

Window Cleaning Safety TAG

Meeting Notes

Date: Tuesday, August 1, 2023

Meeting Location: Hybrid – Washington Room/WebEx

Call to order:

Greg Metz

Attendance:

TAG Members present: Greg Metz (DLI), Eric Crone (professional window cleaners), Michael LaSage (professional window cleaner), Dan Grinsteinner (AMBO), David Kegler (commercial contractors), Peter Haag (MN AIA), Scott Anderson (large municipalities), Rob Balsavich (DLI/MNOSHA)

TAG Members absent: Bob Spafford (cleaning logistics), Kris Marti (professional window cleaners), Larry Farris (multi-family and mid/high rise commercial design), Peter Haag (MN AIA)

Guests attending: Amanda Spuckler (DLI), Chad Payment (DLI), Jeff Lebowski (DLI), Don Sivigny (DLI), Paul Swett (DLI), Steven Shold (DLI), Clayton Talbot, Kyle Dimler

1. Call to order
2. Reviewed the scope of the statutory language which includes all windows that are subject to the requirements of the Minnesota State Building Code, and not only windows 60 feet in height.
3. Reviewed draft code language for window cleaning safety. Discussion of specific draft sections and code change proposals is detailed below.

3114.1 Window cleaning methods and limitations.

The TAG reviewed a code change proposal to delete items 2 and 3 and provide exceptions from safe window cleaning requirements for interior windows where highest window surface is 20 feet or less above the work surface and exterior windows where the highest window glazing surfaces are 30 feet or less above the work surface. The code change proposal also includes subsections that define work surfaces that allow for safe window cleaning. The TAG consensus was to accept the code change proposal but rework the exceptions into a section because they are acceptable methods for safe window cleaning. The TAG consensus was to include skylights in the scoping for safe window cleaning.

3114.3 Portable ladders

The TAG reviewed a code change proposal to revise section 3114.3 to clarify requirements for safe ladder positioning on a landing, limiting the horizontal reach distance from a ladder to 3 feet, and limiting the use of ladders to windows no more than 38 feet above the ladder landing work surface. The TAG consensus was to accept the code change proposal.

3114.6 Mobile elevating work platforms (MEWP)

TAG members reviewed a code change proposal to require height limits, work surfaces, and equipment access to comply with the equipment manufacturer's recommendations. The TAG consensus was to accept the code change proposal and apply the same requirements to manually propelled mobile scaffolds. The TAG consensus was to require surfaces where the equipment will be used to have the structural capacity to support it.

3114.7 Roof anchorage for use of manual swinging scaffolds, boatswain's chairs, and rope descent systems

The TAG reviewed the proposed language for section 3114.7 and its subsections. The TAG consensus was to accept the proposed language with the following revisions:

- Revise section 3114.7 to also permit the use of wall anchors that comply with section 3114.8 and anchor points at structural members certified by a licensed structural engineer.
- Revise section 3114.7.4 to replace "fall arrest" with "fall restraint" and provide an exception from fall restraint requirements where guards are installed extending not less than 6 feet beyond the working surface. These modifications will be made to all sections where fall arrest is required.

3114.8 Wall anchorage

The TAG reviewed the proposed language for section 3114.8 and its subsections. The TAG consensus was to accept the proposed language with the following revisions:

- Revise section 3114.8.3 to replace "austenitic steel" with "corrosion resistant steel."
- Add subsections to apply the roof anchorage requirements for working surface, access to working surface, and fall restraint to wall anchorage.

Anchorage to certified structural members

The TAG consensus is to add a section to address requirements for anchor points at structural members. These anchor points are required to comply with the same working surface, access to working surface, and fall restraint requirements as roof anchors and wall anchors.

Meeting Adjourned: 3:55 PM

Prepared by: Greg Metz