

Plumbing Transition Commission
January 13th, 2015
1:30 PM
8181 Independence Blvd
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Meeting Minutes

The Chair welcomed all present and **called the meeting to order at 1:30 pm**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Chair requested a roll call of the members which reflected the following:

Members Present: S. Maher; M. Wich, C. Benjamin; R. Kothe; J. Barker;
T. Smith; T. Crawford

Members Absent: H. Heier

Notice of Absence: H. Heier

7 members present and 1 member absent constitute a Quorum.

Old Business:

A **motion** was made by Mr. Wich to adopt the minutes from the November 18th, 2014 meeting and received a second from Mr. Kothe. The chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 Is and 0 nays, and the **motion was adopted**.

The next regular PTC meeting in Baton Rouge, LA at the Office of State Fire Marshal January 27th, 2015 @ 1:30 P.M. Location will be: OMV/OMF Building 7979 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA.

Discussion continued on proposed amendments to 2012 IPC Chapter 4 –

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Ms. Benjamin requested that previous adoption made as Footnote “h” be added as a new section (DHH1) with additions as noted:

When new educational buildings are added to an existing campus, the restroom facilities and drinking fountains located in the existing building(s) may be used to serve the occupants of the new educational building(s) only when all of the following provisions are met:

- i) Covered walkways consisting of a roof designed to protect the students and faculty from precipitation having a minimum width of 6 feet and located above a slip-resistant concrete or other acceptable hard surfaces leading to and from the restrooms shall be provided whenever children or faculty have to walk outside to access the toilet room;
- ii) The path of travel from the classroom door to the toilet room doors (boys’ or girls’) does not exceed the applicable distance specified in this section; and,
- iii) The number of occupants of the new building does not cause an increase in the school population that would trigger the need for more fixtures per Table 403.1 (Minimum Number of Required Plumbing Fixtures).

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin and **seconded** by Mr. Smith to adopt the addition language (DHH1) as a New Section, 403.3.7 - Location of toilet facilities in educational buildings, as noted in the handout provided to the members and stated during discussion. The chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 Is and 0 nays, and the **motion was adopted**.

Chapter 4 – Part XXI. Day Care Centers and Residential Facilities.

(105. General C.5 a and b, D, I – 1 and 2, 303. Diaper Changing Areas)

Ms. Benjamin brought to the attention of the commission that Section D, Section I – 1 and 2, and 303 Section E. was not addressed in the previous meeting of the commission and also areas that were tabled. Mr. Wich questioned if the proposed items were covered in the sanitary code. Ms. Benjamin noted that these items are in the Plumbing Code and also some of the items are listed in the school section but not all of them.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to adopt a New Section, 403.6, which would include DHH Comments 2, 3, 4, and 5, per the attachment provided to the commission members. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Smith. The chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 Is and 0 nays, and the **motion was adopted**.

SECTION 403.2 - SEPARATE FACILITIES

The Chair opened the floor for discussion concerning DHH Comment #6 -

The second part of the law requires separate toilet rooms for each sex if the establishment has a “wet bar” (as that term is defined in the law). Thus, it appears that the building official may be allowing a unisex restroom regardless whether or not the establishment has a wet bar.

A motion was made by Ms. Benjamin to adopt the DHH Comment #6 per the attachment provided to the commission members. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 5 Is and 2 nays, and the **motion was adopted**.

CHAPTER 4 (RESTROOM ACCESSIBILITY)

403.3.3 Location of toilet facilities in occupancies other than malls.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion concerning DHH Comment #7 to amend the section to add “and educational buildings.”

DHH PROPOSE TO AMEND THIS SECTION PER THE FOLLOWING:

403.3.3 Location of toilet facilities in occupancies other than malls *and educational buildings*. In occupancies other than covered and open mall buildings, *and educational buildings*, the required *public* and employee toilet facilities shall be located not more than one story above or below the space required to be provided with toilet facilities, and the path of travel to such facilities shall not exceed a distance of 500 feet (152 m).

IPC 403.3.1 “Access to the required facilities shall be from within the building or from the exterior of the building.”

Ms. Benjamin addressed Comment [DHH8] which was tabled at the previous meeting. DHH proposed the following IPC changes/additions – 403.3.1 Access to add the wording as italicized and underlined - areas noted on the handout provided by DHH in red.

The proposed amended changes requested as follows:

403.3.1 Access. The route to the public toilet facilities required by Section 403.3 shall not pass through kitchens, storage rooms or closets. *Except as otherwise allowed elsewhere in this code*, access to the required facilities shall be from within the building *through direct openings or corridors from the area or areas they are intended to serve*, or from the exterior of the building. All routes shall comply with the accessibility requirements of the International Building Code. The public shall have access to the required toilet facilities at all times that the building is occupied.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion from the commission and public comment. Mr. Becknell voiced concerns on not adding these two additions to this section of the code.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to amend 403.3.1 with the two added sections, “Except as otherwise allowed elsewhere in this code,” and “through direct openings or corridors from the area or areas they are intended to serve” The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Smith. The chair requested a vote of the members present by a show of hands which reflected a vote of 3 for, 4 opposed. **The motion was failed.**

IPC 403.3.4 Location of toilet facilities in malls.

Ms. Benjamin addressed **Comment [DHH9]** which had no action taken at the last meeting. DHH proposed to add at the end of 403.3.4 the following amended verbiage:

403.3.4 Location of toilet facilities in malls....(add) - When an individual tenancy, rental unit or other usable area within a covered mall building is separated from the central toilet facilities by walls or partitions without common access openings (i.e., openings through interior walls or partitions that allow access to the toilet facilities) it shall be considered independently from the remainder of the building and shall be provided with separate toilet facilities in accordance with this Chapter regardless of the type of occupancy. The minimum number of required plumbing fixtures shall be installed in each individual tenancy, rental unit or other usable area within an open mall unless covered walkways are provided along the entire path of travel from each individual tenancy, rental unit or other usable area to the central toilet facilities serving said spaces and the path of travel does not exceed 300 feet (91 440 mm).

The Chair opened the floor for discussion or comment from the commission members and the public.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to amend 403.3.4 to add the section noted above, as well as noted on the handout provided and listed in red as DHH Comment 9. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Smith. The chair requested a vote of the members present by a show of hands which reflected a vote of 3 for, 4 opposed. **The motion was failed.**

SECTION 412 FLOOR AND TRENCH DRAINS

Items tabled for review at the next meeting are listed as followings and noted on the handout provided in red:

It does not appear that the IPC requires a floor drain in public toilet rooms as per LSPC XIV.415E.2.a. With such a drain, hopefully, any overflows in the toilet room will be contained within the toilet room itself.

It does not appear that the IPC requires a floor drain in the recess room for sterilizers in a medical facility as does LSPC XIV.415.E.2.c and LSPC XIV.1305.C.2.a.

No mention is made that floor drains are not required in the toilet rooms serving hotel/motel guest rooms or patient rooms of hospitals and nursing homes as specifically stated under LSPC XIV.415.E.2.c.i.(a).

No mention is made that floor drains are not permitted in general food storage areas, for example, a food storage closet or room as specified under LSPC XIV.415.E.3.c. It appears that it only mentions the need for an air gap or air break relative to walk-in coolers and freezers but no mention is made of general food storage closets or rooms which could contain food items that could be subject to contamination in a backflow incident.

While these items were being reviewed by the members, The Chair requested to open the floor for discussion concerning occupancies with less than 10 people to provide alternatives to the drinking fountains such as in small businesses, other occupancies, etc. It was noted on page 28 the code addresses this issue and that they are not required in these occupancies.

The Chair requested to table Section 412 until the next meeting in order to research floor and trench drain concerns as noted above.

CHAPTER 5:

The Chair opened the floor for discussion on openings provided for Hot Water Heater access in attics. There was no action taken by the commission on this subject due to the fact that the code already addresses this concern.

SECTION 504.7 – WATER HEATERS – DRAIN PANS

The Chair opened the floor for discussion for concerns with Section 504.7

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to amend 504.7 and the sizes listed for drain pans to those listed in 511.H (sizing would be amending .0236 to .0276 and the drain line from ¾” to 1”) and that a electric hot water heater may rest in a high impact plastic pan of at least a .16 of an inch. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Smith. The chair requested a vote of the members present by a show of hands which reflected a vote of 7 for, 0 opposed. **The motion was approved.**

Chapter 5 - Solar Hot Water Heating

The Chair opened the floor to discussion on Solar Heating and any amendments which will need to be looked at and amended.

The Chair addressed heat transfer fluids and asked Mr. Mark Roberts for assistance in researching of the codes that address this area and also their code statements pertaining to them.

The Chair request that the commission review Solar Hot Water Heating and then at the next meeting to be ready to discuss if this is a matter that may need to be sent to the LSUCCC or handled by the commission. Discussion continued between the members and the matter was tabled.

The Chair opened the floor to any other comments or questions from the commission or public. Request for more meetings was discussed in order to cover material. Ms. Benjamin brought forth a provision listed in the UPC - Plumbing Fixtures and Fixture Fittings - Section 422.3 Fixture Requirements for Special Occupancies:

Additional fixtures shall be permitted to be required where unusual environmental conditions or referenced activities are encountered. In food preparation areas, fixture requirement shall be permitted to be dictated by the Health Codes.

With no other items on the agenda and no motion to accept other business, a **motion** was made by Mr. Smith and **seconded** by Mr. Maher to adjourn. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

END OF MINUTES