

UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE ADVISORY BOARD

Minutes of Meeting, June 10, 2022

Meeting held Electronically via Microsoft Teams

Attendance

Board Members

Beth Pochtar, Chair
Doug Boydston
John Del Colle
Kathy Herity
Art Londensky
Ken Krug for Tony Neibert
Bob Mellohusky
Greg Moten
Tom Polino for Steve Rodzinak
Michael Seeve
Valerie Waricka
Michelle Wood

Members Absent: Mark Caputo; Henry Kelly; Tony Neibert; Steve Rodzinak; Michael Seeve

DCA staff

Edward Smith, Director, Division of Codes and Standards
Robert Austin
Scott Borsos
Marie Daniels
John Delesandro
Justin Henry
Keith Makai
Anthony Menafro
Thomas Pitcherello
Dan Tober
Chrystene Wyluda

Public Attendees

Please note that, due to the virtual meeting, public attendees joined using a conference call telephone number, and only those in attendance who announced themselves will be listed herein.

Ms. Beth Pochtar, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

A. Approval of Minutes of the Code Advisory Board Meeting April 8, 2022

Mr. Art Londensky made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. John Del Colle, to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

B. Subcode Committee Reports

Barrier Free Subcode Committee – Mr. John Del Colle reported that no meeting was held.

Building Subcode Committee – Ms. Michelle Wood reported that no meeting was held.

Elevator Subcode Committee – Mr. Doug Boydston reported that the Committee met once to discuss flood switch language and the potential for a Construction Code Communicator article to address this issue, additionally, the Committee reviewed changes to the 2017 A18.

Electrical Subcode Committee – Mr. Ken Krug reported that the Committee met twice to discuss upcoming agenda items and potential ordinary maintenance and minor work changes that will be detailed in the next meeting.

Fire Protection Subcode Committee – Mr. Art Londensky reported that no meeting was held.

Mechanical/Energy – Mr. Bob Mellohusky reported that no meeting was held.

Plumbing Subcode Committee – Mr. Steve Rodzinak reported that no meeting was held.

C. Old Business

There was no old business.

D. New Business

1. Building Subcode and Electrical Subcode update – Special Inspections and Informational Notes; N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.20, 3.14 and 3.16 – Draft Rule

Mr. Robert Austin introduced this item, along with Bulletin 03-5 and explained that since 2000, there has not been an overhaul and update. Multiple deficiencies were found in the building subcode regarding the improper use of building official and construction official and this draft rule is proposed to ensure consistency of the subcode with the UCC. This will also apply to 5:23-2.20 of the UCC because of the lack of inclusion regarding special inspections, as specificity and format correction were needed to the reference of mass timber elements for IV-A, IV-B, and IV-C construction.

Additionally, in 5:23-3.14, changes to the electrical subcode informational notes are proposed, Mr. Robert Austin referenced a bulletin that showed which informational notes are enforceable. The Electrical Subcode Committee looked carefully into those Informational Notes, and Mr. Robert Austin stated that when the notes first began, the Department adopted them as a Formal Technical Opinion, and over time, the requirements included in the Fine Print Notes (now Informational Notes) were then brought into the model code editions. The NEC itself also says that Informational Notes are not enforceable. The Department would like to come in line with the NEC and wants the bulletin revised to state that the Informational Notes are purely information, rather than regulatory. The Department would also like to amend the text of the electrical subcode as well to reference this.

Mr. Greg Moten noted in regard to special inspections within Chapter 17, “registered design professional” does not line up with the language of the current edition of the subcode and should be amended to state “person in responsible charge.”

Ms. Michelle Wood made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Greg Moten, to approve the draft rule as amended by discussion

Mr. Robert Austin then stated that the related Bulletin 03-5, concerning special inspections will also be amended to incorporate the new special inspection requirements and updated links. This amendment also removed the table from the code to aid in clarity and adds three examples to help differentiate and explain the applicability of the Bulletin.

Ms. Michelle Wood made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Greg Moten, to approve the related Bulletin 03-5 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Additional Bulletin Updates

-Bulletin 19-2, Energy Subcode compliance (currently Bulletin 22-1 and includes Form F392)-

Mr. Robert Austin introduced this item that proposes a small update to show that the ASCE has a link to the aforementioned updates related to Bulletin 03-5 and Bulletin 22-1, which is the current updated version of this Bulletin. He notes that the residential table is edited for clarity and updated with the new numbers and presented differently to be more user friendly. Additionally, energy efficiency package information, inspection for envelope tightness, and a revised air barrier insulation checklist are included.

Ms. Beth Pochtar commented that on page 5, in the section referencing duct pipes, that she believed the Department did not require the leakage requirement as it was voted down. However, she was informed that the Code Advisory Board did vote it down, but the Commissioner overruled this vote to align with the Energy Master Plan.

The Committee discussed this Bulletin and stated that they would like to refer it to the Building and the Mechanical/Energy Subcode Committees for discussion and clarity.

-Bulletin 19-3, Informational Notes-

Mr. Robert Austin introduced a proposed update to Bulletin 19-3 that would explain how informational notes are background information and not enforceable. The update would state that if the Informational Notes need to be applied, then Article 695 within the NEC would explain what sections of NFPA would apply.

Ms. Michelle Wood made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Art Londensky, to approve the related Bulletin 19-3 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

-Bulletin 19.1, Design loads

Mr. Robert Austin introduced a proposed update to Bulletin 19-3 to include a reference to direct users to ASCE provisions for design loads regarding snow on roofs.

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Ms. Beth Pochtar questioned whether other counties need to send case studies as only counties we encountered were included, and if the Department will update if additional case studies are completed or if to include Bulletin 94-8. Mr. Robert Austin commented that the update was done to direct users to the appropriate sources, but the Department will include information in the Fall Construction Code Communicator detailing the updated bulletins and to inform the Department if there is an applicable case study for their area. Ms. Beth Pochtar stated that this would be very helpful.

Ms. Michelle Wood made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Art Lodensky, to approve the related Bulletin 19-1 as written. The motion carried unanimously.

E. Information

Mr. Robert Austin took a moment to wish Mr. Tom Pitcherello, plumbing subcode official, well in his retirement after serving the Department for 23 years. The Committee took this time to congratulate Mr. Pitcherello and thank him for his service to the Department.

F. Public Comments

Mr. Alex Palmer, Sustainable South Jersey, commented that he had solar panels installed on his roof. However, the plumbing on roof interfered with the placement of the panels. He noted that recently, the International Plumbing Code (IPC) was revised to allow installation of solar panels over roof plumbing. He was aware of the recent discussion on past Committee meetings concerning switching to IPC versus the National Standard Plumbing Code (NSPC) and that the State went with NSPC. He believes that the NSPC does not accommodate installation of solar panels in the same fashion as the IPC and that adoption of the IPC would encourage more solar installations.

Mr. Robert Austin stated that they spoke on the phone and explained that Appendix E has the design portion for NSPC, which could permit solar panels over plumbing vents. The solar panels must be listed and labeled to be applicable for this installation. Certain manufactured items do allow for solar panels over vents and there are systems that have been developed to accommodate solar panels where roof vents are present. If necessary, a Construction Code Communicator article based on this information to help guide users to the appropriate resources will be published.

Ms. Beth Pochtar questioned the accuracy that it allows solar panels on top of vents.

Mr. Tom Polino, who sits on standard Committees explained that solar panels were never allowed on top vents.

Mr. Tom Pitcherello commented that one of the problems in many solar panel designs is that the clearance is not determined until after installation and further review of codes and Committee discussions may be necessary.

G. Adjourn

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Mr. Art Londensky made a motion, which was seconded by Mr. Greg Moten, to adjourn. The motion carried unanimously; the meeting was adjourned at 10:15 a.m.