



Safety Codes Council

MINUTES OF THE FOURTH FIRE SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2022

DATE: September 15, 2022

TIME: 9:17 a.m. to 1:23 p.m.

LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*

Chris Taylor, Chair

Mike Bradford

Greg Wolf

Mark Heiderich

Cammie Laird

John Penzo

Jamie Vasseur

Stephen Suen

Glenn Baxter

Safety Codes Council

Allison Karch, Kathryn Derkach

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Tina Parker, Cindy Yan

REGRETS: Cameron Bardas, Barry Fielden, Hunter Langpap, Michael Bos, Marc Chayer, Abbas Abbas

GUESTS: Corey Klimchuk (BSC Liaison)

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2022 MEETINGS: November 17

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. and a round table introduction was held. 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 conflicts of interested must be avoided.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Mike Bradford / John Penzo moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the May 19, 2022 Minutes

Glenn Baxter / Stephen Suen moved to adopt the minutes of the May 19, 2022 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Closed Session

Glenn Baxter / Jamie Vasseur moved to enter into closed session; CARRIED

Glenn Baxter / Jamie Vasseur moved to exit closed session; CARRIED

2.1.1. Matrix Review

Mark Heiderich / John Penzo move to support the current Fire Sub-Council matrix with no changes; CARRIED

It was noted that Council policy staff will be making administrative adjustments to the matrix, such as correcting the names of nominating organizations and bringing consistency to the naming of industry segments across all sub-council matrices. These changes will not require sub-council review.

2.1.2. Skills Matrix Review

It was noted that there are no skills/qualifications for the Accredited Corporations seat; the member will forward criteria by email shortly. [Penzo]

It was noted that marshal in this context should contain only one L and that Municipal Districts and Counties should be phrased as Rural Municipalities. These typos will be corrected. [Council Administration]

The Building Officials skillset was discussed and it was suggested that certification and designation of powers as a Building Safety Codes Officer should be required.

Greg Wolf / Glenn Baxter move to modify the skills matrix to add certification and designation of powers as a Building Safety Codes Officer to the Building Officials industry segment; CARRIED

2.1.3. Nomination of Kevan Jess to represent Fire Officials

Mike Bradford / Jamie Vasseur moved to recommend to the Board appointment of Kevan Jess to the Fire Sub-Council to represent Fire Officials for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

2.1.4. Nomination of Mark Wilson to represent Electrical Industry

Glenn Baxter / Cammie Laird moved to recommend to the Board appointment of Mark Wilson to the Fire Sub-Council to represent the Electrical Industry for a term ending January 31, 2026, effective February 1, 2023; CARRIED

2.2. Occupant Load STANDATA

A draft of the STANDATA was included in the Portal and members were asked to provide any further comments.

Glenn Baxter / Mike Bradford moved to support issuance of the Occupant Load STANDATA as presented; CARRIED

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	No update available.
2.	Qualified Persons Registry Letter	Draft a letter that outlines issues associated with the Qualifications STANDATA and requests an update from Municipal Affairs about the Qualified Persons Registry	Jan 20/22	Baxter / Foxcroft / Council Staff	Letter was sent in August to James Orr, Director, Building/Fire/Energy/Accessibility Codes at AMA. Complete; remove from action list.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Working Group Reports

4.1.1. Code Review

The Provincial Fire Administrator gave a presentation regarding changes expected to be incorporated into the next edition of the NFC(AE). The three categories of changes are: new items in NFC(AE); articles that have been harmonized; and updates to Division C. The presentation is not being posted in the Portal at this time because the code changes are subject to change prior to the code's publication. The Council Certification, Education and Training department is aware of the expected changes so that they can prepare, with the knowledge that they are still subject to change.

The working group chair reported that the group met once since the last FSC meeting and a written report is posted in the portal. The group's goal is to develop all the

proposed changes and package them into one submission to be presented to FSC. This could then be endorsed by FSC and put forward as one submission to Municipal Affairs. The group is currently prioritizing work by focusing on items highlighted by Municipal Affairs.

4.1.2. Exterior Insulation

The chair of this working group was not in attendance and no update was available.

4.1.3. Shipping Containers

A final report was posted in the portal and background was provided of the group's work. The group drafted a proposed STANDATA outlining when a shipping container would be considered a building and a permit would be required. Regardless of occupancy, if it contains hazardous goods it would need a permit.

Comments included the following:

- The fact that the containers are no longer being used for transportation is a critical point that's well-addressed in the STANDATA.
- Members of the construction industry were well represented and vocal at the working group.
- Temporary use was discussed; for example, moving a container used as construction storage from one lot to another. This would fit under the STANDATA as a non-occupied building, provided it's not being used as a first aid facility, continually-staffed tool crib, or similar.
- It was felt the STANDATA provides sufficient direction to AHJs to be able to exercise appropriate discretion.
- It was felt that there won't be a major impact to most sea container users outside of the problematic uses that the STANDATA intends to address.
- It was suggested that sections of the NFC(AE) regarding emergency planning/response be referenced in the STANDATA.
- Support was voice for this being a joint building/fire STANDATA.
- The Provincial Fire Administrator reported that joint STANDATA with other disciplines have been very successful as well and consideration should be given to incorporating other disciplines.

Glenn Baxter/ John Penzo move to forward the draft Shipping Containers STANDATA to the Provincial Fire Administrator for consideration; CARRIED

Glenn Baxter/ Cammie Laird move to forward the draft Shipping Containers STANDATA to the PSC, GSC, ESC for consideration and support; CARRIED

The Provincial Fire Administrator, in conjunction with the Provincial Building Administrator, will consider the draft and will bring a response to the November meetings. If pursued, this STANDATA would likely not be published until after the new editions of the building and fire codes are published to ensure this document aligns with the new code editions.

4.2. BSC Liaison Report

BSC has not met yet since the last FSC meeting, so there is no update.

4.3. Reference Standards

4.3.1. NRC Fire Protection

There were no meetings through the summer; the next set of meetings starts next week. Task groups are finalizing details about mass timber specifications and looking at test fire results. There was a presentation from the engineers who ran the fire tests about the results of the test and impact on the wood structure. The decision to include mass timber in the code has been made and the group is currently making decisions on the details, such as how much mass timber can be exposed, ventilation requirements, how many openings can be allowed, etc.

4.3.2. CSA

CSA B306 regarding portable engine systems for marine use is currently open for public review before publication in 2023.

4.3.3. ULC

ULC S536 regarding testing of fire alarm systems is under preliminary review. The group is reviewing concerns that the standard doesn't speak to improperly installed systems.

ULC S537 may be undergoing a revision to address a missing item in a table, but this could be a year away.

4.4. Administrator/AMA Report

The Provincial Fire Administrator reported:

- The next Alberta Editions of the National Building Code and National Fire Code are expected to be published in first quarter of 2023. All STANDATA will be reviewed for alignment with the new codes and reissued before the new codes become in force.
- Members were asked for suggestions about how the multiple variances STANDATA about portable fire extinguishers that impact the oil and gas industry could be replaced with a single variance that would apply to all companies that currently have these variances as well as other companies that would like to use the variance, provided they meet the criteria. Currently, Municipal Affairs must review several items, such as training and site specifications, for each company. More than 30 companies hold such a variance, and all these variances are identical except for the company names. The Administrator would like feedback on how accredited corporations might be affected if one variance were issued that any company could use. The Administrator will discuss this separately with the petroleum industry representative. [Parker/Bradford]

The member representing Accredited Corporations will take this to other accredited corporations directly and through the AACA if needed, and will bring any feedback to the next meeting. [Penzo]

- The members representing the petroleum industry and accredited corporations have received no further feedback from their industry segments about AER's Directive 55. That being the case, the Administrator considers her involvement in the topic closed.

4.5. Council Updates

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

- Members were reminded of the recent update to the Council’s communications policy which now is applicable to members.
- The Council’s AGM and volunteer appreciation event is being held in Edmonton on October 21, 2022.
 - Council staff will arrange hotel rooms—please include your hotel needs in the registration form if applicable.
- Member Training dates—two virtual half-day sessions for each course, you must attend both days to complete the course:
 - Appeals Training: November 15 & 16, 2022
 - Effective Meetings: October 31 & November 1, 2022
 - Contact gerry.letendre@safetycodes.ab.ca to register.
- Clarification was provided about the approach to in-person and virtual sub-council meetings.
 - The Council’s overall approach is a hybrid of some meetings held in person and some held virtually.
 - All members are asked to make an effort to attend in-person meetings in person, but there will be the option to attend virtually if they’re not able to attend because of illness, etc.
- Please notify Council staff as soon as possible of any contact info changes for yourself or your nominating organization.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- The City of Calgary is engaging building owners, engineers, and architects to discuss using HVAC as venting to aid firefighting and whether it must be manual or may be automatic. It was felt that a “reasonable time” as referenced in the code would be until the firefighters arrive.
- The City of Calgary continues to consider whether bottlers of ready-to-drink alcoholic beverages should be considered distilleries and is currently engaging with industry.
- RMA awaits the government’s decision about incorporating farm buildings in the next edition of the NBC(AE).
- The insurance industry continues to deal with issues around plastic totes being used for long term storage and dispensing.
- The Association of Accredited Corporations of Alberta met recently to solicit feedback on increasing membership engagement, as many accredited corporations aren’t active within the association.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for November 17, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. A poll will be sent to all members to determine whether to hold the meeting virtually or in person.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Mark Heiderich moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

2.1.2. Skills Matrix Review

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– MOTIONS –

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– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

WORKING GROUP	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (<u>Chair</u>)
Code Review	<u>Chris Taylor</u> Glenn Baxter, Hunter Langpap, Marc Chayer, Jamie Vasseur Municipal Affairs: Cindy Yan
Exterior Insulation (Joint w/ BSC) <i>formed Nov 25, 2021</i>	<u>Cameron Bardas (FSC co-chair), David Flanagan (BSC co-chair)</u> Mark Heiderich, Rick Gratton, Keith Jansen
Shipping Containers (Joint w/ BSC) <i>formed Nov 25, 2021</i>	<u>Glenn Baxter (FSC co-chair), Corey Klimchuk (BSC co-chair)</u> Mark Heiderick, John Penzo, Marc Royer, Keven Lefebvre, Laura Ritchie, Keith Jansen, Darin Sceviour, Zachary Walker
Large Farm Structures (Joint w/ BSC) <i>formed March 3, 2022</i>	<u>Andy Smith (Chair)</u> Stephen Hill, Keven Lefebvre, Mike Bos, Mark Heiderich, and Cammie Laird, and agricultural industry members as needed, with Municipal Affairs support