

Meeting Minutes: Ad-Hoc Code Review & Rulemaking Committee

Date: January 14, 2019
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Location: Minnesota Room, Department of Labor and Industry
443 Lafayette Road No., St. Paul, MN 55117-4344

Committee Members Present

John Flagg
Mike Herman
Rick Jacobs (chair)
Cathy Tran

Committee Members Absent

Richard Becker

DLI Staff & Visitors

Suzanne Todnem, General Counsel (DLI)
Jim Peterson (DLI)
Brad Jensen (DLI)
Mike Johnson (J. Berd)
Matt Marciniak (IAPMO)
Trevor Ogilvie (City of Minneapolis)
David Radziej (Metro PHCC)
Tom Pahkala (UA Plumbers Local 15)
Dave Wagner (Plumbing Board member)
Gary Schick (City of Rochester)
Alex Bentley (MDH)
Stephanie Manning (MUCA) – via teleconference
Cliff Davidson – via teleconference
Scott Thompson (My Plumbing Training) – via teleconference

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jacobs at 9:17 a.m. Introductions and housekeeping announcements were made. Attendance was taken; a quorum was met with 4 of 5 members present.

2. Approval of meeting agenda

Agenda amended to move Approval of Previous Meeting Minute after Special Business, and renumber accordingly.

A motion to approve agenda as amended by Herman, seconded by Flagg. The vote was unanimous with four votes in favor; the motion carried.

3. Regular Business

Approval of Expense Reports – Jacobs approved the expenses as presented.

4. Special Business

Review RFAs submitted to the Committee related to the 2018 Uniform Plumbing Code, chapters 4-6, as time permits.

Chapter 4

- A. Multiple RFAs, PB0083, PB0099, PB0101 and PB0110, regarding section 414.3. Drainage Connection.

Proposal: Delete “through an air gap fitting in accordance with Section 807.4” in section 414.3 and delete section 807.4.

The RFAs state that the air gaps are not necessary, that there is no history of a domestic dishwashing machine backing contaminated water into the machine and causing illness.

The RFAs refer to section 807.4, Domestic Dishwashing Machines, but that section has been renumbered 807.3 in the 2018 UPC.

This air gap requirement was not required prior to 2016 in the MN Plumbing Code.

Other national standards do not require an air gap only and instead also allow the discharge line to be looped up and securely fastened to the counter or deck-mounted. For example, the 2015 and 2018 National Standard Plumbing Code. Two methods are allowed – the air gap fitting or the looped method.

Recommendation: add language to sections 414.3 and 807.3, “or run the discharge line as high as possible under the countertop, securely fastened.” The Committee agreed that this proposed amendment should be forwarded to the Board for consideration.

414.3 Drainage Connection. Domestic dishwashing machines shall discharge indirectly through an air gap fitting in accordance with Section 807.3 into a waste receptor, a wye branch fitting on the tailpiece of a kitchen sink, or dishwasher connection of a food waste disposer; or run the discharge line as high as possible under the countertop, securely fastened. Commercial dishwashing machines shall discharge indirectly through an air break or direct connection. The indirect discharge for commercial dishwashing machines shall be in accordance with Section 807.1, and the direct discharge shall be in accordance with Section 704.3.

807.3 Domestic Dishwashing Machine. No domestic dishwashing machine shall be directly connected to a drainage system or food disposer without the use of an approved dishwasher air gap fitting on the discharge side of the dishwashing machine; or run the discharge line as high as possible under the countertop, securely fastened. Listed air gaps shall be installed with the flood-level (FL) marking at or above the flood level of the sink or drainboard, whichever is higher.

Chapter 5

- A. RFA PB0102 was submitted by the Department of Labor and Industry, Cathy Tran and contained the following proposals:
1. Proposal: Amend Minn. R. 4714.0501 to use 2018 UPC section 501.1 language, with some exclusions.

The RFA proposes using 2018 UPC section 501.1 language but with some exclusions; the exclusions refer to chimneys, vents and their connectors because those topics are not plumbing. This 2018 UPC language would not be included because chimneys, vents and their connectors are addressed in the Mechanical Code (chapter 1346).

Recommendation: to send the RFA proposal to the full Board.

2. Proposal: Amend Minn. R. 4714.0504, subp.2 to add Discharge piping shall be installed in accordance with Section 608.5.

Relief valve discharge had been relocated to section 608.5 in the 2018 UPC. This proposal is a clarification to assist the code user. There is an RFA that proposes amending the Minnesota modification of section 608.5 and reverting a majority of the language to 2018 UPC language. The Committee reviewed the current rule language in 608.5 and the 2018 UPC language; the Committee likes the 2018 UPC language.

There is “[NFPA 54: 10.28.5]” at the end of the rule part. It is an outdated NFPA reference to a standard that is no longer supported. The 2018 UPC references a different NFPA section.

Recommendation: recommend the proposed change to the Board and delete the [NFPA 54: 10.28.5] language from the rule part. Committee also supports using 2018 UPC language from 608.5.

The installation of temperature, pressure, and vacuum relief devices, or combinations thereof, shall be installed in accordance with the terms of their listings and the manufacturer’s installation instructions. A shutoff valve shall not be placed between the relief valve and the water heater or on discharge pipes between the valves and the atmosphere. The hourly British thermal units (Btu) (kW-h) discharge capacity or the rated steam relief capacity of the device shall be not less than the input rating of the water heater. Discharge piping shall be installed in accordance with Section 608.5.

3. Proposal: Amend Minn. R. 4714.507, subp. 2 regarding Relief Valve Discharge, to replace the Minnesota amendment and use 2018 UPC language.

“Relief valve discharge” has been moved to section 608.5 in the 2018 UPC (as compared to the 2012 UPC). This proposal is in response to that change.

Effectively, the proposal suggests to repeal subpart 2. Revisor would then delete “Subpart 1.” in rule part 4714.0507.

Recommendation: delete Minn. R. 4714.0507, subpart 2, thereby making section 507.5 the 2018 UPC language, which is:

Drainage Pan. Where a water heater is located in an attic, in or on an attic ceiling assembly, floor-ceiling assembly, or floor-subfloor assembly where damage results from a leaking water heater, a watertight pan of corrosion-resistant materials shall be installed beneath the water

heater not less than ¾ of an inch (20mm) diameter drain to an approved location. Such pan shall be not less than 1 ½ inches (38mm) in depth.

4. Proposal: Amend Minn. R. 4714.0508 to effectively use 2018 UPC language for 508.4 Appliances in Attics and Under-Floor Spaces, and maintain deletion of sections 508.0 to 508.3.3.

2018 UPC section 508.4 allows water heaters to be located in ceilings, attics and crawlspaces, which is currently not allowed in the Minnesota Plumbing Code. The Fuel Gas Code (chapter 1346), that is, the non-plumbing portions of water heaters, allows them to be in ceilings, attics and crawlspaces. The proposal requires certain conditions be met. The Committee is in favor of this allowance.

Recommendation: to recommend this proposal as is to the Board.

5. Proposal: Amend Minn. R. 4714.0509 to include deletion of UPC section 509.15, Venting Of Appliances

The current rule deletes UPC sections 509.0 to 509.14. The 2018 UPC adds a section 509.15 that is not in the 2012 UPC, which should also be deleted because this is all addressed by the Mechanical and Fuel Gas Code in chapter 1346.

Recommendation: to recommend deletion of section 509 in its entirety, including 509.15, of the 2018 UPC.

- B. Review PB0104. Proposal: Delete UPC sections 509.0 through 510.2.27 in their entirety.

Section 509 was addressed in the previous discussion and is consistent with this proposal.

This proposal also deletes section 510 in its entirety. Section 510 is already deleted in Minn. R. 4714.0510 so no further amendment is necessary.

Recommendation: There is no further action required; nothing to send to the Board for consideration.

- C. Minn. R. 4714.0511 deletes UPC section 511; there is no section 511 in the 2018 UPC. Therefore, this rule part should be deleted.

Recommendation: delete Minn. R. 4714.0511.

5. Approval of previous meeting minutes

A motion to approve December 10, 2018, draft minutes as presented by Tran, seconded by Jacobs. Flagg and Herman abstained from the vote. The meeting minutes were approved.

6. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Flagg, seconded by Herman. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rick Jacobs".

Rick Jacobs
Committee Chair