

**FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION
Plumbing Technical Advisory Committee
and Pool and Spa Drain Safety Working Group
St. Pete Beach, Florida
May 13, 2002**

REPORT

Voting Members Present:

Dan Shaw, Gary Duren, Jim Cortez, Gary Kozan, Robert Trumbower, Kevin Fennell, Les Dowdal.

Amended Meeting Objectives:

1. Hear report on the impact of corrosive water on plastic pipes.
2. Recommend action on DEC requests DCA02-DEC-048 and DCA02-DEC-070 concerning whether a skimmer constitutes one of the two required suction inlets in section 424.2.6.6.3.
3. Recommend action on DEC requests DCA02-DEC-049 and DCA02-DEC-077 concerning entrapment avoidance in section 424.2.6.6.3.
2. Recommend action on DEC requests DCA02-DEC-071 and DCA02-DEC-073 concerning the need for main outlets on pools (s. 424.2.2.1.3) and whether one skimmer is sufficient on some pools (s. 424.2.6.6.4).
5. Recommend action on DEC request DCA02-DEC078 regarding criteria for automatic grease interceptors.
6. Recommend action on DEC request DCA02-DEC-087 regarding criteria for access panels for water hammer arresters.
7. Recommend action on DEC request DCA02-DEC-092 regarding criteria for cross flow connection between water closets in separate apartments.
8. Recommend action on DEDC request DCA02-DEC-131 regarding criteria for elevation of an electric water heater in a garage.
9. Consider how far south pipes in walls and attics should be protected from freezing.
10. Meeting evaluation and adjourn.

General Comments:

A report was made by Musgrave on earlier work to demonstrate the impact of corrosive water on plastic pipe. He also described

The requests for DEC statements concerning swimming pool issues which had been tabled last time were, one by one, taken off the table by approved committee action and considered for a recommendation to the Commission. This effort was facilitated by Jeff Blair. The Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) non-binding opinion was provided on each issue, input was solicited from all interested parties, then by the issue was considered by

the Plumbing TAC members. Actions taken are shown below.

No action was taken on the following DEC requests on grounds of lack of legal sufficiency: DCA01-DEC-036, DCA02-DEC-060 and DCA02-DEC-061. DCA02-DEC-049 (concerning gravity systems with collector tanks) was withdrawn by the petitioner on the grounds that the issue was already covered by the code reference to ANSI/NSPI-4

DCA02-DEC-048

Petitioner asked whether the criteria of section 424.2.6.6.4 allow a single main drain and a skimmer as the required suction inlets.

ACTION: On a motion from Kozan, the TAC agreed with the BOAF opinion that the answer is YES as long as the main drain and the skimmer are installed in compliance with the code and are plumbed such that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a common line to the pump. VOTE: Yes 5, No 2.

DCA02-DEC-070

Petitioner asked whether the criteria of section 424.2.6.6.4 allow a single main drain on the floor and a skimmer on the wall as the required suction inlets if the drain line and skimmer line join together even 6 inches before the pump.

ACTION: On a motion by Dowdal, the TAC agreed with the BOAF opinion that the answer is YES as long as the main drain and the skimmer are installed in compliance with the code and are plumbed such that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a common line to the pump. VOTE: Yes 5, No 2.

DCA02-DEC-071 (Question 1)

Petitioner asked whether the criteria of section 424.2.6.6.4 allow two suction inlets at the surface to meet the criteria for above ground pools.

ACTION: On a motion by Dowdal, the TAC agreed with the BOAF opinion that the answer is YES as long as the two suction inlets are installed in compliance with the code and are plumbed such that water is drawn through them simultaneously through a common line to the pump. VOTE: Yes 5, No 2.

DCA02-DEC-077

Petitioner asked whether the criteria of section 424.2.6.6.3 of the code intends to permit the use of devices such as the Hayward Pool Products Inc. SP 1048 R Kit to be used as a “backup system which shall provide vacuum relief” for pools and spas.

ACTION: On a motion by Duren, the TAC disagreed with the BOAF opinion and answered NO, the HAYWARD product does not meet the intent of the code. VOTE: Yes 6, No 1.

DCA02-DEC-071 (Question 2)

Petitioner asked whether the criteria of section 424.2.21.3 allow an auxiliary pump to be

used to drain the pool when needed for above ground pools.

ACTION: On a motion from Fennell, the TAC agreed with the BOAF opinion no main drain is required for draining residential above ground pools. The pool or auxiliary pump could be used to drain the pool and meet the requirements of section 424.2.21.3. **VOTE:** Yes 7, No 0.

DCA02-DEC-073

Petitioner asked whether the criteria of section 424.2.21.3 allow an auxiliary pump to be used to drain the pool when needed for fiberglass pools.

ACTION: On a motion from Trumbower, the TAC agreed with the BOAF opinion that no main drain is required for draining residential fiberglass pools. The pool or auxiliary pump could be used to drain the pool and meet the requirements of section 424.2.21.3. **VOTE:** Yes 7, No 0.

Although no DEC statement request asked for clarification of vent pipe vacuum relief systems, Pennington and Cohen were provided a facilitated opportunity to demonstrate why site-specific vent pipe designs should be required. Cohen's points included the need for hydraulically balanced drains for sanitation purposes, a release threshold determined by height of water column, the speed of release determined by depth of pipe, and the need for the bottom pipe to be perfectly level.

END OF FACILITATED POOL REPORT

DCA02-DEC-078

Petitioner asked whether automatic grease traps are allowed to be installed by section 1003.4 of the code, as opposed to "passive grease traps" as defined in Chapter 2.

ACTION: On a motion from Duren, the TAC determined that the code permits automatic grease recovery devices that conform to PDI G101 inside or outside the building. **VOTE:** Yes 7, No 0

DCA02-DEC-087

Petitioner asked whether section 604.9 of the code requires access panels for water-hammer arrestors when the manufacturer states that no maintenance is needed for the life of the unit.

ACTION: The TAC recommended that no access be required if the manufacturer of the water hammer arrestor states that the product never needs maintenance. **VOTE:** Yes 7, No 0

DCA02-DEC-131

Petitioner asked whether 502.2 of the code requires electric water heaters located in garages to be elevated 18 inches above the garage floor.

ACTION: On a motion by Duren, the TAC recommended that section 502.2 of the plumbing code and relevant section of the mechanical code be made consistent with the action taken by

the Commission to require appliances located in garages to be installed per the manufacture's recommendations during the current "glitch fix" cycle. VOTE: Yes 7, No 0.

DCA02-DEC-092

Petitioner asked whether the intent of section 706.3 of the plumbing code allows a double sanitary tee fitting to pick-up back-to-back or adjacent water closets as long as they discharge through several feet of pipe or change of direction before entering the sanitary cross.

ACTION: On a motion by Duren, the TAC recommended that a double sanitary tee is an acceptable fitting to pick-up back-to-back or adjacent water closets as long as they discharge through several feet of pipe or change of direction before entering the sanitary cross. VOTE: Yes 7, No 0.

END OF DEC RECOMMENDATIONS

The TAC also discussed the application of section 305.6 of the plumbing code, which requires freeze protection of pipes installed in walls and attics. No examples of freezing in walls or attics were known in central Florida. The TAC agreed that areas with winter design temperatures of 32° F or below in the 97½ percent category in Appendix D of the code should protect the pipes. This includes Jacksonville, Pensacola, Tallahassee and points between.

The TAC also discussed whether they wanted to stick with the consensus-building process used by the group up til now. They agreed they wanted to continue the process. Further discussion ensued by now further actions were taken.

The meeting was adjourned by Chairman Shaw at 4:45 p.m.