



**MINUTES OF THE
FIRST ELEVATORS SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2019**

DATE: February 20, 2019

TIME: 9:30 a.m. to 2:25 p.m.

LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office, Edmonton

PRESENT: **Sub-Council Members**
JC Bawa, Chair
Sarah Burghardt
Scott Gavin
Don Ireland
Richard Meunier
Ernie Paustian
Lonny Vanderheide
Stephen Weston (until 1:15 p.m.)

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Susan Rossmann, Yvonne Wille, Kathryn Derkach, John Freisen,
Andrea Snow

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Dean Bruce, Katrina Sholdice, Paul Chang

AEDARSA
Al Griffin

GUESTS: Candace Walker, BOMA (via conference call)

REGRETS: Salim Merchant

RECORDER: Sandi Orr

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. A round table introduction was held. Participants were reminded the primary duty of all Council Members is to act in the interest of safety in the built environment for the benefit of all Albertans.

1.1. Agenda Adoption

The agenda was included in the portal and reviewed.

Ernie Paustian / Richard Meunier moved that the agenda be adopted as circulated, with a flexible order of business; CARRIED

1.2. Adoption of October 3, 2018 Minutes

The minutes were included in the portal and reviewed.

Don Ireland / Scott Gavin moved to adopt the minutes of October 3, 2018 as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Vice Chair Election

The floor was opened for nominations. Don Ireland was nominated. After three calls and no further nominations, ***Don Ireland was appointed as the Vice Chair of the Elevators Sub-Council by acclamation, for a two-year term.***

2.2. Sub-Council Matrix Review

A review of the sub-council matrix was held in camera. Upon returning from being in camera, the following recommendations were brought forward.

Don Ireland / Ernie Paustian moved to recommend to the Board, the appointment of Dan Theriault to the Elevators Sub-Council representing the Large Manufacturers industry segment, for a term until January 31, 2022, effective immediately; CARRIED

Scott Gavin / Stephen Weston moved to recommend to the Board, the appointment of Jeff Case to the Elevators Sub-Council representing the Construction Contractors industry segment, for a term until January 31, 2022, effective immediately; CARRIED

Scott Gavin / Don Ireland moved to recommend to the Board, a revision to the Elevators Sub-Council matrix to change the nominating organization for the Large Manufacturer industry segment to the National Elevator and Escalator Association; CARRIED

Lonny Vanderheide / Stephen Weston moved to recommend to the Board, a revision to the Elevators Sub-Council matrix to change the nominating organization for the Elevator Maintenance industry segment to the Canadian Elevator Contractors Association; CARRIED

Don Ireland / Sarah Burghardt moved to recommend to the Board, a revision to the Elevators Sub-Council matrix to add the Education and Training industry segment with Education Institutes as the nominating organization; CARRIED

3. Review Matters Arising / Action List

	Item	Action	Date	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Clarify Major and Minor Alterations	The Administrator will issue a STANDATA or Safety Bulletin to highlight the availability of the Major and Minor Alterations Guideline on the AEDARSA website. UPDATE: A STANDATA has not yet be created. Revised guidelines are available on the AEDARSA website. No negative feedback has been received regarding the guidelines. Consensus was reached that a STANDATA was not necessary.	Feb 7/18	Bruce	This item was closed and will be removed from the action list.
2.	Awareness of Safety Issues relative to Malfunctioning of Low-Pressure Switches	A STANDATA or Safety Bulletin is being worked on to reference the January 2018 AEDARSA Advisor, which highlighted the testing requirements for low pressure switches. UPDATE: The Administrator will continue to work with AEDARSA on this item.	Feb 7/18	Bruce	Ongoing

During the review of action items, a discussion was held regarding the types of STANDATAs available and an overview was provided regarding Information Bulletins, Interpretations and Variances.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. BOMA Presentation re. using escalators as stairs - 10:00 a.m.

Candice Walker was welcomed to the meeting via conference call and presented the challenges that building owners are facing relative to the new requirement that states an escalator that is not running cannot be used as stairs.

- BOMA is requesting the opportunity to revisit the requirement, and consider alternate safety solutions
- It was requested that consideration be given to adopting the same language as Ontario (TSSA) of “should” not, instead of “shall” not

- Owners are well-versed with the safety concerns and BOMA wants to ensure that safety is still the highest of importance
- A meeting is scheduled next week to discuss what else might be out there to ensure an equal level of safety
- An overview was provided of a series of incidents that have occurred because of not being able to use the escalator as stairs
- BOMA wants to eliminate risk factors

The floor was opened for further discussion and the following was noted:

- It is believed that the public does not understand the safety concerns; people are frustrated and using the stop button on functioning escalators, going around barricades, and because of the volume of people elevators often can't keep up, causing it to shut down, which just adds to public frustration
- It was questioned and clarified that signage for the closest alternate routes used, but each has to be individualized for each escalator, and the use of signage varies from building to building
- It was explained that there are many reasons why it was put in the code, including liability, brake failures, tripping hazards, and escalators are considered a convenience and therefore they do not count toward the egress
- Newer devices have lock bars which could make them safer but they still would not be considered safe as a staircase under the building code.
- People still use them even if they are barricaded
- It was questioned if there has been any discussion between provinces, and background was provided of the reasons that TSSA was able to change it to "should not" be used, primarily due to their subway systems
- It is believed that Ontario is the only province that doesn't completely enforce the requirement

It was clarified that the role of the sub-council is to review this issue, debate it and if needed make recommendations for a code change or possibly a regulation change. It was clarified that even if it was guaranteed that the escalator will not move when being used as a path of travel, an escalator may never be considered as stairs in accordance with building code requirements.

An overview was provided of each building code requirement for stairs and how an escalator does not meet several of those code requirements. From a building perspective, an escalator is a convenience to move throughout the building and not recognized as a form of egress to get out of the building. It was reported that there have been changes to residential stairs requirements to make stairs safer in the new code. These changes would align closer to the requirements for public stairs.

It was further clarified that significant rationale would be required to change this code requirement. Although stopped escalators could be safe by using a lock bar and having effective guidelines in place, this would still not meet the definition of stairs.

It was suggested that consideration be given to a potential variance for temporary use. The Building Administrator suggested this would be a relaxation of the code and not a variance as there is no ability to meet the building code requirements for treads and risers.

The Elevators Administrator was asked to research the rationale that was used to create the code requirement that may help this sub-council in coming up with recommendations.

[Bruce]

It is suggested that the Building Sub-Council, and potentially the Fire Sub-Council, could be informed and asked for their participation.

From a building owner's perspective, it is believed that time is needed to address the issues and adopt new codes when they are in force. From a labour perspective, perhaps the barricades need to be more substantial to ensure the device cannot be used. Use of a non-operating escalator creates a risk to the public and a risk to the worker. People have no clue when there is a barricade whether there are any gaps or openings in the escalator should it begin moving on its own.

It is believed that public awareness is one of the key issues, as well as consistency within all buildings. Allowing some buildings to use stopped escalators as stairs without enforcing the requirements will only confuse the public even more.

It was suggested that the BOMA representatives on this sub-council go back to BOMA and initiate discussions with the BOMA representatives on the Building and Fire Sub-Councils, as well as opening discussions with manufacturers on how an equal or greater level of safety can be achieved.

[Vanderheide / Weston]

The Chair reported that he will bring the topic up of escalator requirements for discussion at the upcoming Technical Coordinating Committee meeting.

[Bawa]

4.2. Administrator/AMA Report

The Administrator reported the following:

- An overview was provided on the Alberta Elevator Industry Seminar (AEIS) held on January 23 and 24 2019 in Red Deer
- The Maintenance Control Program (MCP) has been in force for a year and 19 service providers have an acceptable MCP in place
- Shutdown guidance has been added to the AEDARSA website
- An overview was provided of the status of changes to the Elevating Devices Code Regulation
- It was clarified that automatic adoption wording is not yet in the Regulation
- Once automatic adoption wording is in the Regulation, a published code comes into force on the first day of the month following the twelfth month after publication (i.e. a code published any time in March 2019 would come into force on April 1, 2020).

- The public review draft of proposed changes to ASME A-17.1-2016 was shown on screen and will be included in the portal
- An overview was provided regarding a meeting a few months ago with AIT and OHS regarding monitoring compliance for the trade

4.2.1. Variances Presentation

A presentation was provided on Variances and a copy was included in the portal. It was explained that the *Safety Codes Amendment Act, 2015* amends the Act to provide the ability to appeal the refusal of a requested variance; this provision is not proclaimed into force. AMA would like all partners to better understand their roles and responsibilities related to variances to be sufficiently prepared if this section is proclaimed.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Purpose of Variances
- Why this is being raised
- What a variance is
- What a variance is not
- The expectation of an SCO when a variance is requested
- Why a variance is issued
- The expectation of Registered Professionals
- Outstanding issues include jurisdiction-wide variances and discipline specific issues
- An overview was provided of the next steps

4.3. AEDARSA Report

The following report was provided:

1. Hydraulic Cylinder Replacements, as of February 2019, are proceeding well with about 57 cylinders left to be replaced out of approximately 420 units starting May 2018; orders are being issued for non-compliance and two elevators have been taken out of service
2. All Elevator Service Providers in Alberta have an acceptable MCP including a new one issued in February 2019
3. The “New Compliance Monitoring Program Declarations” report verifies that Category-1 tests and brake dismantling completed by elevator service providers, which was due February 1, 2019, were met.
 - a. The initial findings indicate approximately 14,600 elevating devices were reported out of 15,000 units in the AEDARSA database.
 - b. The next step is analyzing the data, which should be completed by April 2019.
4. AEDARSA has posted or sent out the following Information Bulletins:
 - a. ED-2018-002—alternate means of testing is acceptable in Alberta for the testing of safeties, brakes and buffers once a benchmark is established by actual weight testing is completed as set out by MCP clause 8.6.11.10

- b. ED-2019-001—testing of emergency power operation and fire fighters emergency operation to meet the requirements of Category -1-Testing in Alberta.
 - c. ED-2019-002—clarification of category 1 test and brake dismantlement completions date. The tests must be completed each calendar year and any overdue tests must be applied to the year previous.
5. Alberta Elevator Industry Seminar (AEIS) held on January 23 and 24, 2019 in Red Deer exceeded AEDARSA’s expectations. There were more attendees (110) and AEDARSA had speaker from USA and Canada. Other jurisdictions are now contemplating to holding similar seminars in the provinces.

During the report, a brief discussion was held regarding “commissioning” requirements, public education programs, step indexing and what to do in the case where an elevator or escalator fails testing.

4.4. TCC Report

The Chair reported he will be attending the next TCC meeting on March 5, 2019. The following topics will be brought forward:

- Escalator discussion
- Single bottom cylinder replacement program update
- Matrix review update
- Code cycle update

4.5. Council Updates

The following report was provided:

- Sub-council members were asked to submit expense claims within 30 days
- An overview was provided regarding upcoming training for sub-council members; all information is listed in the portal calendar
- Members were asked to take the appeal training as this is necessary to participate in an appeal hearing
- Sub-council members were reminded of the Dr. Sauer Award nominations and nomination forms are included on the portal; the deadline for submissions is March 29.
- The conference will be held in Banff from May 29 to 31, 2019
- Video conferencing capability now available
- Members were reminded to submit any potential agenda items to the Council and the Chair at least two weeks prior to the meeting

4.5.1. Code of Conduct and Ethics Revisions and Related Policies

A link was included in the portal to the revised Code of Conduct & Ethics and related policies. All sub-council members were encouraged to review all revisions.

4.5.2. Cross-Discipline Issues and Communication Among Sub-Councils

It was reported that staff at the Council will be working with the sub-councils to assist in the communications between sub-councils regarding cross-discipline issues.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Meeting and Agenda Feedback

There were no further agenda items brought forward.

5.2. Next Meeting

The Council Conference will be held in Banff from May 29 to 31, 2019.

The next meeting was tentatively booked as a conference call for Wednesday, June 19, 2019 at 9:30 a.m., if needed.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Ernie Paustian / Richard Meunier moved that the meeting be adjourned; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

--- NEW ACTION ITEMS ---

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The Elevators Administrator was asked to research to determine the rationale that was used to create the code requirement that may help this sub-council in coming up with recommendations.
[Bruce]

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[Vanderheide / Weston]

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