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CHARLES BORSTEL
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Minutes

Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians and Sprinklerfitters: Subcommittee to Define “Inspections” in 528 CMR

Division of Professional Licensure
1000 Washington Street, Room 1D
Boston, MA 02118
February 21, 2018, 1:00 PM

1. Meeting called to order by the DPL Commissioner Charles Borstel at 1:02 p.m., followed by roll call, Commissioner Borstel asked that members identify themselves and whom they represent:

Bureau Subcommittee Members Present:

Charles Borstel, DPL Commissioner (Chair)
Justin Fishlin, Sprinklerfitter Member
Pauline Lally, User Member
John Viola, Sprinkler Contractor Member
Brian Kelly, Mass. Building/Construction Trades

Guests Present:

Matt Jones, Sprinklerfitters Local 550
Bill Paul, Piping Systems
Elizangela Barros, DPL
Charles Kilb, DPL
David Sullivan, DPL
Cesar I. Lastra, DPL

2. Introductions:

Commissioner Borstel introduced the five (5) member subcommittee made up of the following members:

- Justin Fishlin, representing the “Sprinklerfitter Member”;
- Brian Kelly, representing the “Mass. Building/Construction Trades”;
- Pauline Lally, representing the “User Member”;
- John Viola, representing the “Sprinkler Contractor Member”;
- Charles Borstel, the Commissioner of the Division of Professional Licensure.

The intent of the subcommittee is to establish a regulatory definition and/or language for the word “INSPECTION(S)” so as to clarify any confusion or misunderstandings related to the license requirements to perform the work of a Pipefitter, Refrigeration Technician and/or Sprinklerfitter. The matter was brought to the attention of the Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians and Sprinklerfitters through a draft “Bureau Interpretation: Official Interpretation of Sprinklerfitter License Requirements on Employer’s Property”. Justin Fishlin requested for further discussion on the topic of ‘visual inspections’ of fire protection sprinkler systems as the matter is of concern to public safety. Ensuing discussions amongst Bureau members and stake holders resulted in the Bureau voting to create this subcommittee at the January 17, 2018 meeting.



3. Vote to Appoint a Subcommittee Chair:

Commissioner Borstel informed the members that a vote to appoint a subcommittee Chair would be in order. Commissioner Borstel added that, although he is the Chair of the Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinklerfitters, there is no preconceived notion that he has to be the Chair of the subcommittee and any member can be appointed. **Motion to appoint DPL Commissioner Charles Borstel as Chair of the subcommittee made by John Viola, seconded by Brian Kelly; motion passed by unanimous vote.**

4. Subcommittee Discussions

John Viola inquired on what prompted the discussion. The Chair informed Mr. Viola that a statutory change took place in November 2016 to include “inspections” within the definition of Fire Protection Sprinkler System with no specification on the type of inspection (visual inspection or hands-on inspection). Mr. Viola presented a 2009 administrative ruling made by former Department of Public Safety Chief of Inspections - Mechanical, Mark Mooney, where the sprinklerfitting licensing requirements depended on the impairment and non-impairment of the fire protection sprinkler system. Cesar I. Lastra informed the subcommittee members that the current version of 528 CMR defines “Sprinklerfitting” as, “the, installation, alteration, modification, inspection, testing, maintenance, removal and repairing of any Fire Protection Sprinkler System or any part of such system, excluding visual inspection where it does not impair the system.” Mr. Viola added that NFPA 25 provides a definition for “inspection” for consideration of the subcommittee. Justin Fishlin recommended reviewing the inspection frequency requirements listed in NFPA 25 to establish criteria (copies of the tables listed in Chapter 5 and Chapter 13 of the 2014 NFPA 25 will be distributed at the next meeting). Pauline Lally inquired on the necessity to define visual inspection and mandating it on to the owner of the sprinkler system. Mr. Fishlin states that past practices of unlicensed visual inspections cause issues that continue to appear at this time and failure to properly perform a visual inspection is of concern to public safety. The Chair added that the Bureau cannot mandate visual inspections, but can define what they are. Mr. Fishlin, Ms. Lally, and Mr. Viola made a recommendation to reach out to the Association for Facilities Engineering (AFE), the National Fire Sprinkler Association (NFSA), and Maurice Pilette for comments, contributions, and opinions as stake holders. Matt Jones of the Sprinklerfitters Local 550 stated that his boss would provide written statements for the next subcommittee meeting.

5. Matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of meeting

- No discussion on matters not reasonably anticipated 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

6. Motion to adjourn made by Brian Kelly, seconded by John Viola; motion passed by unanimous vote, meeting adjourned at 1:45 PM.

The next meeting of the Bureau of Pipefitters, Refrigeration Technicians, and Sprinklerfitters: Subcommittee to Define “Inspections” in 528 CMR will be on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 immediately following the meeting of the full Bureau (Rescheduled for April 18, 2018 due to inclement weather). The meeting will be held at the Division of Professional Licensure, 1000 Washington Street, Room 1D, Boston, MA 02118.

List of Documents/Exhibits Used at this Meeting

- a. Draft Bureau Interpretation: Official Interpretation of Sprinklerfitter License Requirements on Employer’s Property (November 15 Bureau Meeting)
- b. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 146, Sections 81 to 89
- c. 528 CMR: BUREAU OF PIPEFITTERS & REFRIGERATION TECHNICIANS