



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

DATE: September 28, 2023

TIME: 9:03 a.m. to 12:47 p.m.

LOCATION: Safety Codes Council Office

PRESENT: **Sub-Council Members**
Mark Guderjan, Chair
Chris McInroy
Kris Topp
Jason Helfrich
Roy Herrington, Vice-Chair
Curtis Bellows
Larry Miller
Muhammad Ishaq
Aaron Blake
Leigh Adams
Cory Huppe
Ron Beaudette
James Maddocks

Safety Codes Council
Allison Karch, Jennifer Johnson, Catrin Berghoff (item 4.2. only)

Alberta Municipal Affairs
Sidney Manning, Claude Valliere

REGRETS: Dale Walls, Darcy Toner, Tran Mah-Paulson, Tim Dykes

RECORDER: Allison Karch

2023 MEETINGS: December 7

1. Meeting Opening

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. Round table introductions were 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

The presenter for item 4.2. was corrected to Jim Maddocks.

Kris Topp / Larry Miller moved that the agenda be adopted, as amended; CARRIED

1.2 Adoption of the March 23, 2023 Minutes

Curtis Bellows / Chris McInroy moved to adopt the minutes of the March 23, 2023 meeting, as circulated; CARRIED

2. Matters for Decision

2.1. Closed Session

Leigh Adams / Curtis Bellows moved to enter into closed session; CARRIED

Cory Huppe / Larry Miller moved to exit closed session; CARRIED

2.1.1. Matrix Review

Leigh Adams / Ron Beaudette Moved to accept the matrix as presented; CARRIED

2.1.2. Reappointment of Dale Walls to represent Manufacturers or Suppliers

Ron Beaudette / Cory Huppe moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Dale Walls to the Gas Sub-Council to represent Manufacturers or Suppliers for a term ending January 31, 2027, effective February 1, 2024; CARRIED

2.1.3. Reappointment of Mark Guderjan to represent Major Municipalities South

Larry Miller / Curtis Bellows moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Mark Guderjan to the Gas Sub-Council to represent Major Municipalities South for a term ending January 31, 2027, effective February 1, 2024; CARRIED

2.1.4. Reappointment of Roy Herrington to represent Municipalities

Jim Maddocks / Aaron Blake moved to recommend to the Board reappointment of Roy Herrington to the Gas Sub-Council to represent Municipalities for a term ending January 31, 2027, effective February 1, 2024; CARRIED

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	No update; ongoing.
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	Wording will be included in the next NBC(AE) that will require buildings to provide roof access in accordance with the walkways and guardrails rules in CSA B149.1 if HVAC is installed on the roof, but ladders are still being discussed.
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	See item 4.3.

4. Matters for Discussion

4.1. Future of ASME B31.12 Hydrogen Piping and Pipelines

It was explained that BNQ 1784 Canadian Hydrogen Installation Code (CHIC) references many other codes, often in the pressure equipment discipline, including ASME B31.12. ASME has recently announced that B31.12 will be withdrawn in the next few years after the relevant requirements for hydrogen piping and pipelines are moved into B31.3 and B31.8. This may cause confusion for users of the CHIC and there may be the need for a resource that will help people find the appropriate codes to reference when B31.12 is withdrawn. BNQ has not announced any plans to change the CHIC at this time.

4.2. SCO Entry Qualifications

A member brought forward SCO entry qualifications for the gas discipline and how they differ from other disciplines. To become a gas SCO, a journeyman gasfitter ticket is required, while other disciplines allow other entry qualifications such as an engineering degree, architecture degree, etc.

The following was discussed:

- There seems to be appetite for more routes into the SCO occupation.
- It’s believed that there are enough trained and certified SCOs to meet the current needs of the safety codes system.
- Engineers are very knowledgeable about the codes but may lack practical experience and exposure to the range of installation scenarios that would be found in the field.
- Hands-on experience is necessary, but it could be learned on the job, perhaps through probationary certification or mentorship/shadowing program.
- The term “relevant experience” is open to interpretation—it may be helpful to provide more guidance about what experience is relevant.

- In the electrical discipline, SCO applicants with an engineering degree require 8 years of relevant experience, while journeypersons require 6 years; this approach may be appropriate for the gas discipline as well.
- Gas SCO certification has probationary period currently.
- Practical learning is a key feature of the curriculum modernization project that's currently in progress.
- There is already the ability for the Administrator of Certification to consider equivalencies, but the process is not defined in the certification policy.
- The Administrator of Certification advised of plans to revise the certification policy to recognize the typical entry qualifications and also outline a structured process by which alternative qualifications are considered. Outlining this process in the policy will improve transparency and accuracy, resulting in fewer unsuccessful applications. This project is underway, and updates will be provided as available.

4.3. Interprovincial and Territorial Gas Advisory Council (IGAC) Report

The Provincial Gas Administrator provided a written report of this meeting in June. Highlights included:

- Canadian European Union Comprehensive Trade Agreement and UKCA – UK-Canada agreement: these agreements mean that products certified in Europe to a Canadian standard can now be shipped and sold in Canada without any other indicators/guidance. Products with European labels may be seen and industry groups will need to determine whether these products are acceptable, which may cause confusion. The Canadian Institute for Plumbing and Heating maintains a list of certified manufacturers and have said they will add to it as needed.
- Field approvals: Alberta is the biggest user of the inspection body program, but it is growing in other provinces. Inspection bodies are being impacted by a province-wide variance that allows engineers to field approve equipment, which may be at odds to the sustainability of the program. A field approval cannot currently be carried into other provinces, and the group is considering how to improve mobility (example: oilfield tanks travelling between provinces).
- IGAC has the final ballot on all CSA standards, a vestige from when codes were under the Canadian Gas Association. Now that other standards development organizations (ex. UL, BNO) are developing standards that are not required to be balloted by IGAC, it is felt to be unfair to continue to ballot CSA standards. Therefore, IGAC has announced it will not ballot CSA certification standards for 12 months but will still ballot installation codes. Because of CSA's accreditation, there is confidence in the standards and removing this final ballot is not seen as a risk.
- Gas range emissions: Health Canada is collecting and evaluating data on this. IGAC continues to monitor and discuss, and there is global conversation as well. Health Canada will give updates to the IGAC and the Provincial Gas Administrator will share Health Canada's findings when able to.
- Gasfitters Reconciliation Agreement has been completed and is awaiting signing. If signed, it will require jurisdictions to adopt the next editions of the gas codes within 24 months of publication and the subsequent editions within 18 months of publication.
- Hydrogen blends: CSA is now recognizing up to 5% hydrogen in natural gas as natural gas. IGAC is encouraging industry to determine how blends of 5-20% should be treated.

- General code development: Discussed proposed changes to the scope of CSA B149.3 to include hydrogen and other gases. Other items included bringing consistency to referenced standards' in-force dates, abandoned vents, pressure testing and numerous others.

4.2. Working Group Reports

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

The following was discussed:

- AMA is working on 3-column documents for the B149 set of codes. There are no updates on CHIC.

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

The following was discussed:

- CSA B149 committees met in June, working on finalizing 2025 editions.
- Proposed changes to CSA B108.1 and B108.2 have gone through public consultation and the committee has just finished review of public comments.

4.2.3. CSA B149.3 / CSA B149.6

The following was discussed:

- The working group met to discuss CSA B149.3. There was some discussion about a potential code change request to expand the inspection body program to include approvals on appliances that should normally be certified, or at least include in the code that the AHJ may provide permission for this.

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

The following was discussed:

- Proposed changes to CSA B149.5 are currently in public review. The sub-council may receive all changes at once instead of some in advance of publication.
- CSA B109.1 and B109.2 are moving into different review cycles and their committee is not currently active. Again, the sub-council may receive all changes at once instead of some in advance of publication.

4.3. AMOS Report

It was reported that AMOS will meet on October 13 and 14, 2023, in Red Deer. Registration is strong so far.

4.4. Administrator/AMA Report

The Administrator reported on the following:

- The opportunity to propose changes to the 2025 editions of the CSA B149 codes will close by the end of this year. Any code change requests not already submitted will be considered for the 2030 codes.
- There may be an opportunity for CSA to make code cycles consistent; currently, some are on 3 year cycles and others are on 5 year cycles.
- Plant STANDATA: the Provincial Gas Administrator is working with ABSA to make ensure consistency. Comments were received from the Association of Accredited Corporations of Alberta and the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and intends to publish

the new version by the end of the year. The intent of the STANDATA remains the same as previous versions, but the addition of a flow chart provides clarity.

- 200 PSI STANDATA: this document is 25 years old, and the tanks it applies to are approximately 70 years old and may have reached their life expectancy.

4.5. Council Updates

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

- Member Training will be held on Wednesday, November 8, via Zoom. Please contact Gerry Letendre to register.
- The Council Member satisfaction survey will be sent out this fall in conjunction with the Council's annual stakeholder survey. Individuals who fill multiple roles in the safety codes system (ex. Sub-council member and SCO) will receive questions related to all their roles. Please watch your email and take a few moments to complete the survey when you receive it.

5. Meeting Finalization

5.1. Round Table

- It was asked whether the Administrator could share any data regarding hydrogen blend testing, and the Administrator replied that, generally, there is a significant rate of tolerance for 25% hydrogen in natural gas—the data shows it can be treated as natural gas. The standard approach in North America is to accept up to 20% hydrogen to allow for a safety factor.

5.2. Next Meeting

The next meeting was reconfirmed for December 7, 2023, via videoconference at 9:00 a.m.

5.3. Meeting Adjournment

Leigh Adams / Larry Miller moved to adjourn the meeting; CARRIED

The meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

– MOTIONS –

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– 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
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
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