



National Fire Protection Association

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ROP MEETING MINUTES
Building Code – Life Safety Technical Committee
on Assembly Occupancies and Membrane Structures

December 9, 2009 Meeting
Embassy Suites Hotel Cleveland – Downtown

1. Call to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jeffrey Tubbs at 8:00 a.m. on Wednesday, December 9, 2009 at the Embassy Suites Hotel Cleveland – Downtown, Cleveland, OH.

2. Introduction of Committee Members and Guests.

The following committee members and guests were in attendance.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

<u>NAME</u>	<u>REPRESENTING</u>
Jeff Tubbs, Chair	Arup Fire
Ron Coté, Nonvoting Secretary	NFPA
Raymond Battalora, Principal	Aon/Schirmer Engineering Corporation
William Conner, Principal	Bill Conner Associates LLC Rep. American Society of Theater Consultants
Ronald Farr, Principal	Michigan Bureau of Fire Services Rep. Michigan Fire Inspectors Society
Ralph Gerdes, Principal	Ralph Gerdes Consultants, LLC
Jerrold Gorrell, Alternate (Alternate to K. Ruling)	Theatre Safety Programs Rep. US Institute for Theatre Technology
Harold Hansen, Principal	International Association of Assembly Managers

Wesley Hayes, Principal	Polk County Fire Services Division Rep. Int'l Fire Marshals Association
Vern Martindale, Principal	Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints
Gregory Miller, Principal	Code Consultants, Inc. Rep. National Association of Theatre Owners
Jake Pauls, Principal	Jake Pauls Consulting Services in Building Use & Safety
Steven Peavey, Principal	Altamonte Springs Rep. Florida Fire Marshals & Inspectors Association
Vincent Quinterno, Principal	Rhode Island State Fire Marshal's Office
Ed Roether, Principal	Populous
Robert Schultz, Principal	University of Texas at Austin
Philip Sherman, Principal	Philip R. Sherman, P.E.

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

NAME

REPRESENTING

Scott Adams, Principal	Park City Fire service District Rep. Int'l Fire Marshals Association
Stanton Alexander, Principal	North American Testing Company
Scott Bartlett, Principal	Tyco/Simplex Grinnell Rep. National Electrical Manufacturers Association
David Bowman, Principal	National Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc.
George Bushey, Principal	Rosser International
Bhola Dhume, Principal	City of New Orleans, Department of Safety and Permits

Robert Fiedler, Principal	City of Lincoln, NB-Bureau of Fire Prevention
William Fitch, Principal	Phyrefish Enterprises, Inc.
Mike Hayward, Principal	PlayPower LT Canada, Inc. – Rep. International Play Equipment Manufacturers Association
Jonathan Humble, Principal	American Iron and Steel Institute
John Lake, Principal	City of Gainesville – Rep. NE Florida Fire Prevention Association
Karl Ruling, Principal	Entertainment Services & Technology Association – Rep. US Institute for Theatre Technology
Stephen Skalko, Principal	Portland Cement Association
Paul Wertheimer, Principal	Crowd Management Strategies
Thomas Wellen (Voting Alternate)	American Fire Sprinkler Association, Inc.

3. Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the October 23, 2007 meeting were approved as written and distributed.

4. Meeting Operating Procedures.

Staff presented a PowerPoint file reminding members of the revision cycle calendar, meeting operating procedures, actions that the committee could take at the ROP meeting, and features of the “e-mail” letter ballot that will be used to record the written vote on the committee actions on the proposals.

5. Audible/Visible Signals Task Group.

No report presented. The subject is to be retained on the agenda for the next meeting. The task group is: Scott Bartlett (Chair), George Bushey, Bill Conner, Jerrold Gorrell, Greg Miller, Ed Roether, and Jeff Tubbs.

6. Sprinkler Exemptions.

The committee rejected the related proposal from Ken Isman given that there has been no adverse history in assembly buildings which omitted sprinklers over performance areas.

7. Quick Stairs/Accelerated Aisles.

Committee proposals were developed and accepted to address minimum platform depth where aisle stairs transition to a stair or another aisle stair.

Subject retained on agenda for next meeting. Task group formed consisting of Ed Roether, Bill Conner and Jake Pauls. The task group was asked to determine (1) the minimum landing depth between one stair (or aisle stair) and another stair (or aisle stair) with a different tread dimension, and (2) what requirements should apply to a stair that is a continuation of a stepped aisle.

8. Seat Fastening to Floor.

Committee proposal, with an action of “Reject,” was developed to delete 12/13.7.9.1.2 to solicit public review and permit action at the ROC stage.

Subject retained on agenda for next meeting. The committee hopes to be able to determine the maximum number of loose chairs that can be safely accommodated in balconies and loges.

9. Occupancy Chapter __.2.4 Subsection Review.

Committee proposals were developed and accepted to revise the 2.4 subsection of the occupancy chapters, for which the committee has responsibility, for consistency with the action taken by the Means of Egress Committee.

10. Smoke Barrier Door Latching.

No action required based on revision to Chapter 8 proposed by Detention and Correctional Occupancies Committee which will make smoke barrier latching conditional on it being required by the applicable occupancy chapter.

11. Standardization of Language Where Supervision of Sprinkler Systems Is Required.

No action needed. Sprinkler provisions under committee’s purview correctly state what is expected with respect to supervision.

12. Consistency of List Based Options – i.e., when all conditions must be met or some conditions must be met.

Committee proposals were developed and accepted to revise the list-based provisions to clarify intent.

13. Aisle Width.

Committee proposal was developed and accepted to delete 13.2.5.6.3(1)(b) and 13.2.5.6.3(4)(b) as item (a) will always get used as it is more lenient.

14. Stage Stairs 12/13.2.2.3.1(2).

Committee proposals were developed and accepted to revise the stair provisions and clarify that stage stairs are permitted to be of combustible materials regardless of building construction type, and guards and handrails may be omitted in certain circumstances.

15. Core Chapter ROP Changes Review.

Proposed changes to the core chapters were reviewed. Committee proposals were developed and accepted to correlate the related portions of the assembly occupancy chapters or maintain the status quo.

16. NFPA 101 ROP Preparation.

All proposals were addressed. See the ROP letter ballot.

17. NFPA 5000 ROP Preparation.

All proposals were addressed. See the ROP letter ballot.

18. Other Business.

Defining Bar-Like Assembly Occupancies. A task group was formed consisting of Phil Sherman (Chair), Bill Conner, Ron Farr, Wes Hayes, Vincent Quintero, and Robert Schultz. The subject is to be retained on the agenda for the next meeting. The task group is to consider whether occupant load density (area per person) can suffice in lieu of the list of assembly uses for which the sprinkler threshold and the main entrance/exit provisions apply. If the list must be maintained, the task group is asked to provide definitions and explanatory annex text.

Smoke-Protected Assembly Seating Capacity Factors. A task group was formed consisting of Greg Miller (Chair), Harold Hansen, Jake Pauls, Vincent Quintero, Ed Roether, and Jeff Tubbs. The subject is to be retained on the agenda for the next meeting. The task group is asked to evaluate the current capacity factors for smoke-protected assembly seating.

19. Future Meetings.

The committee will meet on Monday, October 18, 2010 to prepare its portion of the NFPA 101 and NFPA 5000 ROC, as part of a ROC committee week in New Orleans.

20. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55 PM.

Attachments

Minutes prepared by Ron Coté and Linda MacKay