AMA Regional SCO Meeting
Building, Fire, Electrical, Plumbing, Gas & Private Sewage
March 21, 2017
8:30 am – 4:00 pm
Fort McMurray

Meeting Minutes

AMA General Updates
Stephanie Martin, AMA

Builders Licencing
A builders licencing program went out for consultation in March. Establishing a builder licensing program in Alberta may:
- Protect consumers by helping them make more informed decisions
- Give Albertans peace of mind that their home is being built to a safe standard
- Increase accountability for builders
- Improve the business practices of builders
- Improve builder competencies
- Increase the quality of residential construction
- Increase consumer protection in the homebuilding market
- Align Alberta with several other provinces across Canada

Administrative Penalties
Administrative penalties are still being reviewed and awaiting cabinet approval.

Reorganization of Public Safety
Alberta Municipal Affairs Public Safety Division has undergone a reorganization. The department has been divided into two areas and renamed as Community and Technical Support. The Building and Fire disciplines fall under the direction of James Orr, while the Plumbing, Gas, PSDS, and Electrical disciplines now fall under Harry Li’s direction.

Question: With the changes to the Office of the Fire Commissioner, what department will be administering and which department will be available to answering our questions?
Answer: Tina to provide update in the afternoon fire discipline breakout session.

Planning 202B and the Safety Codes Permit
Jeff Laurien, Municipal Services
David Ramsay, AMA

See “Planning 202B2” PPT Presentation on Safety Codes Council website

There are 4 items that define development:
- Excavation/stock piling,
- constructions,
- change of use,
- change in intensity of use.
The Province is trying to provide rural Alberta with education on the development and plan to better minimizing potential risks.

Question: What is the difference between compliance certificate and a development permit?
**Answer:** Development permit is issued preconstruction and the compliance certificate confirms the project is placed where it was designed to be.

**Question:** How does the homeowner obtain a compliance certificate from the municipality?

**Answer:** Homeowner has to voluntarily request the compliance certificate from the municipality.

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**Safety Codes Council Update**  
**Danielle Paradis,** Safety Codes Council  
See “Regional Meeting” PPT on Safety Codes Council website

**Fire SCO Certification**

Group-D SCO’s will be grandfather in to the new system and there will no longer provide Group D training courses available. Any new students working in the industrial sectors of Alberta will now have the options of Groups A, B and C. training

Group E Aboveground and Underground Storage Tanks course – will be offered through on-line training and is currently under review with the Fire Sub Council, upon completion, an update will be posted on the Safety Codes Council’s website.

**Question:** Is there a time limit to transition?  
**Answer:** Yes, we have suggested 2019 to complete an SCO’s transition.

**Questions:** Why are the SCO classification based on building classification and occupant load?  
**Answer:** The certification follows the 1032’s.

**Question:** Will B-2 certified SCO require additional courses to become Group-E certification?  
**Answer:** Yes, there will be additional training requirements for SCO’s to obtain their Group-E certification, which will be provided by the SCC in partnership with the PTMA.

**Question:** Has there been any consideration in a E-1 above ground tank and E-2 below ground tank?  
**Answer:** Not as of yet but it is a new classification and if future evaluation shows the need there could be the possibility of a division into Group E-1 and E-2.

**Professional Development for SCO’s**

**Question:** Will the Council be supplying a list of potential development options?  
**Answer:** Yes, as they are become available and made aware the SCC will post on the website.

**Question:** What is the start date for the program?  
**Answer:** It is anticipated that the program will begin July 2018. The first three years will be voluntary.

**Question:** Is there a method or contact information which concerns or question can be sent to the SCC?  
**Answer:** Yes, on the SCC website under contact us; supplies a list to all departments as well as general info.  
**General Inquiries:** sccinfo@safetycodes.ab.ca

**ACT System: New Technology to Modernize Services**

The new ACT project is directed towards providing:

- integrated information system,
- complete online applications,
• portals for QMP managers,
• Designated SCO’s under QMP managers.
• Implementation of the system January 2018.
• FAQ portal to assist SCO’s,
• Online learning will be changing platforms from moodle to Topclass.
AMA Regional SCO Meeting
Joint Fire / Building Break-Out Session
12:30pm – 1:00 pm

Facilitator: Tina Parker, AMA
Stephanie Martin, AMA

Meeting Minutes

Electrical vaults transformer vaults, and electrical equipment.
Question: What constitutes an electrical vault?
Answer: The volume of dielectric oil within the equipment will determine whether or not the equipment is to be considered an electrical vault.

Persons with Developmental Disabilities STANDATA (PDD)
New Ministerial Order issued regarding PDD. Previous STANDATA has been revoked. The new order provides people with the opportunity to “age in place” and permits up to three people within a residential home before SLALA requirements should be enforced. Safety systems such as smoke alarms are all that are needed in residential homes with up to three people.
Question: PDD comment consultation seemed to be conducted with an agenda and did not take any fire stats into consideration. We feel it hurts the public fire safety. Are any other provinces following this direction?
Answer: Fire stats were not provided during the consultation period.

Visual Signal Devices STANDATA
The new Standata for visual signals has been issued. The Standata provides clarification that visual devices are required in all rooms within commercial or industrial buildings, while residential buildings will require a minimum of one device in each suite. This device should be located within the main living area and not within the bedroom.

Question: Are visual signals required in a bedroom for hearing impaired?
Answer: Not required in the bedrooms of a Group-C as persons with a hearing impairment as it was suggested persons with hearing impairment may have additional measures to assist in the event of an emergency (vibrating pillow, vibrating Bed, etc.) Do we have anything to confirm this?

Question: Why does the Standata provide less protection in a bedroom when this area is considered by most to be the area of greatest need?
Answer: When the code changes were proposed, the proposal was directed towards providing additional protection in all buildings rather than just those designed for the hearing impaired. The proposal suggested requiring a device be required within the suite, which is a step higher in safety. However, the proposal was not directed towards requiring that the device be located within the bedroom area.

Ventilation of Storage Garages
Question: Ventilation of a storage garage what are the requirements and how do we know they have been met?
**Answer:** If there are concerns a consult with the local municipal building official confirming the design of the ventilation system was code compliant at the time that the building was constructed.
AMA Regional SCO Meeting

Building Break-Out Session
12:30pm – 4:00 pm

Facilitator: Stephanie Martin, AMA
Mike Hill, AMA

Meeting Minutes

General Updates from AMA

Chief Building Administrator
AMA has a new Chief Building Administrator. His name is Paul Chang. Paul comes from the Codes Development team previously and has been in the industry and working on several committees for more than 25 years.

Harmonization of the Code
With the adoption of the 2014 ABC, AMA had anticipated that Alberta would be harmonizing with the 2015 NBC, and adopting the next edition of the NBC in Alberta in early 2018. At this time, the question has been raised from the Building Sub-Council if a Code is needed for 2018, or if we should postpone harmonization with the NBC until the 2020 NBC.

Mobile Cooking Operations STANDATA (Food Trucks) (MCO)
A STANDATA has been drafted by the Fire CFA to address MCO’s and their application to the Building, Fire, Electrical, Plumbing and Gas codes. The draft has been passed through all the sub-councils for comment, and is awaiting final drafting and review before it is issued. This STANDATA will require that MCO’s, although not considered to fall under the definition of a “building”, should be reviewed for compliance to the ABC for items such as ventilation and suppression.

2014 New Standata Updates

Energy Code Presentation Tom Lauder. BSc, SCO, City of Calgary
See “AMA Regional Presentation 9.36 – Calgary & fort McMurray” PPT Presentation on Safety Codes Council website

The enforcement of the energy efficiency requirements have been addressed in Calgary by
  • Increasing compliance by education with the builders and tradesmen, and by requiring an
  • Increase level of administrative requirements, better drawings and details for the construction in the field.

Biggest issue is understanding the difference between nominal RSI and the Effective RSI.
  • Nominal RSI – is the thermal resistance value of one material in an assembly. (insulation batt)
• Effective RSI – provides the thermal resistance value of all components the make-up an assembly. (insulation batt, exterior cladding, wood studs, sheathing, etc.)

Modeling
• Model documentation (calculations and details) needs to meet the construction documents.
• APA advanced framing techniques make the assumption that all supporting members are inline and that there are no deviations. It also requires that no cripples are installed around openings, which goes against ABC requirements.
• Energy modelling is as complicated as the floor joist system and roof truss system but there is no requirement for training or qualifications.
• Hot 2000, most common program used for modelling, but outputs more information then any other software on the market.
• Reference house is compared to the code but the model house should be referenced to the construction drawings (how it is to be built).

General Comments
• Compressed insulation batt has an RSI rating of 0.
• Red tuck tape is approved for the use with Tyvek and blue tuck tape is approved for poly to poly connections.
• A home with a daycare facility may require being compliant to the NECB not 9.36.

*** MEETING AJOURNED ***
AMA Regional SCO Meeting

Fire Break-Out Session
12:30pm – 4:00 pm

Facilitator: Tina Parker, AMA

Meeting Minutes

Discussion Topics / Questions
See PowerPoint Presentation entitled “AMA Fire Break-Out Session PowerPoint” on the Safety Codes Council website

- Community and Technical Support (Organizational Scope)
- STANDATA
- S.A.F.E. Registry
- Harmonization
- Food Trucks Presentation

*** MEETING AENDED ***
AMA Regional SCO Meeting
Electrical Break-Out Session
12:30pm – 4:00 pm
Facilitator: Clarence Cormier, AMA

Meeting Minutes

AMA STANDATA Updates
Clarence Cormier, AMA
For PPT Presentation, please see “AMA Regional Meeting 2017” on the Safety Codes Council website

- Chief Electrical Inspector now called Electrical Administrator
- AMA Electrical Staff organization chart
- Automatic Code Adoption explained
  - AEUC adopted May 1, 2017
- STANDATA INTRODUCTION – JANUARY 2016
- PROVINCIAL INFORMATION BULLETINS housekeeping, and changes explained
  - CE Code, Section 2 – General Rules
  - CE Code, Section 6 – Services, Feeders, and Service Equipment
  - CE Code, Section 8 – Circuit Loading and Demand Factors
  - CE Code, Section 10 – Grounding and Bonding
  - CE Code, Section 12 – Wiring Methods
  - CE Code, Section 18 – Hazardous Locations
  - CE Code, Section 24 – Patient Care Areas
  - CE Code, Section 32 - Fire Alarm Systems, Fire Pumps and Carbon Monoxide Alarms
  - CE Code, Section 60 - Electrical Communication Systems
  - CE Code, Section 62 – Fixed Electric Space and Surface Heating Systems

- PROVINCIAL VARIANCES
  - CE Code Rule 6-112 Attachment of overhead service conductors
  - CE Code Rule 10-700 Grounding electrodes – Number of rods

- STAYING CURRENT
  - Alberta Municipal Affairs - Electrical Safety Codes Officers
  - Staying Current in the Electrical Loop
  - How to Stay Current in the Electrical Industry
  - Electrical Inspectors Association of Alberta
  - Safety Codes Act
  - Electrical Code Regulation
  - Electrical Codes
  - STANDATA subscription

2017 SUBMISSIONS
- Electrical Equipment Manufactured or Built in Alberta
- Bathroom Luminaires
- Non-Metallic Outlet Boxes
- In-Situ Modification
- Wireless Switches
- High Voltage Cable Ampacity
- EMT and Luminaire Support
- Outdoor Receptacles
- Hotels/Motels with cooking facilities
- Grounding
- Arc Fault Protection
- No new items we brought forward from floor.

*** MEETING AJOURNED ***
AMA Regional SCO Meeting

Plumbing, Gas & PSDS Break-Out Session
12:30pm – 4:00 pm

Facilitator: Sidney Manning, AMA
Joe Petryk, AMA

Meeting Minutes

Discussion Topics / Questions
- Furnaces used for temporary or construction heat.
- 75-foot hose length for construction heaters
- Water reuse, including the Standata for toilets, urinals, subsurface irrigation as identified in the 2015 NPC
- Venting emergency floor drains

- Private Sewage SOP Update/status-concerns
- PSDS and water well separation distances
- Uncertified appliances, field approvals and the B149.3
- Gas engines and turbines
- Plumbing code regulation-automatic code adoption, removal of all existing amendments
- Fueling stations-LNG, CNG, hydrogen, propane. Does the local authority having jurisdiction understand their responsibilities and the requirements for a B149.1 permit?

- PSDS Certification status of Installers

Meeting Minutes

Concerns regarding Engineers offering non-compliant PSDS systems designs.

Electrical Conductors and Gas Services in the Same Trench

Gas sub-service lines (i.e., house to garage) are an owner responsibility under the gas code regulation and when electrical conductors are installed in the same trench, it is recommended that the two systems be separated by 300mm of well tamped earth or a 50mm treated plank. More info at Electrical Standata:

**Question:** Should/could SCOs accept/request a VOC for PSDS that are buried at the time of inspection? What about photos and a VOC?

**Answer:** There is a practice in industry to have contractors provide photo evidence for compliance purposes. It would be incumbent of the Municipality or ASCA to set out in policy that this would meet the intent of the compliance monitoring requirements of the QMP. In this matter of inspections after the installation is covered has been an issue of ages due to the logistics of
requests for inspection and time sensitive installation regarding weather conditions and installation practices. Further review of this matter is required.

Gas generators, compressors/pressure boosters, stationary engines, and turbines are included in the B149.1 Gas Code.

Furnaces installed in new homes are not designed to be used as construction heaters.

Online AMA PSDS templates are out of date.

Radon piping is being installed/roughed-in in some homes. The type of piping that should be used has not been specified.

The maximum length of a hose used for a construction heater is 75 feet, or the owner could request a variance from local Authority to use a longer hose. A variance would have to be in writing, and in a format described by the SCC. Hose length is not a distance measurement as per the SCC policy, so the Administrator would not be involved.

When an old PSDS system fails, the local AHJ would follow-up on compliance issues. This is more common in accredited jurisdictions. MA and ASCA are still working out roles on compliance issues in unaccredited jurisdictions.

The gasfitter is required to perform an air test on a gas line installation. The Gas SCO is not required to witness the air test. The uniform QMP requires a minimum of 2 inspections (rough-in and final) for Single Family Residential or Farm Buildings.

Owners can be Ordered to have their property comply with the SCA.

AHJ can require installers provide proof their Trade Certificate is valid.

An online link to the list of PSDS Certified Installers is at: http://www.municipalaffairs.alberta.ca/CP_PrivateSewageContractorList

An individual with a PS Certificate can take out a permit for PSDS systems, and for the installations of low-pressure mains. The holder of an RPS Certificate can take out permits for holding tanks only. A holder of an R Certificate is eligible to obtain permits to install sewer and water services if required by a municipality.

A Certification Review Committee has been established to PSDS installers. SCO’s are encouraged to report any issues with installers to MA’s attention.

Lab Soil Evaluation need to include “stamped reports” to help ensure validity of the soil information.

Should there be a time-limit for PSDS test pits? Soil profiles should not change over time. Test pit soil horizons need to be identified.

Water wells are required to be abandoned in compliance with the Water Act, Water Regulation. The Regulation can be viewed online at: http://www.qp.alberta.ca/1266.cfm?page=1998_205.cfm&leg_type=Regs&isbncln=9780779788576
*** MEETING AJOURNED ***