

**Construction Codes Advisory Board
Minutes of January 7, 2016**

Board Members present:

Greg Gilda
Lachlan Foss
Allan Wakeling

Charlie Beck
Eric Vander Mey

Board Members absent:

Rob Lane
Lily Iftner
Judy Tucker
Jim Safranek

Len Whalen
Steve Simpson
Joseph Malaspino
Loren Brandford

City Staff:

Maureen Traxler
Kathleen Petrie

Jon Siu

Minutes of December 17, 2015

CCAB unanimously approved the meeting minutes from December 17, 2015.

Review of 2015 Seattle Mechanical Code

The meeting began by continuing review of the proposed 2015 Seattle Mechanical Code.

Boilers and water heaters. Since the last meeting, Kathleen Petrie met with Eric Vander Mey, City staff and Health Department to iron out how “boiler” and “water heater” should be defined and regulated. The group recommended that we continue to use the definitions from the 2012 Mechanical Code but add to the “water heater” definition a statement that equipment that doesn’t fall within the definition is considered a boiler. Charlie Beck noted that the definition of “boiler” describes equipment that falls within the definition of “water heater.” The consensus was that the revised definitions are appropriate. The same definitions would be used in the Mechanical, Fuel Gas and Residential codes.

Another change related to water heaters recommended at the meeting described above was to add Mechanical Code provisions related to water heaters into Chapter 5 of the Plumbing Code. The group recommended not adopting IMC Chapter 10 because the content would be covered by the Seattle Boiler Code and Plumbing Code.

Refrigeration—Chapter 11. Kathleen described changes to Chapter 11. The Board had no objections to any of them.

Outstanding Mechanical Code issues. Maureen Traxler recapped the issues that should be resolved before the Board votes on the 2015 Seattle Mechanical Code:

- Protection for kitchen grease ducts that penetrate a three-hour horizontal assembly. Staff will draft an amendment to coordinate between IMC 506.3.11 and IBC 510.2, item 3 for grease ducts in podium buildings.
- Corridor smoke detection in Section 601.2 #6.

Review of 2015 Seattle Fuel Gas Code

Kathleen described changes to the draft 2015 Seattle Fuel Gas Code. The Board had no objections to any of them, and voted to recommend approving the draft Code as presented.

Review of 2015 Seattle Residential Code

Maureen Traxler described the highlights of the changes in the draft 2015 Seattle Residential Code. She reminded the Board that any Seattle amendments that affect the construction of IRC buildings would need to be approved by the State Building Code Council before they could take effect.

R303.7 & R303.8 Stairway lighting. Charlie pointed out that the term “primary power” used in the state amendment isn’t clear. The term isn’t used in the electrical design industry, and might give the impression that a secondary power source is required. Jon Siu suggested that it is meant to prohibit using batteries to power the lighting. The Board recommended deleting the word “primary.”

R309.5 Fire sprinklers for garages. Maureen noted that SDCI is proposing to delete this section even though it isn’t deleted from the State Residential Code. The section requires garages to be sprinklered when they are located in a subdivision in which all dwellings are sprinklered. The Board agreed that the deletion is appropriate because there are no such subdivisions in Seattle.

R310.1 Emergency escape and rescue openings. A new state amendment allows basement bedrooms not to have an escape window if the basement has sprinklers and at least one means of egress and one escape window. The Board expressed reservations about the amendment but didn’t recommend any revisions to it.

A quorum was present until 1:40pm

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Discussion will resume with SRC Section R311.8 at the next meeting.