

Commercial Energy Code TAG

Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Meeting Location: WebEx Event

Call to order:

Greg Metz

Attendance:

TAG Members present: Greg Metz (DLI), Chris Rosival (DLI), Julianne Laure (Mortenson), Brit McAdamis (AMBO), Ben Rabe (Fresh Energy), John Smith (Michaud Cooley Erickson), Barry Greive (Target Corp.), and Gerhard Guth (MNAIA)

Guests attending: Amanda Spuckler (DLI), Chad Payment (DLI), Steve Shold (DLI), Eileen McNiff (DLI), Rich Lockrem (DLI), Jeff Lebowski (DLI), James Smith, David Williams, Rachael Spires, Kyle Dimler, Gary Thaden, Jeffrey Mang, Richard Hauffe, Nicole Westfall, Russ Landry, Eric Lacey, Katherine Teiken, Diana Burk, Ardy Goudarzi, Mark Mikkelson, Pat McCullough, Barbara Conti, Katherine Edwards, Tim Daugherty

Worksheet and Code Change Proposal Review:

Minnesota Rules, part 1323.0100, subpart 2, Scope

The TAG reviewed the existing scoping for Minnesota Rules, chapter 1323 and the consensus was to include change of occupancy as a part of the scoping.

ASHRAE 90.1-2019, Section 2.2 Scope

The TAG reviewed the model code language and the consensus was to clarify that ASHRAE 90.1-2019 applies to the portions of buildings containing occupancy groups I-1, R-1, R-2, R-3, and R-4 when the entire composite building structure is three or fewer stories above grade.

Minnesota Rules, part 1323.0100, subpart 4, Change of occupancy of use

The TAG reviewed the current rule and consensus was to relocate this subpart to modify ASHRAE 90.1-2019 section 4.1.1. The TAG consensus was to amend this subpart to clarify that alterations made to spaces undergoing a change of occupancy must comply with the code.

Minnesota Rules, part 1323.0100, subpart 5, Change in space conditioning

The TAG consensus was to repeal this subpart because ASHRAE 90.1-2019 section 4.1.1.5 contains similar requirements.

Minnesota Rules, part 1323.0100, subpart 6, Compliance

The TAG consensus was to repeal this subpart because the requirements are contained in ASHRAE 90.1-2019, section 2 scoping requirements.

Minnesota Rules, part 1323.0100, subpart 7, Mixed occupancy

The TAG consensus was to repeal this subpart because provisions for mixed occupancies are addressed in ASHRAE 90.1-2019, section 2 and a proposed modification to section 4.1.1.

Minnesota Rules, part 1323.0100, subpart 10, Information on construction documents

The TAG consensus was to relocate the requirements of this subpart to modify ASHRAE 90.1-2019 section 4.2.5.1.1, which addresses information required on construction documents.

ASHRAE 90.1-2019, Section 3.2 Definitions

- Building entrance definition. The TAG consensus was not to modify this definition. The TAG considered modifying this definition to exclude exit doors but that could cause conflict with the accessibility code and requirements for secondary entrances and exits.

Proposed section 4.1.1.6 Mixed occupancy

The TAG reviewed a revised code change proposal to modify ASHRAE 90.1-2019 to include a section addressing mixed occupancy buildings. The TAG consensus was to accept the revised code change proposal that requires I-1, R-1, R-2, R-3 or R-4 occupancies in buildings three stories or less in height to comply with Minnesota Rules, chapter 1322, and the remaining occupancies to comply with chapter 1323.

Proposed section 4.1.1.7 Prohibition of heating public commercial parking garages

The TAG reviewed a code change proposal to modify ASHRAE 90.1-2019 to include a section referring to Minnesota Statutes, section 216C.20, which prohibits the heating of public commercial parking facilities. This code change was tabled for revision.

Proposed section 4.1.1.8 Change of occupancy or use

The TAG reviewed a code change proposal to add a section to address change of occupancy or use. The TAG consensus was to reject the code change proposal because a change of occupancy or use results in an alteration to a space and alterations are addressed in section 4.2.1.1.

4.2.1.3 Alterations to existing buildings

The TAG reviewed a revised code change proposal to modify section 4.2.1.3 to describe the extent to which an alteration to an existing building must comply to the code. The proposal also modifies the exception to require historical buildings to comply with the code to the greatest extent possible without requiring the alteration of elements or features determined to be historic. The TAG consensus was to accept the code change proposal.

4.2.5.1.1 Information on Building Permit Application

The TAG reviewed a code change proposal to modify this section by relocating Minnesota Rules, part 1323.0100, subpart 10, items A through N, to this section. The TAG consensus was to accept the code change proposal.

5.1.2.3 Space Conditioning

The TAG reviewed a code change proposal that requires unconditioned and semi-heated spaces to be equipped with an automatic fire sprinkler that is designed to operate in below freezing temperatures. Signs stating the maximum permissible BTU must be posted near the main entry location of the semi-heated space. The TAG consensus was to accept the code change proposal.

Section 5.1.3 Envelope Alterations

The TAG reviewed a code change proposal that modifies the exceptions to section 5.1.3. The proposed modification to exception 3 requires roof, wall, or floor cavities that are that are insulated to full depth with insulation having a minimum nominal value of R-3.0/inch to have either integral vapor retarder qualities or a membrane vapor retarder with properties that allow drying to the interior. The proposed modification exception 8 would delete that exception and replace it with an exception for elements of historical significance in historic buildings. The TAG consensus was to accept the modifications to exceptions 3 and 8.

The proposal also adds exception 9 that permits insulation that is above a roof deck to be replaced with insulation of less than the required R-value because of existing structural limitations or thickness limitations. The TAG consensus was to accept that part of proposed exception 9. The TAG consensus was to reject the parts of proposed exception 9 that requires roof insulation materials to be tested at 25°F and where the roof insulation does not comply with the minimum R-value requirements then that portion of the building is to comply with section 5.4.3.1.1 whole-building air leakage. The TAG consensus was to reject the proposed requirement that the insulation be tested at 25°F because insulation is typically tested at 75°F. The TAG consensus also rejected requiring compliance with section 5.4.3.1.1 when the roof insulation cannot comply with R-value requirements because it may be overly challenging for existing buildings to comply.

Minnesota Climate Zones

The climate zones for Minnesota were revised in ASHRAE 90.1-2019. A TAG member proposed discussing at the next meeting retaining the climate zones from ASHRAE 90.1-2016 and the existing Climatic Data Design Conditions table located in Minnesota Rules, part 1323.0403, subpart 1.

Next Meeting:

Date: February 16, 2021

Time: 9:00 AM

Location: WebEx Event

Meeting Adjourned: 11:03 AM

Prepared by: Greg Metz