

SOFFIT SYSTEMS WORKGROUP MEETING I

REPORT TO THE FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION

November 12, 2008

Gainesville, Florida

Meeting Design & Facilitation By



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FLORIDA BUILDING COMMISSION

SOFFIT SYSTEMS WORKGROUP REPORT

NOVEMBER 12, 2008

OVERVIEW

Chairman Rodriguez announced that at the request of stakeholders the Commission is convening a Soffit Systems Workgroup. The Workgroup will work with affected stakeholder interests in a facilitated workgroup process to evaluate and build consensus on recommendations regarding labeling requirements for soffit systems in the Florida Building Code.

MEMBERS

Joe Belcher, Bob Boyer, Joe Breese, Jimmy Buckner, Rusty Carroll, Matthew Dobson and Dave Johnston (member and alternate), Jamie Gascon, Allen Hoying, Do Kim, C.W. Macomber, Lance Olsen, Paul Radauskus, Tim Reinhold, Neil Sexton, and Jim Schock.

REPORT OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2008 MEETING

Opening and Meeting Attendance

The meeting started at 9:00 AM, and the following Workgroup members were present: Joe Belcher, Dwight Wilkes for Bob Boyer, Jimmy Buckner, Matthew Dobson/Dave Johnston (member and alternate), Jamie Gascon, Allen Hoying, Do Kim, C.W. Macomber, Paul Radauskus, Neil Sexton, and Jim Schock.

DCA Staff Present

Rick Dixon and Mo Madani.

Public Present

Mike Hammer, Greg Kopp, Forrest Masters, and Ralph Stas.

Meeting Facilitation

The meeting was facilitated by Jeff Blair from the Florida Conflict Resolution Consortium at Florida State University. Information at: <http://consensus.fsu.edu/>

Project Webpage

Information on the project, including agenda packets, meeting reports, and related documents may be found in downloadable formats at the project webpage below:
<http://consensus.fsu.edu/FBC/soffit.html>

Meeting Objectives

- ✓ To Approve Regular Procedural Topics (Agenda)
- ✓ To Hear an Overview of the Workgroup's Scope and Charge
- ✓ To Review Workgroup Procedures, Guidelines, and Decision-Making Requirements
- ✓ To Identify Issues and Options Regarding Implementing Labeling Requirements for Soffit Systems
- ✓ To Discuss and Evaluate Level of Acceptability of Proposed Options
- ✓ To Consider Public Comment
- ✓ To Identify Needed Next Steps and Agenda Items for Next Meeting

Review of Soffit Systems Workgroup Scope

Rick Dixon, FBC Executive Director, reviewed the project scope and answered member's questions. Rick explained that the purpose of the Workgroup is to evaluate and build consensus on recommendations regarding labeling and performance requirements for soffit systems in the Florida Building Code.

Review of Commission's Workgroup Meeting Guidelines, Consensus-Building and Decision-Making Process, and Sunshine Requirements

Jeff Blair, Commission facilitator, explained the decision-making procedures used by the Commission and that members were bound by the requirements of the Florida Sunshine Law as provided in Section 286.011, Florida Statutes.

(Attachment 2—Workgroup's Consensus Process)

Identification of Issues for Evaluation Regarding Soffit System Labeling Requirements

Workgroup members were asked to identify key topical issues that should be evaluated for developing soffit systems labeling recommendations for the Florida Building Code.

Following are the key topical issues identified by the Workgroup:

- **Format**
- **Content** (what should be provided on the label)
- **Inspection Needs** (providing on-site what the building inspector needs to ensure the product complies with the Code)
- **Performance Standards** (product/material types and prescriptive requirements)
- **Installation Instructions**

Overview and Summary of Discussion and Participant's Questions and Comments:

- No presumption of how label will be applied/provided.
- Method of providing label.
- Format for label.
- What is on label.
- What is needed for inspection by building department.
- ASTM D 3679 requirements integration.
- There is a standard for vinyl siding but not specifically for soffits. Should a specific test be specified?
- ASTM D 4477 is specific to vinyl soffits also ASTM D 5206.

- AAMA 1402 is used by aluminum soffit manufacturers, but is obsolete and doesn't comply with current pressure requirements.
- May need to provide prescriptive requirements for wood soffits.
- Identify installation transfer to inspector.
- Need test/performance standards for materials not covered by other standards.
- Continuous and dis-continuous soffit systems should be considered.
- Where vents are placed on soffit.
- Need to decide what to do regarding field manufactured soffits.
- Uniformity/consistency with criteria for other code required product labels.
- Requirements for the order of information on the label/format.
- What performance requirements are included on label versus just required to be evaluated by the code (i.e., Pressure: positive and negative ratings, and wind driven rain performance).
- Frame discussion in the context of Rule 9B-72, Product Approval (i.e., structural performance).
- Should there be an installer certification program.
- Develop a reporting system that summarizes the different types of systems, applications, installation instructions and specifications.
- The fascia soffit interface should be considered.

Identification and Evaluation of Options Regarding Designing and Implementing Labeling Requirements for Soffit Systems

Members were asked to discuss and identify options for each of the five (5) key topical issues (format, content, inspection needs, performance standards, and installation instructions). A summary of the discussion by key topical issue is provided below.

Overview and Summary of Discussion and Participant's Questions and Comments:

FORMAT OF LABEL

- There should be a number of options for how to provide labels.
- Its best to have the label on the soffit itself.
- Label should go on the product based on how it is sold: (i.e., on the package if sold by the package and on the soffit material if sold by the piece).
- If the label is on the product itself, it will be hidden once installed.
- There are practical difficulties applying label to individual pieces which may limit its usefulness.
- If a package label is allowed, then the product should provide a link to the manufacturer.
- There are big differences between labeling a product like windows, relative to labeling individual components with many pieces such as soffits.
- There should at least be a mark on each soffit panel that identifies the manufacturer, product information, and Florida Product Approval (PA) number.
- Permanent mark on product should include the PA number.
- Some soffit systems types such as stucco and wood systems will not be able to be marked or labeled. They should be required to show how the system is installed with drawings/plans.
- Manufactured products, such as shutters, should have permanent labels.
- Need some way to verify that field developed systems (e.g. stucco) comply with performance requirements.
- Need research to validate prescriptive requirements for field developed systems (i.e., wood, stucco).
- Testing of generic systems should be done, similar to fire rated assemblies, and recognized in the Code.
- The alternative is PA for specific systems.

- Should adhere a label to the packaging.
- Will be difficult to put all label information on each panel, but it should be available in some format on the job site.

CONTENT OF LABEL

- Design pressure positive and negative.
- Florida Product Approval (PA) number.
- Manufacturers identification.
- Net free area per linear foot of ventilation.
- The pressure rating may be different based on the span of the soffit, and is contingent on installation details and building configuration factors.
- Have to address the configurations that pressure rating will work for.
- May have to refer to the manufacturers installation instructions for all of the information needed.
- The PA will have to give a range of pressures.
- Indicate the test standard(s) the product is evaluated to.
- Indicate who conducted the evaluation (e.g., testing agency, certification body).
- Model or series number and manufacturers ID.
- The label can reference other documents or information locations (e.g., FL PA for full information and needed additional information).
- The information that can be provided on the label will depend on where the label is placed (depending on what is decided regarding the labeling “format”). The size of the label will create limitations: if the label is on the product itself less information could be provided than if the label is on the packaging.
- It may be better to develop prescriptive criteria for all types of soffit systems/products, instead of requiring a label with performance information provided.
- Data on performance is important because of changing code performance requirements.
- Prescriptive requirements for all types of soffit systems would require a single profile for the product (i.e., a material standard for all vinyl products).
- Miami-Dade requires: manufacturer’s name, logo, manufacturer’s plant location, Miami-Dade Product Control approval statement, and the label must be permanent.

BUILDING INSPECTOR’S NEEDS

- Installation drawings and specifications should be provided on-site and also as part of documents submitted for permitting.
- Are soffit products chosen before permitting or later.
- Require identification of 3 manufacturers at time of plans submission, including PA number for specific products. Require installation instructions for the selected product at the jobsite by time of inspection. Changes from one of the 3 originally identified product choices requires amendment of permit.

PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- Need testing standards for all of the soffit system types.
- Pressure rating: ASTM E 330.
- Cycling or no cycling
- Rational analysis: where allowed.
- ASTM E 330 could be used D 5306 uses similar test criteria but does not apply deflection criteria (for vinyl).
- Simply addressing design pressure resistance, or are we measuring other things that may not be important to product performance.
- Dynamic test needs to be considered beyond requirements of 330.
- Should determine what performance factors need to be focused on, and then identify relevant standards.
- Wind pressure: resistance to wind forces.
- Water intrusion, wind driven rain: TAS 100
- Tests will be specific to different types of soffit systems and the materials used in the system.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS

- Available on jobsite, and with plans submittal.
- Needs to be an attached document within the PA application accessible online.
- Show design pressures negative and positive.
- Include fastener information.
- Manufacturers' identification and series numbers.
- Convey installation techniques to achieve the required design pressure. This is more than fastener specifications, need all installation details.
- Several series products can be covered by one installation specification. This is common.
- Difference in installation specifications for different series need to be clearly identified.
- Cross referencing is important. Correlate installation specifications to specific series product.
- DP rating of product is difficult to determine from tables used to cover many products, and is available in installation instructions and PA applications.
- Manufacturers provide tables in order to provide design pressures for different overhang lengths.
- The requirement for soffit wind load ratings is new, only since the 2006 supplement to 2004 FBC. ASTM standards specific to soffit products are not yet available. Industry adapted by using similar test standards that are not yet specific to soffit systems.

Review of Workgroup Delivery and Meeting Schedule

The next meeting is planned to be held in conjunction with the Florida Building Commission's February 2009 meeting. Likely dates are February 2 or 3, 2009.

Next Steps

Compile and distribute the following information:

- Relevant standards
- Labeling requirements for other products
- Current Florida Building Code requirements
- Miami-Dade County protocols
- Standard soffit system installation examples for different product types
- List the different types of materials and construction types
- Overview of Product Approval System and what submittals are required for approval
- Matrix or reporting system summarizing the different soffit system types, materials, applications, and installation specifications.

ATTACHMENT 1
MEETING EVALUATION RESULTS

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Average rank using a 0 to 10 scale, where 0 means totally disagree and 10 means totally agree.

1. Please assess the overall meeting.

- 7.9 The background information was very useful.
- 8.1 The agenda packet was very useful.
- 8.6 The objectives for the meeting were stated at the outset.
- 8.8 Overall, the objectives of the meeting were fully achieved.

2. Do you agree that each of the following meeting objectives was achieved?

- 8.4 Overview of the Workgroup's Scope and Charge.
- 8.3 Identification of Options Regarding Implementing Labeling Requirements for Soffit Systems.
- 7.5 Evaluation of Level of Acceptability of Proposed Options.
- 8.4 Identification of Next Steps.

3. Please tell us how well the Facilitator helped the participants engage in the meeting.

- 9.4 The members followed the direction of the Facilitator.
- 9.6 The Facilitator made sure the concerns of all members were heard.
- 9.4 The Facilitator helped us arrange our time well.
- 9.1 Participant input was documented accurately.

4. Please tell us your level of satisfaction with the meeting?

- 7.7 Overall, I am very satisfied with the meeting.
- 9.0 I was very satisfied with the services provided by the Facilitator.
- 7.7 I am satisfied with the outcome of the meeting.

5. Please tell us how well the next steps were communicated?

- 8.8 I know what the next steps following this meeting will be.
- 8.6 I know who is responsible for the next steps.

6. What did you like best about the meeting?

- Moved at a steady pace.
- Good progress for first meeting.
- The discussions.
- Participation of all members.

7. How could the meeting have been improved?

None provided.

8. Member Comments.

- Need to develop an inclusive and comprehensive reporting mechanism to administer all elements.

ATTACHMENT 2

WORKGROUP'S CONSENSUS PROCESS

The Workgroup will seek to develop a package of consensus-based recommendations for submittal to the Florida Building Commission. General consensus is a participatory process whereby, on matters of substance, the members strive for agreements which all of the members can accept, support, live with or agree not to oppose. In instances where, after vigorously exploring possible ways to enhance the members' support for the final decision on a recommendation, and the Workgroup finds that 100% acceptance or support is not achievable, final decisions will require at least 75% favorable vote of all members present and voting. This super majority decision rule underscores the importance of actively developing consensus throughout the process on substantive issues with the participation of all members and which all can live with. In instances where the Workgroup finds that even 75% acceptance or support is not achievable, publication of recommendations will include documentation of the differences and the options that were considered for which there is more than 50% support from the Workgroup.

The Workgroup will develop its recommendations using consensus-building techniques with the assistance of the facilitator. Techniques such as brainstorming, ranking and prioritizing approaches will be utilized. Where differences exist that prevent the Workgroup from reaching a final consensus decision (i.e. with support of at least 75% of the members) on a recommendation, the Workgroup will outline the differences in its documentation.

The Workgroup's consensus process will be conducted as an open process consistent with applicable law. Workgroup members, staff, and facilitator will be the only participants seated at the table. Only Workgroup members may participate in discussions and vote on proposals and recommendations. The facilitator, or a Workgroup member through the facilitator, may request specific clarification from a member of the public in order to assist the Workgroup in understanding an issue. Observers/members of the public are welcome to speak during the public comment period provided at each meeting, and all comments submitted on the public comment forms provided in the agenda packets will be included in the facilitator's summary reports.

Facilitator will work with staff and Workgroup members to design agendas that will be both efficient and effective. The staff will help the Workgroup with information and meeting logistics.

To enhance the possibility of constructive discussions as members educate themselves on the issues and engage in consensus-building, members agree to refrain from public statements that may prejudice the outcome of the Workgroup's consensus process. In discussing the Workgroup process with the media, members agree to be careful to present only their own views and not the views or statements of other participants. In addition, in order to provide balance to the Workgroup process, members agree to represent and consult with their stakeholder interest groups.