

**FIRE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TELECONFERENCE MEETING FROM TALLAHASSEE, FLORIDA
WEB URL <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/195842341>
AUDIO: DIAL-IN NUMBER 1 866-899-4679
CONFERENCE CODE: 195-842-341
April 4, 2019
2:00 P.M.**

Minutes

FIRE TAC PRESENT:

Hamid Bahadori, Chairman
Joe Belcher
Jim Schock
Brad Schiffer

Robert Hamberger
Chris Athari for Joe Holland
Peter Schwab

FIRE TAC NOT PRESENT:

Jeff Gross

STAFF PRESENT:

Mo Madani
Justin Vogel
Robert Benbow
Marlita Peters

Thomas Campbell
Chris Howell
Jim Hammers

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Welcome:

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Ms. Peters welcomed everyone to the teleconference call of the Fire TAC. She provided information for the callers on how to mute systems to avoid background noise.

Roll Call:

Ms. Peters performed roll call for the Fire TAC. A quorum was determined with 7 members present.

Agenda Approval:

Mr. Belcher entered a motion to approve the agenda for today's meeting as posted. Commissioner Schock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 7 to 0.

Declaratory Statements:

DS 2019-007 by Derek Wiechmann of City of Ocala Growth Management Building Division

The Petitioner was not present on the call.

Mr. Madani provided the background of the declaratory statement with the following staff recommendation:

Question 1: Does the 2017 Florida Building Code, Building, SECTION 903 AUTOMATIC SPRINKLER SYSTEMS, [F] 903.2.8 Group R, apply to this townhouse building?

Answer:

Option #1

Petitioner: Petitioner believes that fire sprinklers are not required for townhouses meeting the exact definition per 2017 Florida Building Code, Residential, Chapter 2 Definitions, Section R202 Definitions, [RB] Townhouse, and the residential code applies not the commercial building code.

DS 2019-007 by Derek Wiechmann of City of Ocala Growth Management Building Division (cont.):

Option #2

Staff: The answer to the question is “No.” As per Section 101.2, Scope, of the 6th Edition (2017) FBC, Building, the project in question falls within the scope of the 6th Edition (2017) FBC, Residential and therefore, Section 903.2.8 of the 6th Edition (2017) FBC, Building does not apply to the townhouse building in question.

Question 2: Are fire sprinklers required? Answer:

Option #1

Petitioner: See answer to question 1.

Option #2

Staff: The answer to the question is “No.” As per Section R313 Automatic Fire Sprinkler Systems “Reserved”, the townhouse in question is not required to be sprinkled.

Commissioner Schock entered a motion to approve the staff responses “Option #2” adding comment: “This is with the understanding that there is no lawfully adopted ordinance relating to fire sprinklers which has been in effect since January 2, 2010 and which has any bearing on this project”. Mr. Belcher seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 7 to 0.

DS 2019-014 by Allen Finfrock of Finfrock DMC:

Mike Phegley, representing the petitioner explained the request for the declaratory statement.

Mr. Madani provided the background of the declaratory statement with the following petitioner and staff recommendation:

Question: Does the code classify an access panel as a "smoke and draft control door" which would require it to be rated per UL 1784?

Answer:

Option #1

Petitioner: Petitioner respectfully believes the answer to the question is “NO”. Since fire rated access panels are not tested to UL 1784, we do not believe that the codes’ intent is to classify these panels as “control doors”; otherwise, we feel that they would have been tested to the standard years ago.

Option #2

Staff: The answer to question is “Yes.” As per section 716.5.3.1, Smoke and draft control, the access panel in question must meet the requirements for a smoke and draft control door assembly tested in accordance with UL 1784.

TAC Questions:

Mr. Belcher requested information on the type of testing performed on the panels and results of the testing. In addition, he stated it would be very helpful in making an informed decision to have photographs of the area where they are to be placed.

Mr. Phegley stated he did not have the information on this with him.

Mr. Belcher stated he would like to enter a motion to defer.

Mr. Vogel advised the Committee that there is a statutory requirement to provide a response within 90 days of receiving a petition. If the petitioner wishes to waive the 90 day requirement, the Committee could recommend a deferral in order to receive more information.

Commissioner Schiffer expressed concerns that when the panel is installed it is then sealed; however, maybe the testing results would provide more information.

Commissioner Schock questioned if the air flow through the air handler is a sealed unit and would not leak into the space.

Mr. Phegley responded that the returns are directly returned into the unit.

Commissioner Hamberger asked if this unit could be installed in the ceiling.

Mr. Phegley stated no, there is no space in the ceiling.

Public Comments:

Pete Quintela asked about direct ducting?

Mr. Phegley stated it is direct ducted and the fire panel is self-closing.

90 Day Waiver of the Petitioner:

Mr. Phegley officially waived the 90 day response requirement to provide needed information to the TAC.

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Motion:

Mr. Belcher entered a motion to defer to allow petitioner the time to provide testing results of the panels and photographs. Commissioner Schiffer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with a vote of 7 to 0.

TAC Comments: None

Public Comments: None

Final Roll Call:

There being no further business before the TAC, Ms. Peters performed a closing roll call and there were 7 members still present on the line.

Adjourn:

The meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.