



Oregon Mechanical Officials Association

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Monthly Membership Meeting Minutes

January 15, 2015

Marion County Public Works, Salem

The Oregon Mechanical Officials Association is dedicated to providing a professional environment for mechanical code officials and industry professionals to share knowledge and educate each other to enhance the public welfare.

CALL TO ORDER:

President Mike Remesnik called the meeting to order at 12:44 p.m., January 15, 2015.

ATTENDANCE:

Executive Board members present included: President Mike Remesnik, First Vice President John Corliss, Second Vice President/Treasurer Bill Hendrix, Past President Troy Skinner and Member At-Large Karl Harn. Also present were Rob Peters, Mark Heizer, Chris Trussell and OMOA's executive director Bill Cross.

MOTION: Bill Hendrix moved and it was seconded that the minutes from the December 18, 2014, meeting be approved with one correction reflecting that President Troy Skinner had called the meeting to order. Motion approved unanimously.

OMOA COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Education Committee: Bill Cross reported that OMOA will try to secure dates in mid-September for the 2015 Annual Institute.

Code Change Committee: John Corliss reported that the code change proposal has been submitted to ICC to provide clarity to 507.2 for the installation of solid fuel ovens that are listed

to be natural draft vented. Corliss thanked Mark Heizer for developing the language for the code change. The ICC code change hearings will be April 19-30 in Memphis.

Scholarship Committee: There was no report.

CODE DISCUSSION:

The first question was brought to the meeting from Rob Peters, Gresham, as a result of a fire incident they had within their jurisdiction.

Question: Mark (the Gresham B.O.),

I was called to this address after a fire tonight. We responded on a fire alarm activation. While many believe that E-cigarettes do not generate "smoke", the by-products do activate smoke detectors. Along with that concern, the smoke vapor was so thick inside that it was both unpleasant to breathe and difficult to see through. I definitely have a concern due to the lack of ventilation.

Have these businesses been discussed during your BO meetings or at the BCD level?

Thanks. Shawn Durham Gresham Fire

Opinion A) I believe this is "smoking", it is just a different product that is being smoked. Thus the provisions for outside ventilation air in a lounge, OR in a space other than a lounge would apply.

Claude Kennedy, City of Salem

Opinion B) A quick internet search showed 27 so called "Vapor Lounges" in the Gresham area. I would agree that this is "smoking" whether classified as a lounge or other occupancy and would require provision of outside ventilation. This is potentially a growing problem that will affect us all. What happens when it becomes a "legal" cannabis lounge?

John Corliss, Corvallis

Opinion C) This page from the Oregon Health Authority appears to leave designation up to local jurisdictions. If e-cigs get covered under the state smokefree workplace law, it's "smoking".

<http://public.health.oregon.gov/PreventionWellness/TobaccoPrevention/SmokefreeWorkplaceLaw/Pages/e-cigarettes.aspx>

While e-cigarettes are currently not covered under Oregon’s Smokefree Workplace Law, there is nothing stopping a business or community from taking action to prohibit the use of e-cigarettes.

For these reasons, the Oregon Public Health Division recommends businesses and local jurisdictions prohibit the use of e-cigarettes.

 [E-Cigarette Fact Sheet](#)

A report titled [Vaporized: E-Cigarettes, Advertising, and Youth](#)  by Legacy, examines the recent rise of e-cigarette use among youth, and the entry of the major tobacco companies into the e-cigarette market.

A policy guide titled [Regulating Toxic Vapor: A Policy Guide to Electronic Smoking Devices](#) by ChangeLab Solutions, contains comprehensive information about electronic smoking devices and what steps have been taken thus far to regulate them.

If the legislature settles the issue in the upcoming session, BCD can provide more guidance. But for now, it appears to be a local issue (that may require local gov’t to step in).

Mark Heizer, PE, LEED AP | Policy Analyst | Oregon Building Codes Division |

Question 2: Hey Rob (Gresham Inspector),

If you remember we talked at short school about the makeup air requirement for residential kitchen exhaust fans capable of exhausting in excess of 400 CFM. In particular can they just install a duct from the outdoors and if so does this air need to be tempered? Or does it need to be a system that can be interconnected? How close does the makeup air supply need to be to the fan? I have attached what the commentary has to say about the subject. Would you let me know of the OMOA discussion/results?

Thanks, Bob Stewart Building/Mechanical Inspector
Clackamas County Building Codes Division

The response from the membership was from the ORSC M1503.4 **MAKEUP AIR REQUIRED**, “Exhaust hood systems capable of exhausting in excess of 400 cubic feet per minute shall be provided with makeup air at a rate approximately equal to the exhaust air rate. Such makeup air systems shall be equipped with a means of closure and shall be automatically controlled to start and operate simultaneously with the exhaust system.” The consensus was that this air could be derived from an outside air duct opening that introduced air into the return air side of the furnace system within the environmental heating/cooling system of the home or through a fresh air supply introduced behind the stove/range itself, or by an opening behind a refrigerator, where it could be tempered by the heat of the appliance. Several manufacturers of these hood make up air systems were found using the Google query of, “make up air kits for large residential kitchen hoods”. No requirement was found in the ORSC or the OMSC Section 505 that required the make-up air to be ‘tempered’ before it was to be introduced into the heated space. There was a general agreement that tempering the makeup air stream was desirous in these applications, and that introducing this air behind an appliance that already created heat

would be recommended. The membership was asked to field survey their jurisdictions about the need of, and the use of, these make-up systems to comply with the ORSC.

Final discussion question: Chris Trussell, Marion County, brought forth the question posed to him about Corrugated Stainless Steel Tubing (CSST). His question was where in the ORSC is there code language that directs a person to using the manufacturer's installation instructions for installation of this product? Chapter 24 does not appear to have any direct language that specifies those instructions. The contractor wanted to use this material in a method that was not readily approved for use, in an underground application, and could find no code language prohibiting its installation in the manner in which he chose to use it.

Chapter 12, **MECHANICAL ADMINISTRATION**, General section M1201.1 Scope states that, "...These chapters (12-24) shall also regulate those mechanical systems, system components, *equipment* and *appliances* specifically addressed in this code. Mechanical equipment or systems not specifically addressed in this code shall be approved by the code official in accordance with Section R104.11." R104.11, Alternative materials, design and methods of construction and equipment, states that, "The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit the installation of any material or to prohibit the design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been *approved*. An alternative material, design or method of construction shall be *approved* where the *building official* finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety. Compliance with the specific performance-based provisions of the current editions of the *Oregon Specialty Codes* in lieu of the specific requirements of this code shall also be permitted as an alternate. For the process governing alternate rulings acceptable statewide, see ORS 455.060."

This section of code appears to direct plan reviewers, inspectors and the code official to allow the contractor to use alternative methods where approved, but also gives language to allow jurisdictions to use other accepted methods from other code books already approved for use within the state.

Section C404.1 of the OMSC, Appendix C Fuel Gas, states that, "All materials used shall be installed in strict accordance with the standards under which the materials are accepted and approved. In the absence of such installation procedures, the *manufacturer's instructions shall be followed*. (Italics mine) Where the requirements of referenced standards or manufacturer's instructions do not conform to minimum provisions of this code, the provisions of this code shall apply.

The OMSC does have specific language to guide the jurisdiction to the manufacturer's installation requirements for their product. The building official would be able to direct the contractor to appropriate use of the CSST according to those instructions.

This concludes the summation of the discussion.

OLD BUSINESS:

It was noted that the position of Secretary for the association is still vacant. Discussion was postponed until the next meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

There was no new business discussed.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully,

Bill Cross
Executive Director

**Next OMOA Membership Meeting
12:30 P.M., Thursday, February 19, 2015
Marion County Public Works
Silverton Road, Salem**