

# Window Cleaning Anchor TAG

## Meeting Notes

**Date:** Thursday, November 4, 2021

**Meeting Location:** WebEx Event

### Call to order:

Greg Metz called the meeting to order at 3:32 PM

### Attendance:

TAG Members present: Greg Metz (DLI), Dan Kelsey (DLI), Kyle Berndt (MN Multi-Housing Association), Robert Balsavich (Alternate -DLI/MNOSHA), Eric Crone (Columbia Building Services and SEIU Local 26), Larry Farris (BKV Group Architects & Engineers), Ken Hines (CBS Construction Services, Inc.), and Wendy Rannenberg (City of Duluth)

TAG Members absent: Nancy Zentgraf (DLI/MNOSHA)

Guests attending: Amanda Spuckler (DLI), Chad Payment (DLI), Jeff Lebowski (DLI), Brittany Wysokinski (DLI), Scott McKown (DLI), Kate Perushek (DLI), Brian Elliott, Brian Gadiant, Senator Karin Housley, and Representative Bob Dettmer

#### 1. Call to order

- WebEx instructions/procedures

#### 2. TAG member introductions.

#### 3. Overview of TAG goals.

- Discuss window cleaning safety in order to provide input to state legislators as they consider modifications to the current statutory language requiring window cleaning anchors on buildings four stories or taller.

#### 4. Reviewed current statutory language, [Minnesota Statutes, Section 326B.106, subdivision 4\(m\)](#).

- The current language requires the installation of window cleaning anchors on new buildings four stories and taller and does not permit the building official to approve alternatives.
- Provides the most restrictive work condition and applies it to all conditions.

#### 5. Senator Housley provided an overview of [SF 62](#).

- SF 62 revises the statutory language to exempt the dedicated anchorage requirement for buildings that are six stories or less and the roof has a slope steeper than four units vertical by 12 units horizontal.
- A constituent in the building industry was concerned about the cost of installing anchorage that goes unused.
- The safety of window cleaners and those that use the anchors is important.
- The bill was given a hearing in the Senate Labor and Industry Policy Committee and was voted out of the committee and included in the Jobs and Labor Omnibus Bill but was not included in the final version of the bill.

6. Reviewed [Minnesota Rules, part 1305.3114](#).

- Corresponds to the statute.
- References ANSI/IWCA\_I-14-01 Standard for Window Cleaning.

7. Reviewed ANSI/IWCA\_I-14-01 Standard for Window Cleaning.

- Identifies methods for windows to be cleaned safely, including ground methods.
  - Allows for the cleaning of windows without anchors using the following: ladders, scaffolding, and aerial work platforms (vehicle mounted and manually propelled).
  - Allows for the cleaning of windows with anchors using the following: swinging scaffolds, boatswain's chairs, rope descent systems, and suspended power platforms.

8. Representative Bob Dettmer provided an overview of [HF 165](#).

- Proposed language is the same as SF 62.
- A constituent in the building industry was concerned about the cost of installing anchorage that goes unused on pitched roofs.
- Any change to the statute should also ensure the safety of window washers and those that use window washing anchors.

9. Reviewed ANSI/IWCA\_I-14-01 Standard for Window Cleaning requirements that are specific to the building code.

- An option is to revise the statute for consistency with ANSI/IWCA\_I-14-01 and allow rulemaking authority to establish parameters for the use of each window washing method.
- Section 3.8 requires fall protection in all work areas that expose a worker to a fall hazard when approaching within 6 feet of an unguarded edge or skylight. The Minnesota State Building Code contains a similar requirement but only when rooftop equipment is present.

10. Eric Crone commented on ANSI/IWCA\_I-14-01 and window cleaning.

- ANSI/IWCA\_I-14-01 is the basic guidelines for performing window cleaning safely but needs some revisions to requirements for training and inspection of aging equipment.
- Anchor systems are need on pitched roofs when accessing areas on the side of the building that cannot be reached using ground equipment.

- Ground equipment must be placed on a paved surface such as a parking lot.
- The industry is moving away from the use of ladders that require level and solid ground.
- Anchors are important and there are reasons for the requirement. Smaller companies rely on anchor systems and they are necessary so window washing equipment is not tied to unsafe equipment.

11. Ken Hinz comments.

- There are alternatives to anchorage, especially for buildings with ground access around the building.
- Anchorage systems add to the cost of construction.

12. Robert Balsavich comments.

- MNOSHA has been a leader in window cleaning safety and developed [Minnesota Rules, part 5205.0730](#), which outlines what the employer needs to do to protect employees.
- In 2016, federal OSHA revised their walking working surface standard and included requirements similar to those in Minnesota rule.
- Since 2012 window cleaning safety has been an emphasis program for MNOSHA.

13. Larry Farris comments.

- Minnesota is the only state that has enacted anchorage legislation and has requirements in its building code.
- Requiring every building four stories or more to have window anchors is too restrictive because there are buildings where the anchors are never used and are installed at great expense.
- IWCA I-14.1-2001 is a wonderful document and allows latitude in the how to clean windows safely.
- Confused as to why pitched roofs are excluded by the proposed legislation and not flat roofs which have more opportunity for other methods.
- Building officials do not have the authority to accept alternatives to anchors based on how the current statute is written.

14. Wendy Rannenberg comments.

- Relying on the standard and giving building officials authority to approve alternate methods will allow for safe methods for window cleaning.

15. TAG member assignments.

- Review IWCA I-14.1-2001 and consider ground conditions that allow for alternates to anchors.

## Next Meeting:

Date: November 18, 2021

Time: 3:30 PM

Location: WebEx Event

**Meeting Adjourned:** 4:56 PM

**Prepared by:** Greg Metz