

**MECHANICAL TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TELECONFERENCE MEETING FROM TALLAHASSEE**
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August 6, 2024
10:30 A.M.

Minutes

MECHANICAL TAC PRESENT:

David John, Chairman
Oscar Calleja
Elizabeth Goll
Daniel Griffin
Gary Griffin
Joe Griner

Alex Hernandez
Kenny Locke
Paul Jones
Don Pittman
Pete Quintela
Rick Sims

STAFF PRESENT:

Mo Madani
Norman Bellamy
Sabrina Evans
Marlita Peters

Justin Vogel
Jim Hammers
Alan Burke

MEETING FACILITATION:

The meeting was facilitated by Jeff Blair from Facilitated Solutions, LLC. Consultation, Process Design & Facilitation. Information at: facilitatedsolutions.org

Time: 10:30 a.m.

Mr. Blair welcomed everyone to the teleconference meeting of the Mechanical TAC.

Roll Call:

Mr. Blair performed roll call for the Mechanical TAC. A quorum was determined with 10 members present at roll call.

Agenda Approval:

Mr. Pittman moved to approve the agenda for today's meeting as posted. Mr. Quintela seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 10 to 0.

Mr. Gary Griffin joined the meeting, making the quorum 11 members present.

Approval of the minutes from June 24, 2024:

Mr. Quintela moved to approve the minutes from June 24, 2024, as posted. Mr. Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 11 to 0.

Mr. Blair provided details on the process of taking up the petition for declaratory statement.

Declaratory Statement:

DS 2024-024 by Rolando Soto of Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals.

Presenter:

Rolando Soto, Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals Business, presented details on DS 2024-024.

Discussion:

Members of the TAC, staff, and Mr. Soto went in discussion with questions and comments.

Staff:

Mr. Madani provided the background information on the declaratory statement, including the questions and full staff analysis.

Staff Analysis

Question #1:

Can a refrigeration system using an A2L refrigerant be designed and installed using ASHRAE 15 -2019 if the Florida Building Code, Mechanical, 8th Edition (2023), Chapter 11 addresses said refrigerant and has more restrictive requirements?

Answer:

Option #1/Petitioner:

In our opinion, the answer is no. FMC 1101.6 General states that ASHRAE 15 can only be used as modified by this code.

Option #2/Staff:

The answer to the Petitioner's question is yes. Pursuant to section 102.4 of the 8th Edition (2023) Florida Building Code (FBC), Building and since ASHRAE Standard 15 – 2019 provides for specific design and installation requirements for A2L refrigerant than that of Chapter 11 of the 8th Edition (2023) Florida Building Code, Mechanical, ASHRAE Standard 15 as referenced in section 1101.6 of the 8th Edition (2023) Florida Building Code (FBC), Mechanical is considered to be an integral part of the FBC, Mechanical and therefore, its provisions would prevail over those of Chapter 11 of the FBC, Mechanical. Designing and installation of A2L refrigerant using ASHRAE 15 would meet the minimum requirements of the 8th Edition (2023) Florida Building Code, Mechanical.

Question #2:

Can the A2L refrigerant quantity in an independent refrigerant circuit in a high-probability system exceed the amount for A2 refrigerants stated in Table 1104.3.2 of the Florida Building Code, Mechanical, 8th Edition (2023), Chapter 11 or in ASHRAE 15-2019, Table 7.1?

Option #1/Petitioner:

In our opinion, the answer is no. A2L refrigerants are listed as A2 in the Florida Building Code, Mechanical, 8th Edition (2023), Chapter 11, Table 1103.1.

Option #2/Staff:

Answer: See answer to question #1.

Question #3:

Can an alternative method be used to design and install an independent refrigerant circuit in a high probability system that exceeds the amount of A2 or A2L refrigerant stated in Table 1104.3.2 of the Florida Building Code, Mechanical, 8th Edition (2023), Chapter 11?

Answer:

Option #1/Petitioner:

In our opinion, the answer is may be. The designer would have to analyze and possibly upgrade the whole building, including structural integrity, exit capacity, fire resistivity, fire suppression, and fire alarm, among other factors, to compensate for the added risk of introducing an A2 refrigerant into the space, as required by the Florida Building Code, Existing Buildings, 8th Edition (2023), Chapter 14, and Florida Building Code, Building, 8th Edition (2023), Chapter 1, section 104.11.

Option #2/Staff:

The answer to the Petitioner's question is yes. Pursuant to section 104.11 of the 8th Edition (2023) Florida Building Code (FBC), Building, the building official has the authority to accept alternative design to that of the prescriptive requirements of the code where he/she finds that the proposed design/alternative complies with the requirements of section 104.11 of the 8th Edition (2023) FBC, Building.

Question #4:

Can a refrigeration system be designed and installed using ASHRAE 15-2022 or Chapter 11 of the 2024 International Code as an alternative to the current FMC?

Answer:

Option #1/Petitioner:

In our opinion, the answer is no. The Florida Building Commission must adopt ASHRAE 15-2022 or Chapter 11 of the 2024 International Mechanical Code.

Option #1/Staff:

This question is general in nature and falls outside the scope of this specific request.

Discussion:

Members of the TAC, staff, and Mr. Soto went in discussion with questions and comments.

Public Comment:

Timothy de Carion, Broward County Board of Rules and Appeals, provided a comment.

Mr. Blair provided a comment.

Amanda Hickman, Hickman Group, on behalf of AHRI, provided a comment.

Staff:

Mr. Vogel provided a comment.

Discussion:

Members of the TAC and staff went in discussion with questions and comments.

Motion for Question #1:

Mr. Pittman entered a motion to recommend that the Commission adopt the staff analysis (option #2). Mr. Calleja seconded the motion.

Discussion:

Mr. Locke provided a comment.

Mr. Madani provided a comment.

Alternate motion:

Mr. Pittman entered a motion to recommend that the Commission adopt the staff analysis (option #2), as revised by the TAC. Mr. Calleja seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 11 to 0.

Staff:

Mr. Blair provided a comment.

Mr. Madani provided a comment.

Motion Question #2:

Mr. Gary Griffin entered a motion to recommend that the Commission adopt the staff analysis (option #2), as modified by the TAC. Mr. Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 11 to 0.

Motion Question #3:

Mr. Locke entered a motion to recommend that the Commission adopt the staff analysis (option #2). Mr. Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 11 to 0.

Discussion:

Mr. Locke asked the staff a question.

Mr. Blair provided an answer to Mr. Locke's question.

Motion Question #4:

Mr. Locke entered a motion to recommend that the Commission adopt the staff analysis (option #2), with the TAC's revision. Mr. Pittman seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 11 to 0.

Member and Staff Comment:

Mr. Pittman thanked Mr. Madani and asked a question.

Mr. Madani answered Mr. Pittman's question and asked Mr. Sims a question.

Mr. Sims provided an answer to Mr. Madani's question.

Adjourn:

There being no further business before the Committee, Chairman John adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.