



DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY AND FIRE PROTECTION
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WILDFIRE PROTECTION BUILDING CONSTRUCTION “CBC CHAPTER 7A” TASK FORCE MEETING NOTES – SEPTEMBER 8, 2016

Attendees:

Greg Andersen
David Bueche
Ethan Foote
Steven Hawks
Bill Hendricks
Andrew Henning
Fred Hilliard
Marcelo Hirschler
Cal Lewis
Don Oaks
Ryan Masterson
John Simontacchi
Steve Quarles
John Westfall

Via Phone:

Eric Banks
Kathy Butler
Dwight Good
Joseph Hetzel
Roger LeBrun
Mark Mondragon
Chad Moxley
Nancy Springer
Stuart Tom
David Tyree
Dwight Good
Edith Hannigan

AGENDA TOPICS

1. Welcome

Andrew Henning called the meeting to order and welcomed everyone to the meeting. Members participating via teleconference were asked to email their contact information to Andrew Henning.

2. Task Force Overview / Rulemaking Process

Andrew Henning provided a status of the task force. Due to the limited amount of time the task force had to complete this report for submittal into the supplemental code cycle, the task force decided to focus on the items that are less controversial. Phase II of this task force will reconvene in January to go after the items that the task force was not able to reach a consensus on during this cycle. All items finalized today will be considered to be brought into the supplement of the 2016 California Building Standards, which go into effect July 1, 2018. Any item that does not reach a consensus today or on the final report will be considered for the 2019 California Building Standards, which goes into effect January 1, 2020. The final report will be reviewed internally by the OSFM senior management, and then sent to the Acting State Fire Marshal for final review and determination on what to move forward to the California Building Standards Commission (BSC). A pre-rulemaking workshop is tentatively scheduled for November 8, 2016 at the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) office. The workshop will display the entire rulemaking that will be submitted to BSC in December. In February, BSC will have a code advisory committee

workshop, which is a public, open hearing at BSC. Based on comments and recommendations at the code advisory committee workshop, OSFM will review and amend the rulemaking package. A 45 day public comment period will follow. Once all public comments have been addressed and closed, BSC will receive the rulemaking package for public hearing. If approved by BSC, the package will go into publication from September to December 30, 2017. The code will go into effect six months later on July 1, 2018.

3. Phase I Report / Subgroup Updates

The report that was sent out on Friday generated some comments from task force members that will need to be addressed today in order to move the items forward.

Acknowledgments

Task force members who were not on the Acknowledgments section were added. Task force members who were on the teleconference were asked to email their name, who they are representing, and who they work for to Andrew Henning if they wanted to be included or needed an edit to their name.

Task Force Overview, History and Scope

Andrew Henning asked if any task force members had any issues with the Task Force Overview, History and Scope section. In the Task Force Scope, the task force discussed comments from Roger LeBrun regarding skylights. The new text proposed by Cal Lewis was moved to the rationale. The task force had no other comments for this section.

Recommendations

Skylights

The task force added two paragraphs to clearly outline the skylight problem and address what and why changes are needed. The task force discussed comments that were made in the document for this section but made no substantial changes to the text. In Appendix B – Future Task Force Items, the task force suggested that a realistic wildfire ember exposure test be developed to address operable skylights. It was also suggested that prescriptive alternatives and solutions for operable skylights be explored until a performance test is developed.

Garage Doors

The Wildland Urban Interface codes are much more different from the international code in that there are no garage door requirements in the international code. The task force discussed the comments suggested from Steve Quarles in regards to the use of the word “prevention” and replaced it with “resist.” The gap size between the door and door openings is reduced to 1/8 inch due to tests and studies that shows ember intrusion at openings of ¼ inch. Further discussion on gaps and weather stripping will continue into Phase II. Minor editorial changes were made to the garage doors section under Appendix B – Future Task Force Items.

Accessory Structures

The task force reviewed the Accessory Structures section and made minor editorial changes. The goal of this section was to clarify what is already required and making it easier for the user to enforce.

Referenced Standards

The task force accepted the proposed language suggested by John Woestman. OSFM will not be retiring the SFM standards out of Part 12. Until the Fire Engineering Division makes the decision to possibly phase out the SFM standards, both standards will be maintained. The word “replicates” were replaced with “tests.” The proposal to require a test for top and bottom surfaces in Section 704A.3 was removed until further discussion in Phase II. Andrew Henning and Chief Greg Andersen will look at the code change histories for Section 706A.2 to evaluate why this section is in the Residential Code but not the Building Code. If the evaluation show that this is an erratum, and should be in the Building Code, this proposal with amendments will be moved forward. Sections 707A.3.1 and 707A.9 were revised to remove “triplicate.” Other comments were discussed and minor editorial changes were made throughout this entire section.

General Cleanup

Items repeated in this section were removed because they were addressed elsewhere in the report.

Conclusion

The task force added a conclusion that stated that the task force evaluated several items including skylights, accessory structures, garage doors, and reference standards with many of the proposed changes being minor or editorial. The task force is recommended to resume in 2017 to address other outstanding issues.

Appendix A – Proposed Code Changes to the CRC

Andrew Henning will recopy and paste all of Appendix A due to the changes throughout the Recommendations.

Appendix B – Future Task Force Items

This will be the starting point for brainstorming in January when Phase II begins. Anyone who wants to include items in Appendix B should email it to Andrew Henning by noon on September 12th.

4. Action Items

Andrew Henning and Chief Greg Andersen will discuss and determine when to schedule the meeting in January for Phase II. A typical meeting would be once a month from 9AM-4PM, with meetings planned well in advance. Andrew Henning will send out this latest report that was worked on today to the task force members, but any further comments and editorial changes will likely not be accepted since it did not get consensus from the task force. Anyone interested in receiving updates on the Title 19 or Title 24 rulemaking updates should subscribe to OSFM Code Development and Analysis E-News listserv. Two weeks before the OSFM pre-rulemaking workshop in November, an email with an agenda and link to all of the code packages will be sent to the members who subscribed to the E-News and those on the OSFM master roster.