

**FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND
PROFESSIONAL REGULATION**

MEETING OF THE

ELEVATOR SAFETY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

TUESDAY JUNE 4, 2024

COMMENCING AT 9:02 AM

HELD AT:

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL REGULATION

2601 BLAIR STONE RD

TALLAHASSEE, FL 32399

MEETING TRANSCRIBED BY:

STEPHANIE NARGIZ, FPR-C, RPR

NORTH FLORIDA COURT REPORTERS, LLC

CALL TO ORDER

The Elevator Safety Technical Advisory Council meeting was called to order at approximately: 9:02 a.m. by William (Bill) Snyder, Council Chair.

Members Present

William (Bill) Snyder, Chair, Private Inspectors

Abel Arabitg, Vice Chair, Labor

Dale Deleacaes, Local Government

David Alekna, Elevator Service, by phone

Members Not Present

Vacant, Building Design

Vacant, General Public

Vacant, Manufacturing

Vacant, Building Owners & Managers

Others Present

Josh Phillips: Bureau Chief, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Kela Bishop, Deputy Bureau Chief, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Michael Garcia, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

John Hofbauer, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Scott Crawl, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Robert Stark, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Chris McDuff, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

David Pauly, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Alan Hutto, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Glenn Whitaker, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Vincent Jimenez, State Inspector, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Marc Drexler, DBPR, Office of General Council, by phone

Reagan Gorag, DBPR, Office of General Council, by phone

Kasimira Kelly, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Ashley Barton, DBPR, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Joey Rodriguez, Sr., Building Official, Central Florida Tourism Oversight District

Jacob Simpson, Chief Specialties Inspector, Central Florida Tourism Oversight District

Juan Calderin, Chief Elevator Inspector, City of Miami

Cesar Temes, Elevator Inspector, City of Miami

Nicolas Ortiz, Chief Elevator Inspector, Miami-Dade County

Joey Gan, Chief Elevator Inspector, City of Miami Beach

Tommy Scudero, IUEC Local 71

William Redmond, Chief Elevator Inspector, Broward County

J. Muhammad Irby, Deputy Chief Inspector, Broward County

Maureen Snyder, Guest

Lee Rigby, Guest, by phone

THE MEETING WAS OPENED WITH A ROLL CALL.

Statement of Purpose- Kela Bishop, Deputy Bureau Chief, Bureau of Elevator Safety

Deputy Chief Bishop read the statement of purpose and role of the ESTAC as specified in statute.

Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes

Chair Bill Snyder called for acceptance of minutes for the February 21, 2024, meeting.

MOTION: Dale Deleacaes made a motion to accept the minutes.

SECOND: Abel Arabitg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Bureau of Elevator Safety Report- Josh Phillips, Bureau Chief

Chief Phillips informed the council that the vacant State of Florida Elevator Inspector position has been filled by Scott Davis. Inspector Davis will cover the North Central Panhandle from Bay County to Leon County.

Chief Phillips expressed appreciation to the council members for their dedication to the elevator trade in all aspects within the State of Florida. He further stated the Bureau will look to this committee to assist with safety recommendations for new and existing equipment, code requirements, statute, and rule mandates, as well as seek for each member to uphold the responsibilities laid out in statute to take an active role in fulfilling your duties.

Administrative Update:

Chief Phillips reported as of June 3, 2024, there are 66,601 moving conveyances licensed in the State and 88.51% of those licenses are current. The Bureau has 2,284 Certified Elevator Technicians and 663 Certified Elevator Inspectors currently licensed. Chief Phillips further stated the Bureau has monitored 90.6% of all 3rd party inspectors who have submitted an inspection report since July 1, 2023. There were nearly 42,000 routine inspections performed and roughly 36% of those failed.

Chief Phillips continued; the Bureau is currently in the renewal period for elevator certificates of operation. He also stated that the Florida Building Commission wants him to remind the council and guests that they are currently in the first comment period for the IBC adoption 2026. The deadline for comments is July 2, 2024.

Rule Report:

Chief Phillips stated the Bureau has drafted rule language that correlates with a legislative bill that was approved and will take effect July 1, 2024. The bill requires all persons and entities licensed by the Bureau to create and maintain a DBPR online account and provide an email address to the Division to function as a primary means of contact. The rule language will support and give further detail on the bill language.

Legislative Session Updates:

Chief Phillips stated another bill was approved and will also take effect on July 1, 2024. This bill is in regard to advisory bodies and requires a report to be filed by the Bureau containing information not limited to the ESTAC's purpose or objective, members, and meeting specifics.

Chief Phillips reported they are working with the Bureau of Technology on the internal inspection reporting process. They are in the testing and improvement phase.

After discussion, no action was taken.

Industry Update

Building Design: vacant.

Public: vacant.

Manufacturing: vacant.

Building Owners and Managers: vacant.

Private Inspections: Represented by Chair Bill Snyder. Mr. Snyder stated the inspectors are performing a lot of inspections and re-inspections. He noted an ongoing issue with generator testing and suggested the industry bulletin may be needed.

Labor: Represented by Vice Chair Abel Arabitg. Mr. Arabitg stated the industry has a lot of work and they are having a hard time finding quality inspectors to keep up with increase in demand. He said that technicians relocating to Florida have been helpful, but some are experiencing licensing issues due to experience or apprenticeship acceptance by Florida. He stated many technicians in the South Florida area do not speak English and other inspectors do not speak Spanish which has created a language barrier. He expressed concerns over safety due to this issue. Mr. Arabitg stated that door lock monitoring is being done but units are being placed into service prior to inspections which is a problem.

Local Government: Represented by Dale Deleacaes. Mr. Deleacaes stated he is also seeing the increase in units and inspections. He stated he has the same concerns about the language barrier.

Elevator Service Companies: Represented by David Alekna. Mr. Alekna asked if anyone has a contact in the panhandle to let him know, as he would like to ensure all areas of the state are represented. Mr. Alekna responded to the comments about the language barrier. He stated he has dealt with inspectors who do not speak English, and some are able to work through inspections no problem while others were not competent enough to know what they are doing. Mr. Alekna further stated he has had the same issue with inspectors who only speak English. He believes the issue is more of competency or the lack of. Mr. Alekna stated the pace of installation of door lock monitoring is slowing as the majority of units have been installed. He further stated that he has received some feedback that units were not installed properly or inspected properly. Mr. Alekna stated there is a lot of support to eliminate the two-stop exemption. He also stated there is still a labor shortage. Mr. Alekna stressed the importance of meeting requirements of flood resistant design especially on newly installed elevators.

Old Business

Florida Statute Chapter 399 Language Recommendations

Chief Phillips reviewed comments from the February meeting and asked council if there were any new comments or recommendations.

Council discussed 399.035 stretcher size and agreed that it should be addressed in the Florida Building Code and not Chapter 399 FL Statutes.

MOTION: Dale Deleacaes made a motion to accept the language as discussed.

SECOND: Abel Arabitg seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council discussed 399.035 support rails and agreed that each cab must have at least one support rail that measures 42 inches in length and the cab can have additional support rails that may be shorter in length.

MOTION: David Alekna made a motion to accept the language as presented.

SECOND: Dale Deleacaes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Council reviewed proposed language for Chapter 399.01 work experience and apprenticeship requirements.

MOTION: Abel Arabitg made a motion to accept the language that allows for four year experience or proof of acceptable apprenticeship program.

SECOND: Dale Deleacaes seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Code Adoption for 2026

Chief Phipps stated the deadline for recommendations is January 25, 2025. Council discussed the list of codes that can be reviewed, and each member chose a code to take the lead on.

After discussion, council will address at next meeting.

Industry Bulletins

Generator Testing with Licensed Technicians

Chief Phillips presented a bulletin that can be communicated to the industry detailing which personnel (mechanic, technician, generator personnel, etc.) must be present for each type of testing.

After discussion, council will address at next meeting.

Safety Recall

Chief Phillips stated this bulletin was included in one of the newsletters to the industry. The bulletin states that if there is a safety recall found to be damaged or failing, it is mandatory that it is replaced.

Jumpers – Dos and Don'ts

Chief Phillips stated this bulletin serves a reminder because jumpers are used in testing of door lock monitoring. Chief Phillips further stated this bulletin is not ready for distribution.

FBC 3010.1.3

Chief Phillips stated there was some discussion at the last meeting; however, no changes are being proposed.

Repeal of 2 Stop Exemption

Chief Phillips stated there has not been any action taken on this subject.

After discussion, council will address at a future meeting.

Flood Resistant Design and Construction

Chair Snyder reminded council that they discussed an option for the application for permitting to have a box specific to flood resistant design and construction. Chief Phillips suggested this may need to be addressed by the building departments because this is where the building permit process begins.

After discussion, council will address at a future meeting.

New Business

Annual Fire Testing

Chief Phillips recognized Mr. Joey Gan. Mr. Gan stated his concerns in regard to annual smoke detector testing. He explained portions are performed by elevator personnel and portions are done by fire personnel.

After discussion, council will address at a future meeting.

Direct Entry Residential Elevators

Chief Phillips stated this is an issue that needs internal discussion and then council can make recommendations.

After discussion, council will address at a future meeting.

Lock Out/Tag Out by Fire Department

Chair Snyder read aloud a scenario and questions in regard to a lockout by a fire department when a rescue from entrapment occurred.

After discussion, no action was taken.

Temporary Use

Chief Phillips stated this is an issue that needs internal discussion and then council can make recommendations.

After discussion, council will address at a future meeting.

Door Lock Monitoring and 3D Edge Detectors

Chair Snyder stated there are issues, especially with older 3D edge protection with seeing traffic flow, but the newer ones are significantly better. He stated this is the continuing evolution of technology.

No discussion was had.

Documentation of Components or Subsystems not being inspected

Chair Snyder stated the requirements for the inspector when testing.

No discussion was had.

Remote (Outside US) Monitoring of 2 Way Communication

Chief Phillips stated the Bureau received an email from someone who understands the requirement of two-way communication reaching someone outside of the elevator. They asked if that point could be outside of the US.

After discussion, no action was taken.

Blind Hoistway

Guest Hutto stated the code addresses a single vinyl and they were asked about duplex blind hoistway and how that should be addressed in terms of doors.

After discussion, no action was taken.

Open Discussion

Council discussed Dual Position Monitors.

After brief discussion, no action was taken.

Upcoming Meetings

The Council discussed the date of the next meeting: Tentatively scheduled for September 26, 2024, location to be determined.

ADJOURNMENT: There being no further business to come before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:11 pm.