



STATE OF WASHINGTON

STATE BUILDING CODE COUNCIL

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Mechanical Code Technical Advisory Group Meeting Review Notes for May 12, 2022

TAG Members Present: Caroline Traube, TAG Chair; Nancy Bernard; Valerie Graber; Mike Lubliner; *Jonathan Jones; Chris McCarthy; Andrea Smith; Brandon Stock; Jeff Yirak

TAG Members Absent: Mark Raebel, Tom Jensen

Visitors Present: Mallorie Davies, Mike Fowler, Ly Ho, Megan McPhaden, Tena Risley, Eric Vander Mey

Staff: Krista Braaksma, Annette Haworth

Agenda Items	TAG Actions
1. Welcome and Introductions	The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. Roll was called, and introductions made.
2. Review and Approve Agenda	The agenda was approved as written.
3. Review and Approve January 13 Minutes	The meeting notes of the January 13, 2022 , meeting were approved as written.
4. Review of Submitted Code Change Proposals	Caroline Traube provided a brief introduction on the process and where we are right now. She also noted there were still vacant positions for representation from fire marshals, utilities and trade association. The TAG is scheduled to meet Thursdays in May, and in early June if necessary to complete the review of proposals. The TAG will present their recommendations to the Mechanical, Ventilation and Energy Codes Committee in June, then the Committee will report to the Council. The Council will then determine what will go into the proposed rule for the 2021 code and public hearings will be scheduled.
087	This proposal by Austin Bonnes was introduced by Eric Vander Mey. The state amendment calls for ready access for appliances installed above a ceiling, which is not possible. It is questionable in the second sentence if the code is requiring ready access to the panel or removable ceiling tile, or to the appliance itself. After some TAG discussion, Eric agreed to come back with clearer language for the second sentence.

	<p>Motion: Val Graber moved to table the proposal. Andrea Smith seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposing votes.</p>
<p>019</p>	<p>Val Graber introduced this proposal from the City of Bellevue attempting to address transformer exhaust in the IMC. The base code doesn't mention transformer exhaust and it's linked in the state amendment to garage exhaust. Transformer exhaust is potentially more dangerous than garage exhaust. The proposal directs the user to NFPA 70 and eliminates the options of within 3 feet of a walkway or beneath a walkway. The TAG spent some time cleaning up the language but agreed with the premise.</p> <p>Motion: Chris McCarthy moved to recommend approval as modified. Jeff Yirak seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposing votes.</p>
<p>086 / 098</p>	<p>These two proposals were discussed together. Austin Bonnes (086) and Mike Fowler (098) submitted very similar language addressing the ability to provide higher filtration capability in response to wildfire smoke and other pollutants. Mike Fowler noted that his proposal also took into account airborne infectious aerosol particulates based on an ASHRAE epidemiology study. Mike noted his proposals initially left out the exception due to the ASHRAE task force's recommendation that recirculated air be passed through a MERV 13 minimum filter. After discussion with Austin, he revised his proposal to limit the use of the exception. Eric Vander Mey noted that this wasn't addressed in Section 605.4 because that would mandate the use of MERV 13 filters, but this just adds the capability to use a MERV 13 filter when necessary to address smoke and other pollutant concerns.</p> <p>One of the concerns expressed was that the filter size would impact the amount of air delivered. Expanding the scope to cover issues other than smoke infiltration would require some further economic analysis.</p> <p>Motion: Valerie Graber moved to recommend approval as modified for 21-GP2-086. Jeff Yirak seconded the motion. The motion carried with no opposing votes.</p> <p>Motion: Nancy Bernard moved to table 21-GP2-098. Valerie Graber seconded the motion. The motion carried.</p>
<p>075</p>	<p>Eric Vander Mey introduced this proposal to clarify the "pass through rule" for ducts penetrating fire partitions and fire barriers. He attempted to establish criteria for when a duct can transition into flex duct outside of the pass through area.</p>

	<p>Caroline pointed out there were changes in the 2021 code that affect this section of the IMC that are not addressed in the proposal. Eric agreed to revise the proposal and return.</p> <p>Motion: Valerie Graber moved to table the proposal. Nancy Bernard seconded the motion. The motion carried.</p>
074	<p>In this proposal, Eric Vander Mey is bringing in language to reference NFPA standards for standby power systems as cited in the building code. He noted the section numbering would need to be corrected.</p> <p>Val noted that the option section should reference NFPA 37 rather than 110. It was also noted they would need to be added to the Reference Standards chapter.</p> <p>Motion: Val Graber moved to recommend approval as modified. Jeff Yirak seconded the motion. The motion carried.</p>
078	<p>Eric Vander Mey introduced his proposal to correlate fuel oil vent pipe requirements between NFPA 30 and the IMC.</p> <p>Valerie Graber noted the new building openings definition conflicted with the IBC. She also noted this section is also in the IFC in 5704 with the 5 foot distance.</p> <p>Motion: Nancy Bernard moved to recommend approval as modified. Val Graber seconded the motion. The motion carried.</p>
001	<p>The proponent was not on hand to address some of the concerns the TAG had about this proposal. The concerns include: is this a specific Washington state issue or a common issue and the fact that the standard title is Natural Gas Distribution Systems and is it appropriate to have within this table.</p> <p>Motion: Nancy Bernard moved to table the proposal. Val Graber seconded the motion. The motion carried.</p>
5. Adjourn	The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Attachment: [Updated Proposal Log](#)