

MINUTES
Mechanical Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
Rosen Plaza Hotel, Orlando
March 25, 2002

Voting Members Present:

Peggy Patterson, Leonard Lipka, Mike McCombs, Pete Quintela, Don Pittman, Jim Cummings, Philip Simmons, Bob Andrews.

Meeting Objectives:

1. Recommend action on request for Declaratory Statement DCA02-DEC-062 to clarify the requirements of section 601.4 of the mechanical code for Balanced Return Air.
2. Recommend action on request for Declaratory Statement DCA01-DEC-239 to clarify whether dryer exhaust ducts running under a slab may be made of pvc.

General Comments:

Although DCA legal staff considers both of these DEC requests to be legally insufficient, the TAC discussed them in an attempt to provide guidance to building officials on these issues.

DCA02-DEC-062

Although petitioner was not present, Jim Cummings of the Florida Solar Energy Center made the following recommendations:

1. A general rule of thumb would be a minimum of 70 sq.in. of net free area opening per 100 cfm of supply air.
2. A reasonable estimate of supply cfm would be .7 cfm/sq.ft. of floor area.

Various participants and TAC members stated that they did not believe these estimates to be reasonable. Cummings presented test data to back up his findings. Commissioner Wiggins asked whether the requirement for balanced return air is based on health or safety issues. Cummings replied that potential problems exist for gas water heater backdrafting, fireplaces and carbon monoxide, and moisture problems caused by pressure imbalances in a building. Chairman Patterson recommended postponing a decision on this issue until the next meeting and that industry needed to develop data to support their position.

DCA01-DEC-239

Although petitioner was not present, the TAC discussed the issue of whether pvc pipe may be used for dryer exhaust under a slab. Qunitela stated that section 504.2 requires dryer exhaust ducts to comply with section 603.3 as well. In general the TAC saw no reason to allow other than metal exhaust duct as required by section 501.5.

ACTION:

Bob Andrews moved that **dryer exhaust duct must be made of smooth metal**. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

Other Business:

Pete Quintela pointed out that the Florida Building Code has no referenced standard for conveyor belts in Chapter 30. ASME B20.1 should be referenced.

Chairman Patterson pointed out that the equipment wind load design issue was being resolved by a notice to building officials. She further stated that a "fix it" code change cycle may be open shortly and that the TAC should get ready for it.

Roger Sanders stated that the issue of garage ventilation for residential applications may need to be readdressed.