

Window Cleaning Safety TAG

Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, July 18, 2023

Meeting Location: Hybrid – Washington Room/WebEx

Call to order:

Greg Metz

Attendance:

TAG Members present: Greg Metz (DLI), Eric Crone (professional window cleaners), Michael LaSage (professional window cleaner), Larry Farris (multi-family and mid/high rise commercial design), Ken Hines (contractors/professional installers), Dan Grinsteinner (AMBO), David Kegler (commercial contractors), Peter Haag (MN AIA), Scott Anderson (large municipalities)

TAG Members absent: Bob Spafford (cleaning logistics), Kris Marti (professional window cleaners), Rob Balsavich (DLI/MNOSHA)

Guests attending: Amanda Spuckler (DLI), Chad Payment (DLI), Jeff Lebowski (DLI), Dave Knudson, Jordan Duwenhoegger, Kyle Dimler

1. Call to order
2. Overview of data practices and Open Meeting Law
3. Reviewed draft code language for window cleaning safety. Discussion of specific draft sections is detailed below.

3114.1 Window cleaning methods and limitations.

The draft language requires compliance with ANSI/IWCA 1-14.1-2001 and addresses the support infrastructure needed to safely access windows. TAG members discussed the applicability of window cleaning safety requirements to existing buildings which would apply to a work area undergoing alteration. TAG members discussed if the scope is overly broad and if the language is extending into requirements for building maintenance.

3114.1.2 Extension devices

Extension devices are 30 feet in length and the window cleaner needs sufficient space to back when using the device as well as reach range. The position and size of work surface for extension devices will be revised to provide adequate space for their use.

3114.3 Portable ladders

The maximum height for the use of a ladder is 40 feet. The window cleaner may reach no more than 3 feet while positioned on a ladder. The section will be revised to reflect how ladders are used.

3114.4 Window cleaner's belts

Window cleaner's belts are seldom used to clean exterior window because they are cost prohibitive. The TAG members agreed the continued use of the method should be permitted for existing buildings but they cannot be replaced.

TAG members discussed the cleaning of windows in difficult to access interior locations such as atriums and stairwells. Discussion of whether fall hazard prevention when cleaning windows is within the scope of the building code. TAG members discussed adding an exception to section 3114.1 for interior windows that are 20 feet or less above the working surface.

3114.5 Manually propelled mobile scaffolds

TAG members discussed the height limitations of mobile scaffolding. The permitted height to base width ratio of the scaffolding is 2:1. The height restriction of scaffolding with 7 foot outriggers is 28 feet, with 6 foot outriggers the height restriction is 24 feet, and with 4 foot outriggers the height restriction is 16 feet. The TAG members recommended deleting section 3114.5.2 addressing access from where the mobile scaffolding is delivered to the deployment site.

3114.6 Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWP)

TAG members discussed the height limits of MEWP. There are many different types of equipment so the section will be revised to state capacity and outreach are limited by the manufacturer's requirements for the equipment.

Next Meeting:

Date: August 1, 2023

Time: 2:30 PM

Location: Hybrid – Washington Room/WebEx Event

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30 PM

Prepared by: Greg Metz