



Safety Codes Council

MINUTES OF THE SECOND FIRE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2020

DATE: May 13, 2020
TIME: 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office, Edmonton

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*
Michael Bos, Chair
Cameron Bardas
Allan Blatz
Richard Friesen
Robbin Foxcroft, Vice Chair
Mark Heiderich
Cammie Laird
Hunter Langpap
Gary Mayorchak, Vice Chair
Jim Robinson
Marc Royer
Chris Taylor

Safety Codes Council
Kathryn Derkach, Jennifer Johnson, Susan Rossmann
Charles Hallett, Adam Lukaszuk (for item 4.2 only)

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Tina Parker, Cindy Yan, Liz Gillean

REGRETS: John Penzo
Joseph Davis
Stephen Suen

GUESTS: Colin Belliveau, BSC Liaison

RECORDER: Jennifer Johnson

2020 MEETINGS: September 10, November 19

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Cameron Bardas/Jim Robinson moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the January 23 Minutes

Jim Robinson/Robbin Foxcroft moved to adopt the minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. None identified

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date Initiated	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Qualified Persons Registry (E.2.06.11)	Communicate status of registry	Nov 23/16	Orr	Ongoing
2.	CSA B52 Clarification	There is uncertainty about which discipline is responsible for enforcement of maintenance provisions in CSA B52 and it was requested that this be brought to the inter-department working group.	May 14/19	Orr	Ongoing
3.	Exiting to a Public Thoroughfare	The Building Liaison will bring this item to the Building Sub-Council at their next meeting and request that a response be provided from the BSC Chair.	Nov 14/19	Taylor/ Gratton	Response from BSC is that this relates to maintenance not building code. Keep on the agenda, look at possible next steps in Sept.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. QAF Presentation

This item was deferred to the fall.

4.2. PTMAA

The Administrator reported that after a review by the Agency Board and Commissioner it was recommended that PTMAA duties be transitioned to the Safety Codes Council (ASCA). There will be a couple of STANDATAs released in the next couple of weeks detailing the transition (effective June 8th) as well as information on storage tank inspections. An additional STANDATA regarding qualifications for installers, removers, etc. is expected in August. There will be further consultation

on how to improve the system in the fall and the FSC will be a part of that process. If anyone has any questions please contact the Administrator or Charles Hallett with the Safety Codes Council directly.

4.3. Fire Variances

Members were asked to review the document and bring back any feedback for how the information can be used going forward. The following was discussed:

- The information is helpful to identify recurring issues
- Members were unable to access “document” tab which would have provided additional information
- Not necessary to maintain information more than one code cycle back
- Would be helpful to know which jurisdiction approved it and the rationale for how the minimum requirements were achieved

It was noted that it would be helpful to compile variances issued from January 1, 2020 and spanning the next few years. Additional information regarding the reasons as well as any expiries would be useful as well. The Administrator will look into this further.

[Administrator]

4.4. Cannabis and the Insurance Industry

There is not a lot of data yet on how cannabis risks are being insured, each company is assessing it on a case by case basis. Industry is concerned about the risks, which they feel could be very high. Companies are focusing on security measures, quality control, regulatory compliance, business interruption costs, and long term health effects. Most are allowing cannabis to be grown in a personal residence as long as proper licensing and permits are in place. However, the client must let the insurance company know any time there is a material change in risk to their property in order to be covered.

4.5. Working Group Reports

4.5.1. Occupant Load

A written report was included in the portal and the following was discussed:

- It was recognized that procedures for calculating occupant loads are inconsistent and challenging to apply
- The working group was unable to reach consensus on harmonization with the National Fire Code of Canada so a revised scope was developed, resulting in the group’s final recommendations

Cammie Laird/Gary Mayorchuk moved to recommend to Alberta Municipal Affairs that a STANDATA be issued to outline the discrepancies between how Occupant Loads are calculated under the Building and Fire Codes (the “Discrepancy STANDATA”) to provide broad awareness to owners, operators, design professionals, and AHJs; CARRIED.

Gary Mayorchuk/Robbin Foxcroft moved to recommend to Alberta Municipal Affairs a STANDATA be issued on the specific process for Fire AHJs to follow in calculating and communicating occupant loads in assembly occupancies; CARRIED. Cameron Bardas was opposed and Allan Blatz abstained from voting.

4.5.2. Code Review

The following was discussed:

- There were a few items that came up which were related to farm building code references
- It was reported that the Minister is currently reviewing a notice regarding harmonization, public review is complete and comments are being reviewed this week
- It was proposed that the working group meet again to discuss which items are looking towards harmonization and which are Alberta specific

4.6. Breweries/Distilleries

The following was discussed:

- The Administrator reported that a Notice will be issued at this time, instead of the recommended STANDATA
- It recently came to her attention that there is currently a code change request in front of NRC in regards to distilleries so it was decided to issue a Notice at this time and revisit in the fall
- It was requested that the information from the working group be provided to the NRC for review

[Heiderich]

4.7. BSC Liaison Report

The BSC Liaison reported:

- The last meeting was in March, there was lots of discussion around reviewing STANDATAs
- Motion passed to review definition of farm buildings
- There was a presentation regarding the use of spray foam in unvented attics, it is available in the building portal if members are interested in viewing it

4.8. Administrator/AMA Report

The Administrator reported:

- Many STANDATAs have been issued in the past few weeks and comments are coming in, will bring those forward in the fall
- Working with a few stakeholders who felt the variance which allowed for the removal of portable fire extinguishers from unstaffed/remote sites was unfair, will engage with Industry Liaison to assist in discussions

4.9. Fire Inspection Reports

The Administrator reported that AMA committed to creating these documents approximately two years ago after a request from FSC members. The documents were reviewed and there was a suggestion to use Occupancy Classification instead of Groups; the Administrator will amend. If they are acceptable, the Administrator would ask the Council to post on their website to supply as a part of training. Members will review the documents and advise back to the FSC in the fall.

[Blatz/Laird]

4.5. Council Updates

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

- Allison is now on maternity leave, please email Kathryn or Jennifer if you have any questions
- Covid-19 impact: AGM and the conference have been postponed; Safety Codes Council office is closed to the public
- Working group procedures have been updated based on findings from the governance review, they have been posted in the portal
- PESC would like to thank the FSC for their input after the Fernie incident, a new requirements document has been published by ABSA on their website along with an Information Bulletin

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- Discussion around getting ready for the safe re-occupancy of buildings (managing crowds etc.)
- Managing Covid-19 related complaints, mostly related to outside but expect there will be more for indoor facilities as restrictions are eased in the next couple of weeks

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for September 10, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

4.3. Fire Variances

Members were asked to review the document and bring back any feedback for how the information can be used going forward. The following was discussed:

- The information is helpful to identify recurring issues
- Members were unable to access “document” tab which would have provided additional information
- Not necessary to maintain information more than one code cycle back
- Would be helpful to know which jurisdiction approved it and the rational for how the minimum requirements were achieved

It was noted that it would be helpful to compile variances issued from January 1, 2020 and spanning the next few years. Additional information regarding the reasons as well as any expiries would be useful as well. The Administrator will look into this further.

[Administrator]

4.6. Breweries/Distilleries

The following was discussed:

- The Administrator reported that a Notice will be issued at this time, instead of the recommended STANDATA
- It recently came to her attention that there is currently a code change request in front of NRC in regards to distilleries so it was decided to issue a Notice at this time and revisit in the fall
- It was requested that the information from the working group be provided to the NRC for review

[Heiderich]

4.9. Fire Inspection Reports

The Administrator reported that AMA committed to creating these documents approximately two years ago after a request from FSC members. The documents were reviewed and there was a suggestion to use Occupancy Classification instead of Groups; the Administrator will amend. If they are acceptable, the Administrator would ask the Council to post on their website to supply as a part of training. Members will review the documents and advise back to the FSC in the fall.

[Blatz/Laird]

– MOTIONS –

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Cameron Bardas/Jim Robinson moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the January 23 Minutes

Jim Robinson/Robbin Foxcroft moved to adopt the minutes of the January 23, 2020 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

4.5. Working Group Reports

4.5.1. Occupant Load

Cammie Laird/Gary Mayorchuk moved to recommend to Alberta Municipal Affairs that a STANDATA be issued to outline the discrepancies between how Occupant Loads are calculated under the Building and Fire Codes (the “Discrepancy STANDATA”) to provide broad awareness to owners, operators, design professionals, and AHJs; CARRIED.

Gary Mayorchuk/Robbin Foxcroft moved to recommend to Alberta Municipal Affairs a STANDATA be issued on the specific process for Fire AHJs to follow in calculating and communicating occupant loads in assembly occupancies; CARRIED. Cameron Bardas was opposed and Allan Blatz abstained from voting.

– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

WORKING GROUP	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)
Occupant Load Joint Working Group (BSC)	<u>Cameron Bardas, Bruce Schultz</u> Mike Bos, Gary Mayorchak, Stephen Suen, David Flanagan, Corey Klimchuk, Darin Sceviour Industry Representative: Heath Wright
Breweries and Distilleries Joint Working Group (BSC)	<u>Ulrik Seward, Hunter Langpap</u> Cameron Bardas, Corey Klimchuk, Andy Smith Industry Representatives: Brad Smilie, Alberta Craft Distillers Association; Ross Alger, Alberta Craft Distillers Association; Glenn Baxter, Calgary Fire Department; Mohammadreza (Reza) Joodaki, Calgary Fire Department, Bryce Parsons, Bearhill Brewing
Code Review	<u>Chris Taylor</u> Gary Mayorchak, Jim Robinson, Marc Royer, Cameron Bardas