

**Construction Codes Advisory Board  
Minutes of September 17, 2015**

**Board Members present:**

Greg Gilda  
Eric Vander Mey  
Loren Brandford

Allan Wakeling  
Jim Safranek

**Board Members absent:**

Rob Lane  
Sam Park  
Len Whalen  
Joe Malaspino

Lily Iftner  
Bryan Boeholt  
Steve Simpson

**City Staff:**

Maureen Traxler  
Julie A. Hines

Jon Siu

**Minutes of September 3, 2015**

The minutes of the September 3, 2015 CCAB meeting were approved as presented.

**Schedule of CCAB Review of 2015 SBC**

Maureen Traxler discussed the schedule for CCAB's review of the 2015 Seattle codes, reporting that the review should be concluded by March 17, 2016.

**Chapter 31**

Jon Siu raised the issue of whether Section 3107.6.2 assumes a free-standing sign. Maureen said that Dick Alford from DPD worked with the reviewers on the sign codes, and she will follow-up with Dick about the intended scope of Section 3107.6.2.

Greg questioned whether Section 3111 on photovoltaic panels and modules should cross-reference the Chapter 16 provisions on photovoltaic panels. The Board discussed whether Seattle amendment Section 3111 should be deleted, since the specific requirements of photovoltaic panels are covered elsewhere in the Code. The Board decided that Section 3111 was not redundant and recommended that it should remain. The Board voted to approve Chapter 31.

**Chapter 32**

Eric Vander Mey commented on the continuing problem of generator tailpipe outlets encroaching into alleys where garbage trucks need access. The Mechanical Code requires generator tailpipe outlets to be at least 3 feet from the face of the building. The City's Street Use Manual establishes minimum clearances above rights of way. The clearance required by the Mechanical Code should be consistent with the Street Use Manual. The Board agreed that this issue should be discussed during the review of the

2015 Seattle Mechanical Code. The Board voted to approve Chapter 32, which was described as “splendid and compact”.

### **Chapter 33**

Jon brought up for discussion two recurring issues of construction site safety. The first was the removal of temporary shoring. Currently, DPD asks that temporary shoring be removed to a certain height. He asked whether this practice should be codified in Chapter 33 as “temporary shoring should be removed to 4 feet below grade.” The second issue relates to removing temporary tieback supports. The Board recognized that this typically doesn’t present a regulatory issue. Greg offered to make inquiries to confirm this and report back to the Board, noting that he knew that removal could be expensive. The Board decided to take up the topic again if Greg’s investigation justified further discussion. The Board voted to approve Chapter 33.

### **Follow-up: Chapter 7**

Maureen presented the Seattle amendment to Section 717.5.3 Shaft enclosures, Item 5. This section excepts fire dampers in kitchens and clothes dryer exhaust systems if those systems are installed in accordance with the Mechanical Code. Seattle is proposing to limit that exception to situations where dampers are prohibited by the Mechanical Code. The Board recommended adopting this amendment which has also been approved for the 2018 IBC.

Jon explained the background of the proposed amendment to Section 713.14.2.1. Fire protection is required for openings into corridors that are required to be rated. Seattle’s practice has been to not require that elevator doors be protected in this situation. A code change proposed for the 2015 IBC would have validated Seattle’s approach but it was not approved. A different proposal that would require protection for elevator doors was approved for the 2018 IBC, so DPD is proposing to adopt the code change for the 2015 SBC.

Jon recommended adding Sections 713.14.2.1 and 1020.1.1 in response to the IBC change. The Board agreed with Jon’s recommendation and voted to approve Chapter 7.

### **Follow-up on Chapter 4**

Maureen presented DPD and SFD’s recommendation to delete Group H occupancies (Item 5) from Section 403.1. The Board concluded that there was no reason to except buildings with Group H occupancies from the high rise requirements of Section 403.1. Therefore, the Board recommended that Section 403.1, Item 5 be deleted.

### **Follow-up on Chapter 10**

The Board had no objections to the proposed change to require emergency escape and rescue openings in buildings designed with Seattle’s residential single exit amendment, Section 1006.3.2, exception 7.

Jon asked the Board to discuss whether Seattle should allow scissor stairs to count as two exits. Currently, Seattle only counts scissor stairs as one required exit (Section

1007.1). Allowing scissor stairs to count as two exits would increase occupiable floor area.

Jim Safranek asked if other jurisdictions allowed scissor stairs to count towards required exits. Jon responded that Vancouver, B.C. allows them and that Portland, Oregon has approved them as a code alternate in a project. Jim asked if there were any available studies or reports on potential fire dangers of decreasing a building's core by such an allowance. Jon responded that he did not know of any studies or analyses. Scissor stairs present a related regulatory issue in that they do not provide the required redundancy of exits, since the stairs are wrapped around each other. The Board recommended that Seattle not make any changes to the current provisions on scissor stairs.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 19.