

**CODES AND STANDARDS COMMITTEE
CODES AMENDMENT SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

December 13, 2023

A meeting of the Codes Amendment Subcommittee of the Codes and Standards Committee was held on-line using Microsoft Teams Meeting platform. The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:47 PM.

CAS in Attendance: John J. Butkus, AIA, Architect
Johnny Carrier, Residential Contractor
Anthony Cinicola, Building Official
Paul Costello, Electric Trades
Hank Cullinane, HVAC
Thomas DiBlasi, PE, Structural Engineer
Keith Flood, Fire Marshal
Louis Free, AIA, Architect, CAS Chair
Donald Harwood, Public Member
David McKinley, Advocacy
Henry Miga, Building Official
Timothy Mikloiche, Electrical Contractor
Michael Musco, PE, Electrical Engineer
Illona Prosol, PE, Fire Protection Engineer
Eric Shutt, Plumbing Trades Contractor
Fred Wajcs, Jr., Public Member
William Zoeller, RA, Energy Efficiency

DAS in Attendance: William Abbott, OSFM, State Fire Marshal
Joseph Duval, OSFM, Fire & Life Safety Specialist
Amy LaChance, DAS Legal, Staff Attorney
Rebecca Tamborra, DAS Legal, Staff Attorney
Omarys Vasquez, AIA, NOMA, State Building Inspector
David Woods, OSFM, Fire & Life Safety Supervisor
Peter Zvingilas, DAS, Assistant Director, Regulatory Compliance

Also Present: Joseph Cassidy
William J. Nash, Senior Regional Manager, International Code Council

1. CAS MINUTES

- a. No CAS meeting minutes to approve.

2. COMMUNICATIONS

No new correspondence was received since the last CAS meeting.

3. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Chair Louis Free provided a brief update on the 2025 Connecticut State Building Code and Fire Safety Code Development.
 - i) The next CAS meeting scheduled on January 10, 2024 will be a kickoff meeting to review the overall schedule and the work group assignments to start the 2025 Connecticut State Building Code and Fire Safety Code development process.
 - ii) The tentative 2025 Connecticut State Building Code and Fire Safety Code Development schedule is to have the draft Connecticut Code Amendments ready for CAS review by July 24, 2024.
 - iii) Peter Zvingilas reported that CAS members email addresses have been forwarded to ICC for setting up ICC online premium code access. Look for an email from ICC providing information on the access.

- b. Public Act No. 23-102 - AN ACT STRENGTHENING PROTECTIONS FOR CONNECTICUT'S CONSUMERS OF ENERGY

Sec. 40. (Effective July 1, 2023) Not later than December 31, 2023, the Department of Administrative Services, the office of the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall study and jointly submit a report, in accordance with section 11-4a of the general statutes, to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to public safety regarding the inclusion of gas detectors within the State Building Code. Such report shall include, but need not be limited to, (1) the anticipated feasibility of requiring gas detectors in all buildings that use natural gas or propane gas, (2) recommendations for future legislative changes, (3) the current availability of gas detectors that meet the standards of the National Fire Protection Association, (4) a recommended code alignment process to accommodate any changes, and (5) the fiscal impact on the state or owner of public buildings.

Discussions:

- i) Keith Flood pointed out that Public Act No. 23-102 states “the Department of Administrative Services, the office of the State Building Inspector and the Codes and Standards Committee shall study and jointly submit a report” “relating to public safety regarding the inclusion of gas detectors within the State Building Code” and does not mention the Office of State Fire Marshal or the State Fire Safety Code. Chair Free clarified that the Public Act’s omitted references does not negate the need to coordinate with the State Fire Marshal and the Office of State Fire Marshal will be actively participating in the review, making recommendations and coordinating any and all code changes to both the Connecticut State Building Code and Connecticut Fire Safety Code, as necessary.

- ii) State Building Inspector Omarys Vasquez reported that approximately three CAS members expressed interest in serving on the new Gas Detector Work Group. During the meeting the following expressed their intent to serve on the Gas Detector Work Group: State Fire Marshal William Abbott, State Building Inspector Omarys Vasquez, Johnny Carrier, Paul Costello, Keith Flood, Donald Harwood, Henry Miga, Timothy Mikloiche and Michael Musco.
- iii) John Butkus stated he thought CAS had agreed that the entire CAS was going to serve as the working group for the gas detectors issue. Chair Free clarified the intent was to create a separate Work Group with a cross section of CAS members and include the constituents from utilities and distributors; include any interested parties and legislators to the workgroup as a vested member on the issue. In response to the legislature, the motion made and approved was to assign the research on Public Act No. 23-102 related to gas detectors to the entire CAS for consideration in the next code cycle in January 2024.
- iv) Henry Miga stated NFPA 715 Standard for the Installation of Fuel Gases Detection and Warning Equipment 2023 Edition is a large and very comprehensive document, that the CAS takes referenced standards as published and do not modify or amend them. Chair Free confirmed that this is historically true that referenced standards do not get modified. State Fire Marshal William Abbott confirmed he would not support amending referenced standards.
- v) Amy LaChance provided information on the timeline to submit the required report to the joint standing committee of the General Assembly before the end of this year. The report must first be sent to the Office of the Governor and OPM prior to submitting it to the legislature. This is a requirement for all reports being submitted from agencies to the legislature. Consequently, State Building Inspector Vasquez is looking to finalize the report no later than Friday, December 15th.
- vi) State Building Inspector Vasquez presented the outline of the draft document titled “Report to the Public Safety and Security Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, Public Act 23-102 - An Act Strengthening Protections for Connecticut’s Consumers of Energy, State Building Code Gas Detection Report” dated December 2023 and prepared by Codes and Standards, Office of the State Building Inspector and Office of the State Fire Marshal.
- vii) The CAS performed an on-line reviewed of the draft document titled “Report to the Public Safety and Security Committee of the Connecticut General Assembly, Public Act 23-102 - An Act Strengthening Protections for Connecticut’s Consumers of Energy, State Building Code Gas Detection Report”. State Building Inspector Vasquez provided live edits based on questions, comments, discussions and edits provided by CAS.
- viii) State Building Inspector Vasquez requested that anyone who has any additional edits or comments, please email them to here by the end of day tomorrow.

4. NEW BUSINESS

No new business.

5. ADJOURNMENT

Thomas DiBlasi made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 3:15 PM, Fred Wajcs second the motion. No discussion, the vote was all in favor and none opposed, the motion for adjournment is APPROVED.

The next Codes Amendment Subcommittee meeting is set for January 10, 2024 at 1:30 PM or immediately following the conclusion of the Codes and Standards Committee monthly meeting and will be held on-line using Microsoft Teams Meeting platform..



Louis Free, Chair
Codes Amendment Subcommittee