

**SOFFIT SYSTEMS WORKGROUP MEETING III  
REPORT TO THE FLORIDA BUILDING  
COMMISSION**



**April 8, 2009**

*Gainesville, Florida*

**Facilitation, Meeting and Process Design By**



**CONSENSUS SOLUTIONS**

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# FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION

## SOFFIT SYSTEMS WORKGROUP REPORT

### OVERVIEW

Chairman Rodriguez announced that at the request of stakeholders the Commission is convening a Soffit Systems Workgroup. The Workgroup will work with affected stakeholder interests in a facilitated workgroup process to evaluate and build consensus on recommendations regarding labeling and performance requirements for soffit systems in the Florida Building Code.

### MEMBERS

Joe Belcher, Bob Boyer, Joe Breese, Jimmy Buckner, Rusty Carroll, Dave Johnston/Matthew Dobson (member/alternate), Jamie Gascon, Allen Hoying, Do Kim, C.W. Macomber, Lance Olsen, Paul Radauskus, Tim Reinhold, Neil Sexton, and Jim Schock.

### REPORT OF THE APRIL 8, 2009 MEETING

#### Opening and Meeting Attendance

The meeting started at 8:30 AM, and the following Workgroup members were present: Joe Belcher, Bob Boyer, Youry Demosthenes for Jimmy Buckner, Rusty Carroll, Dave Johnston, Jamie Gascon, Allen Hoying, Do Kim, C.W. Macomber, Lance Olson, Greg Yantorno for Paul Radauskus, Neil Sexton, and Jim Schock.

#### DCA Staff Present

Rick Dixon and Mo Madani.

#### Public Present

Jack Glenn, Mike Hemmer, Greg Kopp, Dennis Lowman, Forrest Masters, Denis Mercier, Frank O'Neil, Stephen Peters, and Richard Reynolds.

#### Meeting Facilitation

The meeting was facilitated by Jeff Blair from the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium at Florida State University. Information at: <http://consensus.fsu.edu/>



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#### Project Webpage

Information on the project, including agenda packets, meeting reports, and related documents may be found in downloadable formats at the project webpage below:

<http://consensus.fsu.edu/FBC/soffit.html>

## **Agenda Review and Approval**

The Workgroup voted unanimously, 12 - 0 in favor, to approve the agenda as presented including the following objectives:

- To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Agenda and Report)
- To Review Workgroup's Recommendations Regarding Labeling Requirements
- To Hear Overview of Research Results Regarding Soffit System Performance
- To Hear a Presentation Regarding High Airflow Pressure Loading Actuator
- To Discuss and Select Specimens for Test Matrix
- To Consider Public Comment
- To Identify Needed Next Steps: Information, Assignments, and Agenda Items for Next Meeting
- To Participate in an UF Hurricane Test Laboratory Site Visit

## **Approval of February 4, 2009 Facilitator's Meeting Summary Report**

The Workgroup voted unanimously, 12 - 0 in favor, to approve the February 4, 2009 Facilitator's Summary Report as presented.

## **Overview of Consensus Labeling Recommendations**

Jeff Blair reviewed the consensus recommendations developed by the Workgroup. They are as follows:

Conceptual support for a soffit system labeling requirement in the Florida Building Code. (14 – 0 in favor)

Label should be on the packaging with some tie-back method to the installed product. (12 members preferred this methodology, and 2 preferred requiring each soffit piece to be fully labeled, but could support the former)

Members agreed that for manufactured products with State approval the following is required on the label: Manufacturer's name; model number or name; FL number, NOA, or some reference number that correlates the product to its product approval number providing traceability. (14 – 0 in favor)

Manufacturing facility's city and state should be on the packaging label. (14 – 0 in favor)

*The Workgroup agreed unanimously, 14 -0 in favor, to the following regarding soffit system product/piece labeling requirements for manufactured products in the Florida Building Code, as follows:*

Individual soffit pieces shall be marked at not more than four foot on center with a number/markings that ties the product back to the manufacturer. (14 – 0 in favor)

*The Workgroup agreed unanimously, 14 -0 in favor, to the following regarding soffit system packaging labeling requirements for manufactured products in the Florida Building Code, as follows:*

1714.8.2 The following information shall be included on the labels on soffit systems:

1. Product approval holder/manufacturer name and city and state of manufacturing plant.
2. Product model number or name.
3. Method of approval and approval numbers as applicable. Methods of approval include, but are not limited to: Miami-Dade NOA, Florida Building Commission FL #, TDI Product Evaluation, and/or ICC-ES.
4. The test standard or standards specified in Chapter 14 used to demonstrate Code compliance.

5. Net free area.

**Labeling Requirements Recommendations Review**

Members were asked to review the soffit system recommendations and determine whether there were any other issues for evaluation.

Following discussion, members voted unanimously to include net free area as a packaging labeling requirement, and as a part of the product approval submittal documents.

*The Workgroup agreed unanimously, 12 -0 in favor, to include net free area as a packaging labeling requirement, and as a part of the product approval submittal documents.*

**High Airflow Pressure Loading Actuator Presentation**

Forrest Masters, Assistant Professors of Civil and Coastal Engineering, provided members with an overview of research results on soffit systems and answered member’s questions.

*(Attachment 1—Overview of Presentation)*

**Specimens for Test Matrix Discussion and Selection**

Members were asked to review various soffit system types and to prioritize them for research on performance. The following systems were evaluated:

Vinyl, aluminum, 3/8” OSB, 7/16” OSB, 3/8” plywood, FCB, wire lath and stucco. In addition, each system type has multiple applications. Following is what Workgroup members agreed to evaluate for the first phase of research:

## Specimen Matrix (Not Reduced)



Wood Lap and Vinyl Siding Attached to Wood Substrate

T-Nail

Use minimum thickness

			Finished Wall				
			Stucco	Vinyl Siding	Brick Veneer	FCB	Wood Lap
			CMU	Structural Wood Panel			
Soffit	Vinyl	Perforated	1	8, 9, 10 <sup>1</sup>	15	-	23
		Solid	2	11	16	-	24
	Aluminum	Perforated	3	-	17	-	25
		3/8" Engineered Wood Soffit Disc. Vents	4	12	18	-	26
	7/16" Engineered Wood Soffit Disc. Vents	5	13	19	-	27	
	3/8" Plywood	Disc. Vents	6	14	20	-	28
	FCB	Disc. Vents	-	-	-	21	-
		Cont Vents	-	-	-	22	-
Wire Lath & Stucco	Disc. Vents	7 <sup>2</sup>	-	-	-	-	

<sup>1</sup> 7/16" OSB only to be tested if 3/8" OSB performs below design level  
<sup>2</sup> Specimen 7 is attached through stucco  
<sup>3</sup> Specimen 9 to be tested with AccuVent System  
<sup>4</sup> Specimen 10 to be tested with Cor-A-Vent System  
 Note: various discontinuous vent system to be tested in conjunction with Vent Covers (TBD)

**General Public Comment**

Members of the public were invited to provide the Workgroup with comments. Frank O'Neil requested testing on fabric soffit systems.

**Review of Workgroup Delivery and Meeting Schedule**

The next meeting will be scheduled once sufficient research on soffit system performance is concluded.

**Next Steps**

Members will work on the performance aspects of soffit systems and develop recommendations once research results are available.

The Workgroup observed soffit system testing at the UF lab and provided feedback regarding systems and options for testing.