

Plumbing Transition Commission
January 27th, 2015
1:30 PM
7979 Independence Blvd, Room 308
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806
Meeting Minutes

The Chair welcomed all present and **called the meeting to order at 1:40 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; H. Heier

Members Absent: T. Crawford

Notice of Absence: T. Crawford

7 members present and 1 member absent constitute a Quorum.

Old Business:

1. Review and Adoption of the Minutes from the January 13, 2015 meeting.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Smith to adopt the minutes from the January 13th, 2015 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**.

Mr. Heier asked to comment. The Chair opened the floor to Mr. Heier. Mr. Heier requested that he received copies of the previous meetings on audio cd due to the fact he was absent. It was noted that those copies were available for pick up.

Mr. Barker asked to comment. The Chair recognized Mr. Barker. Mr. Barker requested the protocol to request items to be added to the agenda for the next meeting. This was discussed between the members. Those items that are requested to be added need to be sent to Mr. Joiner who will then forward them to Mr. Maher for his consideration. The items can be added up to 24 hours prior to the meeting per the public meeting law of posting the agenda.

The next regular PTC meeting will be in Baton Rouge, LA at the Office of State Fire Marshal February 10th, 2015 @ 1:30 P.M. Location will be: 8181 Independence Blvd Baton Rouge, LA. 70806

3. Continue review and discussion on proposed amendments to 2012 IPC Chapter 5. (Stephen Maher)

The Chair opened the floor for discussion to continue discussion of items from Chapter 4 tabled from the previous meeting. Comment (DHH10) – noted on page 8 of the IPC Chapter 4 Review handout.

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.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to require floor drains in public toilet rooms. The motion was **seconded** by 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**.

Discussion was opened to amend and add the exception “excluding patient rooms and hotel/motel rooms.”

The previous **motion** was amended by Ms. Benjamin and **seconded Mr. Kothe** to add the exception, “excluding hotel/motel guest rooms or patient rooms of a hospital or nursing home”. The chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 Is and 0 nays, the **motion was adopted**.

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.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to require a floor drain in the recess room for sterilizers in a medical facility. 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**.

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.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to prohibit floor drains in general food storage areas, for example, a food storage closet or room containing food items. 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**.

Chapter 5 – Water Heaters

The Chair opened the floor to discussion concerning if the PTC could make amendments concerning the IMC. Attorney's opinion was that the primary purpose of the PTC is to amend the Plumbing Code only. Mr. Heier asked if the PTC could suggest to the LSUCCC and the Mechanical Committee to look at areas of concern that the commission may have in the area of water heaters.

503.1 – Cold Water Line Valve

The Chair opened the floor on discussion of any other concerns in Chapter 5. Mr. Smith requested that the wording state "Full port ball valve" instead of "a valve" Section 503.1.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Smith that the wording in Section 503.1 be amended to state specifically "full port ball valve" instead of "a valve". The **motion was seconded** by Ms. Benjamin. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 Is and 0 nays, the **motion was adopted**.

504.7.1 – Required Pan.

Mr. Smith noted that the depth of the pan had not been covered in the previous meeting, only the thickness and the size of the drain line.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Smith to amend the wording from the previous motion made for 504.7.1 to include the wording "the drain pan shall be a minimum of 2 inches (2") in depth". The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Heier. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 I's and 0 nays, **the motion was adopted**.

513 - Solar Water Heating Systems

The Chair opened the floor for public comment. Mr. Jeremy Harris representing DHH noted that potential discussion for commission may need to include Section P 2902.5.5 of the IRC which address Solar System and Backflow Requirements to Solar System. The Chair stated that for the commission to be prepared to address this area the item should be included on the agenda so the members could properly prepare themselves for discussion. Discussion continued concerning this area between the members. The Chair tabled the discussion in this area until the next meeting in order to continue review of information on the subject.

Mr. Barker readdressed the concern of adding items to the agenda and the time frame to add items to the agenda. Mr. Joiner, Mr. Wich, and Mr. Maher addressed the concerns by Mr. Barker. There was discussion between the members. The Chair stated that at the end of the meeting there would be a time for those wishing to add items to the agenda for the next meeting to do so.

425.2 Flushometer valves and tanks. (Page 51)

The way that the IPC reads, this AVB would have to be located at least 6" above the overflow rim of the bowl. Requiring an AVB for a flushometer to always be a minimum of 6" above the bowl may always cause problems with the ADA hand rail height

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. Mr. Bechnell spoke on the subject to the commission.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to amend the language in 425.2 Flushometer valves and tanks - *Flushometer valves shall be equipped with an approved vacuum breaker. The vacuum breaker shall be installed on the discharge side of the flushing valve with the critical level at least 4 inches (102 mm) above the overflow rim of the bowl.* The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Smith The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 I's and 0 nays, **the motion was adopted.**

The Chair noted that 608.15.4 stays the same at this time.

608.6 Cross-connection control.

The Chair opened the floor for discussion of the following noted in handout. DHH proposed to add the following amended verbiage to 608.6.

Dual check valves are commonly installed by water systems during meter replacements. They offer some protection but are not a testable device so they are not approved for BF protection. They can be installed if a customer or water supplier so desires but only if there are no cross connections downstream of the device or the appropriate level of protection is provided for the cross connections that exist on the premises. Recommend amending section 608.6 of the IPC to reduce confusion and prevent this device from being used in an application where it won't provide adequate protection.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin that the language be added as highlighted and italicized to 608.6 - Cross connections shall be prohibited, except where approved *backflow prevention devices, assemblies, or methods* are installed to protect the potable water supply. *A dual check valve type backflow preventer (i.e., device meeting ASSE 1024 or CSA B64.6 with two spring loaded, independently operating check valves without tightly closing shut-off valves or test cocks which is commonly installed immediately downstream of water meters by water suppliers) is not an approved backflow prevention device when a known cross connection exists downstream of the device. These devices are only allowed to be installed when no cross connections exist downstream of the device or when all downstream cross connections are properly protected by approved backflow prevention devices, assemblies, or methods.* The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Baker. After a lengthy discussion between the commission members the Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 I's and 0 nays, the **motion was adopted.**

The Chair called for a break. **Commission reconvened at 2:46 p.m.**

Section 608.16.5 Connections to lawn irrigation systems.

Ms. Benjamin requested that the language be added to 608.16.5 as noted in highlighted/italics:

The potable water supply to lawn irrigation systems shall be protected against backflow by an atmospheric vacuum breaker, a pressure vacuum breaker assembly or a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly. *Shutoff or control valves shall not be installed downstream from an atmospheric vacuum breaker. When an irrigation/lawn sprinkler system is provided with separate zones, the potable water supply shall be protected by a pressure vacuum breaker or reduced pressure principal backflow prevention assembly. Atmospheric vacuum breakers shall be installed at least 6 inches (152 mm) above the highest point of usage (i.e., 6 inches (152 mm) above all downstream piping or highest sprinkler head). Pressure type vacuum breakers shall be installed at least 12 inches (305 mm) above the highest point of usage (i.e., 12 inches (305 mm) above all downstream piping and the highest sprinkler head).* Where chemicals are introduced into the system, the potable water supply shall be protected against backflow by a reduced pressure principle backflow prevention assembly.

A motion was made by Ms. Benjamin to adopt the language as amended above in highlighted and italicized text for 608.16.5. The motion was seconded by Mr. Barker. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 I's and 0 nays, the motion was adopted.

There was a request to amend the agenda to address IRC Section P2902.5.3 Water Irrigation System.

A motion was made by Ms. Benjamin to amend the agenda to include IRC Section P2902.5.3 – Water Irrigation Systems. The motion was seconded by Mr. Smith. The vote requires a unanimous vote by the members. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 6 I's and 1 Nay, motion failed.

608.14.2 Protection of backflow preventers.

Ms. Benjamin requested that the following changes be made to 608.14.2: The current wording of the IPC could be misinterpreted to mean that BF preventers are not required in areas that experience freezing temperatures. Also, removing a backflow prevention device from service triggers the need for a test upon re-installation to ensure it is still working properly. Most home and business owners would not complete this required test which could result in putting a non-working backflow preventer back into service. The temperatures in Louisiana fluctuate wildly in the winter time and in many cases a home or business owner may get tired of removing and reinstalling a backflow preventer. This could lead to the owner ultimately removing the device from service or installing a bypass which would totally negate the necessary protection. It is recommended to amend the necessary sections within the IPC as shown in the adjacent column in order to reduce confusion and to minimize the practice of taking devices out of service.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to amend Section 608.14.2 - Protection of backflow preventers as follows: Backflow preventers subjected to freezing temperatures shall be protected by heat, insulation or both; or as otherwise recommended by the manufacturer. 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**.

608.16.8 Portable cleaning equipment.

Ms. Benjamin stated that there are concerns for Section 608.16.8 of the IPC and that it allows the use of a double check valve assembly for backflow protection on portable cleaning equipment. Double check valves are only approved for low hazard applications. Cleaning equipment is considered high hazard. It also recommended allowing the use of vacuum breakers since some cleaning equipment may not have the potential for creating back pressure. To ensure that the correct BF is selected for the equipment used, it is recommend specifying that the type of BF preventer should be selected based on application. It was recommended to amend Section 608.16.8 of the IPC to state the following: Where the portable cleaning equipment connects to the water distribution system, the water supply system shall be protected against backflow in accordance with Section 608.13.1, 608.13.2, 608.13.3, ~~608.13.7~~ 608.13.5, 608.13.6, or 608.13.8. *The type of backflow preventer shall be selected based upon the application in accordance with Table 608.1.*

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to amended Section 608.16.8 - Portable Cleaning Equipment to add the following at the end as follows:608.13.5, 608.13.6, or 608.13.8. The type of backflow preventer shall be selected based upon the application in accordance with Table 608.1. 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, the **motion was adopted**.

608.15.4 Protection by a vacuum breaker.

Ms. Benjamin addressed concerns for Section 608.15.4 Mr. Jeremy Harris from DHH also spoke on behalf of the recommended change. The changes recommended were as follows: Openings and outlets shall be protected by atmospheric-type or pressure-type vacuum breakers. *The critical level of atmospheric type vacuum breakers shall be installed not less than 6 inches (152 mm) above all downstream piping and not less than 6 inches (152 mm) above the flood-level rim of the fixture receptor or device served. ~~the vacuum breaker shall be set not less than 6 inches (152 mm) above the flood level rim of the fixture or device.~~ Shutoff or control valves shall not be installed downstream from an atmospheric vacuum breaker. Atmospheric vacuum breakers including, but not limited to, hose bibb vacuum breakers shall not be subjected to continuous water pressure. The critical level of pressure type vacuum breakers shall be installed not less than 12 inches (305 mm) above all downstream piping and not less than 12 inches (305 mm) above the flood-level rim of the fixture receptor or device served. Fill valves shall be set in accordance with Section 425.3.1. Vacuum breakers shall not be installed under exhaust hoods or similar locations that will contain toxic fumes or vapors. ~~Pipe-applied vacuum breakers shall be installed not less than 6 inches (152 mm) above the flood level rim of the fixture, receptor or device served.~~*

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to amend Section 608.15.4 Protection by a vacuum breaker as noted in the above statement. 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, the **motion was adopted**.

Ms. Benjamin addressed concerns with 608.15.4.2 of the IPC and the amending the section in order to ensure hose bib vacuum breakers are installed and used correctly. These devices are easily damaged if subjected to continuous pressure or back pressure.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Benjamin to amend 608.15.4.2 Hose connections - to read as follows with amended wording: Sillcocks, hose bibbs, wall hydrants and other openings with a hose connection shall be protected *against backflow* by an atmospheric-type or pressure-type vacuum breaker *installed in accordance with Section 608.15.4*, or by a permanently attached hose connection vacuum breaker *in which the highest point of usage is less than 10 feet above the hose connection vacuum breaker. Hose bib vacuum breakers shall not be subjected to continuous water pressure.* And adding definition: ***Continuous Water Pressure*** – *A condition when a backflow preventer is continuously subjected to the upstream water supply pressure for a period of 12 hours or more.* 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, the **motion was adopted.**

The Chair opened the floor for any comments or questions.

A **motion** was made by Mr. Barker to add to the agenda on February 10th, 2015 – Discussion concerning plumbing permits in Louisiana. The **motion was seconded** by Mr. Heier. The Chair requested a vote of the members present which reflected a vote of 7 is and 0 nays, the **motion was adopted and item will be added to the February 10th, 2015 PTC Agenda.**

With no other items on the agenda and no motion to accept other business, a **motion** was made by Mr. Kothe and **seconded** by Mr. Smith to adjourn. With no objection, the meeting was adjourned at 3:21 p.m.

END OF MINUTES