



**MINUTES OF THE
FOURTH GAS SUB-COUNCIL MEETING OF 2023**

DATE: December 7, 2023

TIME: 9:02 a.m. to 10:46 a.m.

LOCATION: Videoconference

PRESENT: *Sub-Council Members*

Mark Guderjan, Chair
Chris McInroy
Jason Helfrich
Roy Herrington, Vice-Chair
Darcy Toner
James Maddocks
Tim Dykes
Larry Miller
Muhammad Ishaq
Aaron Blake
Leigh Adams
Dale Walls
Cory Huppe
Chris McInroy

Safety Codes Council

Allison Karch, Jennifer Johnson

Alberta Municipal Affairs

Sidney Manning, Claude Valliere, Perry Wager, Ljubomir Dupalo, Jody Thrush

REGRETS: Curtis Bellows, Ron Beaudette, Kris Topp, Tran Mah-Paulson

GUESTS: Stephen Carlson

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2024 MEETINGS: March 7, May 23

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. A round table introduction was held, videoconference functionality was reviewed, and 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.

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Leigh Adams / Larry Miller moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the September 28, 2023 Minutes

The minutes were reviewed and the following corrections were made:

- Item 4.3. – add clarification that the first bullet is about the Canadian European Union comprehensive trade agreement and the UK-Canada Agreement.

Roy Herrington / Dale Walls moved to adopt the minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting, as amended; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

None identified.

3. Review Matters Arising/Action List

	Item	Action	Date Initiated	Responsible	Status/Update
1.	Cylinders Below Grade at Construction Sites	Motion made Oct 7/21 to forward the code change request to CSA B149.2 Committee; seeking updates from Mark Guderjan or Administrator.	Feb 12/20	Guderjan	Expected to be considered by CSA for incorporation in next code. Closed, remove.
2.	19-BCV-019 Interior Stairways for Roof Access to HVAC Equipment	Possible code change request to the National Building Code to incorporate the roof access provisions that are in CSA B149.1	May 26/22	Chang/ Manning	Changes to the NBC(AE) are complete but not yet published. Leave on action list until code is published.
3.	Pollutants from Gas Stoves	This topic will be discussed at the June meeting of the Gas Advisory Council. The Administrator will bring back an update.	Mar 23/23	Manning	Health Canada continues to test appliances and monitor this situation.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Annex I of B149.1 Introduction

It was reported that Annex I has been accepted by CSA into the draft next edition of B149.1. It will be included in the next draft 3 column document for GSC's review. This annex is informative and will not be enforceable in Alberta, but it's written in normative language and will give guidance

for variance applications. This annex is especially suited for industrial applications such as high pressures, large volumes, and cold/cryogenic applications. This area is expected to develop and may move into the body of the code and be prescriptive in the future. Moving this industrially focused code content into the body of code that applies to commercial/residential settings may be confusing and have risk. It was suggested that the sub-council could proactively consider this shift in the code.

4.2. Working Group Reports

4.2.1. CSA B149.1 / BNQ 1784 Canadian Hydrogen Installation Code

The following was discussed:

- The group met in March and reviewed the available changes to B149.1, which were supported without comments.
- Further changes to B149.1, such as Annex I, are coming and Municipal Affairs will have an updated draft early in the new year.
- BNQ is on an unknown cycle and there is no current review work.

4.2.2. CSA B149.2 / CSA B108.1 & CSA B108.2

The following was discussed:

- The group met in November and completed review of the draft B149.2 to date. The next update to the 3-column document is expected early in 2024.
- B108.1 and B108.2 are complete and were balloted at CSA on Nov 23—Municipal Affairs is reviewing the outcome of the ballot and updating the 3-column documents. Code publication is expected December 23. Municipal Affairs will get the published code early in January and will work to share finalized 3-column documents before the next GSC meeting so that the working group can do a thorough review of changes in the published code. Publication was supposed to be in 2024, but CSA is publishing in 2023 instead.
- In 2024, B108 technical committees will need to reconvene to pull in items dropped from CSA B51.

4.2.3. CSA B149.3 / CSA B149.6

The following was discussed:

- The group met in September and reviewed the B149.3 draft 3-column document showing changes to date. The final draft is expected in the new year.
- There has been no direction regarding potential adoption of B149.6.

4.2.4. CSA B149.5 / CSA B109.1 & CSA B109.2

The following was discussed:

- 3-column documents are expected early in new year and will plan to meet then.
- The B109s and B149.5 are following a new stream for vehicles which has a different structure under the transportation steering committee. There has been no action for the past 2 years, but CSA is preparing to publish in 2025.

4.3. AMOS Report

It was reported that the AMOS fall meeting went well. A presentation was given about hydrogen blending projects in some communities. AMOS plans to continue in-person meetings and its members were encouraged to submit presentation ideas to AMOS executive.

4.4. Administrator/AMA Report

The Administrator reported:

- New technical advisors in the plumbing and gas disciplines Ljubomir Dupalo and Jody Thrush will assist in supporting the sub-councils.
- The 2025 cycle of the B149 suite has completed technical development as of November. Public consultation, French language translation and editorial work is expected in early 2024.
- The B108 suite were balloted by the Interprovincial and Territorial Gas Advisory Council in December 2023.
- Gasfitter reconciliation agreement:
 - The agreement is not yet signed but is moving that way. It will require each province/territory to adopt the code at approximately the same time to support journeypersons working in different provinces. Each province/territory will adopt within 24 months for the first cycle, and 18 months for subsequent code cycles.
 - No problems are anticipated in Alberta with our current process for code adoption.
 - Members shared that it can be quite onerous currently for journeypersons to obtain permits in other jurisdictions.
- Hydrogen and natural gas blend update—there has been lots of discussion but not a lot of movement.
 - In spring 2023, it was determined in Canada that blends of up to 5% hydrogen are considered natural gas. Much of the world has accepted up to 20% to be defined as natural gas, making it more difficult for Canada to not accept it.
 - Blend acceptance is based on energy output, not number of each type of gas molecules.
 - Hydrogen for vehicles is also evolving. Edmonton has a new business that converts vehicles to hydrogen. Fueling stations are also a consideration.
 - A presentation from Brody Chalmers at ATCO was mentioned that comprehensively considers the energy system in Alberta and compares different fuel types, including hydrogen.
- STANDATA for non-certified appliances: updated references to inspection bodies.
- STANDATA under review:
 - Fuel Gas Pressure Piping in Plants
 - Propane Storage Tanks Designed for 200 PSIG
 - Mobile/temporary cooking equipment (food trucks)
- Began reviewing the application of large diameter Pro press fittings in order to consider development of a province-wide variance until the 2025 B149.1 comes into force.
 - B149.1 Clause 6.9.2.: piping of NPS 2 ½ inch and over shall have welded pipe joints.
 - The Administrator has contacted major manufacturers for information.
 - Data from site-specific variances will help inform the province-wide variance; if members have any information about site-specific variances for these fittings, please provide it to the Administrator. [All]

4.5. Council Updates

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

- Changes have been made to a number of policies that affect members. All policies and procedures that apply to members are available in the "Governance Documents" folder in the Members Portal. Members were asked to familiarize themselves with these revised policies.
- The Council Member satisfaction survey was sent out in conjunction with the Council's annual stakeholder survey this year. Please take a few moments to complete the survey if you haven't already.
- The Council will be holding a holiday open house today from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Council office.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- There are opportunities to participate on CSA B149 code committees as an industry representative, not representing the sub-council; Jason Helfrich and Sidney Manning can connect any interested individuals with the appropriate people at CSA.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for March 7, 2024, via videoconference at 9:00 a.m. The chair may call additional meetings earlier in the new year to address code review of the three column documents.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Chris McInroy / Roy Herrington moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.

– NEW ACTION ITEMS –

4.4. Administrator/AMA Report

Began reviewing the application of large diameter Pro press fittings in order to consider development of a province-wide variance until the 2025 B149.1 comes into force. Data from site-specific variances will help inform the province-wide variance; if members have any information about site-specific variances for these fittings, please provide it to the Administrator. [All]

– MOTIONS –

1.1 Agenda Adoption

Leigh Adams / Larry Miller moved that the agenda be adopted, as circulated; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the September 28, 2023 Minutes

Roy Herrington / Dale Walls moved to adopt the minutes of the September 28, 2023, meeting, as amended; CARRIED

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Chris McInroy / Roy Herrington moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED

– WORKING GROUP MEMBER LISTS –

WORKING GROUP	WORKING GROUP MEMBERS (Chair)
CSA-B149.1 – Natural gas and propane installation code BNQ 1784.000 Hydrogen Installations	<u>Dale Walls</u> Ron Beaudette, Curtis Bellows, Mark Guderjan, Tran Mah-Paulson, Larry Miller, James Maddocks, Tim Dykes, Cory Huppie, Muhammad Ishaq
CSA-B149.2 – Propane storage and handling code CSA-B108.1 - Compressed natural gas refuelling stations installation code CSA-B108.2 – Liquefied natural gas refuelling stations installation code	<u>Jason Helfrich</u> Ron Beaudette, Mike Turek, Cory Huppie, Larry Miller
CSA-B149.3 – Code for the field approval of fuel-related components on appliances and equipment CSA-B149.6 Biogas and Landfill Gas Code	<u>Dale Walls</u> Mark Guderjan, Roy Herrington, James Maddocks, Kris Topp, Justin Trupp, Muhammad Ishaq
CSA-B149.5 – Installation code for propane fuel systems and tanks on highway vehicles CSA-B109.1 - Compressed natural gas vehicle installation code CSA-B109.2 – Liquefied natural gas vehicle installation code	<u>Jason Helfrich</u> Leigh Adams, Aaron Blake, Chris Sherbanuk, Tim Dykes