Calgary is the duration member; the member representing Major Municipalities South will bring reports back to ESC as available. [Ghani]
- There was a STANDATA issued on this topic as well.
- CSA Communities allows for involvement in code change proposal processes: <https://community.csagroup.org/login.jspa?referer=%2Fcommunity%2Felectrical>
- This proposal likely will be considered for the 2027 CE Code.

Adam Ghani / Bert DeBruin move to dissolve the Colour Coding Working Group; CARRIED.

4.3.3. Non-Metallic Outer Jacket Cables

A report was included in the member portal. It was noted that the purpose is to ensure there is support at the splice/termination and most issues are seen with internet cables.

Bert DeBruin / Ken Hood moved to develop a code change request that closes the gap regarding support of Class 1 and Class 2 circuits; CARRIED.

A code change proposal will be developed and brought to a future meeting for validation. [DeBruin]

It was requested that MA investigate options for addressing this through STANDATA and report back at a future meeting. [Glubrecht/Hall]

4.3.4. Energy Storage

A working group member reported that the intent of the proposed STANDATA content is to establish clarity on energy storage in dwellings, specifically related to rules 64-900. It was noted that the document was reviewed at the last ESC meeting and didn't receive any further feedback.

Nicolas Leblanc / Ken Hood moved to suggest creation of a STANDATA to clarify the scope of Rule 64-900 and locations of installation of energy storage systems; CARRIED

It was reported that a code change proposal on this topic (subject 4758) was recently approved by CSA, so there is a very good chance that section 64 will be revised in the 2024 CE Code. There were some details in the proposal that don't align with the proposed draft STANDATA content, such as grouping together lead acid and lithium ion batteries. There is potential for this proposed STANDATA to be issued but it would likely need to include lead acid batteries to remain in alignment with code.

4.3.4. Single Family Residential Dwelling Definition

The working group met with members from the Building and Plumbing Sub-Councils. It was reported that the building and plumbing disciplines generally do not experience issues related to the current definition in the Permit Regulation. Some individuals have noted that there is inconsistency in how AHJs approach this definition, and while inconsistency can cause issues for contractors who work in numerous areas, it may not be possible to completely eliminate variation because of the way the safety codes system in Alberta is structured and the ability for accredited municipalities to manage permits and inspections in their jurisdiction.

Given there is no longer an anticipated timeline for amendments to the Permit Regulation, there is no time pressure investigate the issue. Any issues that arise in the future can be raised as a new item.

Barry Voogd / Adam Ghani move to dissolve the Single Family Dwelling Definition Working Group; CARRIED

4.3. Liaison Reports

4.3.1. Building

The following was reported:

- BSC and FSC have formed joint working group to address new issues regarding small distilleries brought forward from Alberta Craft Distillers Association. Nicolas Leblanc and Ken Hood volunteer to assist the working group from the electrical perspective. Council staff will ensure they are invited to future meetings. [Leblanc/Hood/Council Administration]

4.3.2. Electrical Utilities

The following was reported:

- The last meeting was October 21.
- Masts were discussed. For reference for the mast couplers item on the ESC action list, there is a detailed drawing in the EPCOR customer connection guide which confirms there's no specific detail around the mast, but it may be useful guidance from the utilities. The customer connection guide is included in the October 21 EUSC meeting folder; the liaison will provide it to Adam Ghani.

[Leblanc]

4.4. Administrator/AMA Report

The Administrator reported on the following:

- Kevin Glubrecht accepted the position of Provincial Electrical Administrator on December 1, 2022.
- Minister of Municipal Affairs Rebecca Schultz was sworn in October 24, 2022; mandate letter highlights include:
 - Diversifying the economy through job creation.
 - Continuing to consult with stakeholders and improve the delivery of stable, predictable funding through local government fiscal framework.
 - Working with the Minister of Service Alberta to measure and reduce the time it takes to approve permits in order to create a more attractive business investment environment.
- Recently published STANDATA: 18-LEG-ECR-002 – Section 2: electrical systems equipment.
- Certificate and Permit Regulation and Permit Regulation are being updated to reference King's Printer rather than Queen's Printer and correct broken links.
- An overview was given of the STANDATA process and the sub-council's role in assisting in development of draft STANDATA for the Administrator's consideration.
- Upcoming meetings of interest, including in-person CSA committee meetings in Halifax in June, in conjunction with the CSA conference.

4.5. Council Updates

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

- The Council will be holding a holiday open house on December 9 for members and other stakeholders. An email invitation was sent out; please RSVP if you haven't done so already.

- The Council office will be closed from December 24 – January 2nd inclusive.
- The Council has recently issued a Cyber Security Policy which applies to members. Members were asked to take a moment to read it and become familiar with their responsibilities.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- Tim Driscoll reported on CSA Part 1 code committee meetings last week in Toronto. Detailed comments are posted in the December 5 ESC meeting folder.
- It was reported that CSA is revamping the way code change proposals to Part 1 are submitted. They will be app-based. It's unsure when this will take effect but likely summer 2023.
- The EIAA Conference will be held February 10 & 11, 2023.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for February 7, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. via videoconference.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

4.3.1. Low Voltage Lighting

The Chair of the working group will ensure that all documentation is sent to Municipal Affairs. [Ghani]

4.3.2. Colour Coding

David Pickering at the City of Calgary is the duration member; the member representing Major Municipalities South will bring reports back to ESC as available. [Ghani]

4.3.3. Non-Metallic Outer Jacket Cables

A code change proposal will be developed and brought to a future meeting for validation. [DeBruin]

It was requested that MA investigate options for addressing this through STANDATA and report back at a future meeting. [Glubrecht/Hall]

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The customer connection guide is included in the October 21 EUSC meeting folder; the liaison will provide it to Adam Ghani. [Leblanc]

– MOTIONS –

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Ken Forbes / Ken Hood move to dissolve the Low Voltage Lighting Working Group; CARRIED.

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4.3.4. Energy Storage

Nicolas Leblanc / Ken Hood moved to suggest creation of a STANDATA to clarify the scope of Rule 64-900 and locations of installation of energy storage systems; CARRIED

4.3.4. Single Family Residential Dwelling Definition

Barry Voogd / Adam Ghani move to dissolve the Single Family Dwelling Definition Working Group; CARRIED

– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

WORKING GROUP	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)
Non-metallic outer jacket cables re. gap in CE Code Rule 12-500	<u>Bert de Bruin</u> Ken Hood, Gerry Doan, Adam Ghani
Energy Storage	<u>Ed Knaggs</u> Gerry Doan, Nicolas Leblanc Municipal Affairs : Bob Hall