

Disability Access Review and Advisory Committee



Draft Minutes

April 26-27, 2007
Hilton St. Louis Downtown
St. Louis, MO

1. **Call to order.** The meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Chairman, Bill Scott followed by self- introductions of members and guests
2. **Attendance.** Those in attendance were:

John Drengenberg	Underwriters Laboratories, Guest
Allan Fraser	NFPA Staff
Marsha Mazz	US Access Board Representative
Kevin McGuire	Chairman, CEO-McGuire Assocs., Waltham, MA
Toby Olsen	Exec. Sec., Governors Comm. on Disability, WA
Bill Scott	Abilities Unlimited, Glendale, AZ
Robert Solomon	NFPA Staff
Stephen Spinetto	ADA Coordinator, City of Boston, Guest

Members not in attendance were:

Rocky Burks	ADA Coordinator, Marin County, CA
HolLynn D'lil	CODAP, CA
Marilyn Golden	DREDF, CA
Todd Gritch	HKS. Inc, Dallas, TX
Richard Skaff	Skaff & Associates, CA

3. **Minutes:** Minutes of the July 20-21, 2006 meeting were not approved as a quorum was not present.
4. **Update on tentative ASTM project:** Robert Solomon updated the committee on ASTM's response to DARAC's request that they undertake writing an standard or standards on stair descent devices. The initial response was that there is interest and that ASTM staff will take a closer look at the project at their meetings April 15-18, 2007 and keep us advised as they proceed.
5. **Reviewed draft provisions for "Elevators for Occupant Evacuation Prior to Phase 1 Emergency Recall Operation" in NFPA 101 & 5000.** The

committee agreed with SAF-MEA 101-166 (Log#CP20) with the caveat that more information needs to be added into the code text relative to both visual and audible information related to the use of elevators in an emergency. Colored lights only work for those with good vision who are not color blind. Additional methods of providing that information are needed.

6. Reviewed of draft provisions for “Stair descent devices” in NFPA 101 & 5000.

The committee did not agree with the concepts of reducing stair width or for figuring the number of stair descent devices that should be required. The committee voiced support for the Averill comment on 101-89 (Log#CP132) that “Based upon careful and scientific investigation of the relationship between human dimensions, stairwell width, and stairwell performance, the 1975 work of John Templer clearly demonstrates the advantages of 56 in. stairwells over 44 in. stairwells. Given the trend of decreasing evacuation performance of occupants, 56 in. stairs would seen a reasonable minimum width. The committee also would like to see additional/modified criteria be added for these devices including:

- a. operable by one person
- b. have a brake
- c. have straps for at least:
 - i. Chest
 - ii. Waist
 - iii. Thigh/Knee
 - iv. Ankle
- d. have a carrying capacity of 350 pounds
- e. brake must stop device within 12” of travel

7. NFPA Center for High-Risk Outreach - Fire Safety for People with Disabilities Task Force

- a. Reviewed the history of the Task Force’s work and supported the current work of the Fire Advisory Task Force’s Feb 14-16, 2007 meeting regarding their three (3) objectives which are:
 - i. To help guide NFPA in the development and review of educational materials and programs to ensure that fire and life safety messages for people with disabilities are included.
 - ii. To make sure that fire safety education materials are accessible, sensitive, and correct for audiences inclusive of people with disabilities.
 - iii. To ensure that materials are in accessible formats.
- b. Support was voiced for Task Force’s work on NFPA’s Board of Director Corporate Goal #3.2 for developing three (3) web-based educational handouts or activities for adults and children with disabilities. Strong support was voiced for the proposed evacuation planning package for “Schools with children with disabilities” and the inclusion of material linking that process to the child’s IEP.

8. **Underwriter's Laboratories presentation and roundtable discussion:**
John Drengenberg presented an excellent overview of UL. He explained their processes and talked in detail about several specific standards and certification programs. One of the more pressing issues UL is facing is that of "counterfeit" marks.
Mr. Drengenberg also outlined the process UL will use in considering DARAC's request for them to undertake writing standards and creating certification programs for devices marketed to and used by people with disabilities.
9. **NFPA's "Emergency Evacuation Guide for People With Disabilities"**
 - a. Allan Fraser updated the committee on the success of the document since it was posted March 2, 2007. Marsha Mazz suggested that NFPA set up a web chat to collect information. In addition maybe a database to help catalog topics, research, experiences, devices, communications, areas of research in process, available resources, etc.
 - b. Related Discussion: NFPA's Bill Burke has started to research the viability of a certification program for emergency evacuation trainers
10. **ICC/ANSI A117.1 Update:** The committee was briefed on the current revision Schedule, the various Task Group Activities and the status of DARAC's proposal. The proposal was not supported in the first round, but staff and DARAC members on the A117.1 Committee will continue to work towards getting it approved during the second round.
11. **New Business:** NFPA President Jim Shannon is looking at adding a member or two to the Committee this year. The committee requested that Steve Spinetto, Disability Coordinator for the City of Boston be appointed. Any additional recommendations from committee members for consideration should be forwarded to Allan Fraser.
12. **Dates/Location for Next Meeting:** A couple possible dates and locations were discussed, but no decision was made. There will be a conference call set up for sometime in August.
13. **Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm on Friday, April 27, 2007

Minutes prepared by Allan Fraser, DARAC Staff Liaison