



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Liquid Fuels Advisory Council

Meeting on November 24th, 2021

Minutes of the Liquid Fuels Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at 10:00 a.m. on the 24th day of November 2021.

Present: Terry Ablett, Wagg's Petroleum Equipment Ltd./ Ontario Petroleum Contractors Association (OPCA); G. Rae Dulmage, TSSA Consumers Advisory Council; Brent Francis (Chair), Francis Fuels; John Lastoria, Canadian Tire Corporation; Laurie Marcil, Nature & Outdoor Tourism Ontario (NOTO); Brian McBain, Underwriters Laboratories of Canada Inc (ULC); Jennifer Stewart, Canadian Independent Petroleum Marketers Association (CIPMA); Jim Wood, Ontario Petroleum Transporters and Technicians Association (OPTTA).

Alexandra Campbell, VP, Communications & Stakeholder Relations; Danielle Fernandes, Advisory Council Coordinator; Gary Highfield, Engineering Manager, Fuels Safety Program; Nashir Jiwani, (Interim) VP, Operations; Kristian Kennedy, Manager, Government Relations; Anil Lal, Manager, Engineering and Technical Services, Fuels Safety Program; Sam Sadeghi, Director, Fuels Safety Program.

Regrets: Marc Gagnon, Canadian Fuels Association; Rick Hineman, Durham Fuels

1. Welcome & Constitution of Meeting

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. K. Kennedy provided an overview of the meeting format and stressed the importance of using the agenda item request forms for issue submission in advance of meetings. He advised that the objective of the meeting was to hear from council on priority issues and for TSSA to take issues back for further assessment and analysis and to report back to council accordingly.

S. Sadeghi advised council that Z. Fraczkowski is no longer with TSSA and thanked him for his contribution to TSSA and to public safety. He introduced and welcomed G. Highfield as the manager of the fuels engineering department and A. Lal as the manager of engineering and technical services.

a) Safety Moment

For the safety moment, Council was shown a short video on ladder and workplace safety.

2. Adoption of the November 24th, 2021, agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Approval of March 11th, 2021, minutes

The minutes were adopted as presented.

4. Review of Action items from last meeting

D. Fernandes advised that action items were either addressed at during the meeting or have been previously completed.

There were no questions or comments from council.

5. Chair's Update

The Chair treated the report circulated in advance of the meeting as read.

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There were no questions or comments from council.

6. Council Administration

a. Membership Matrix

D. Fernandes detailed the purpose of the membership matrix review, namely, to ensure alignment with industry. She detailed a proposal for changes to the matrix and provided council with the rationale associated with each of the proposed amendments. The proposal included the following:

Overall:

- Removed maximum numbers for all categories
- New Associations category with at least (1) position and examples for recruitment
- Merged “Distributors Transporters (to end users)” with “Transporters (company to company)” under the category “Transporters” with at least (1) position

Owners:

- Added sub-category for “large retailer” and “small retailer” with at least (1) position each
- Added sub-category for private fuel outlet with at least (1) position
- Added “terminal” as a sub-category with bulk plant(s)
- Removed “Integrated Retailers” as a sub-category
- Removed “Independent Retailers” as a sub-category

Manufacturers:

- Changed to at least (1) position for Construction or Design or Consultant

Contractors:

- Removed the requirement for affiliation with OPTTA and OPCA

Mechanics/ Certificate Holders:

- Removed the requirement for affiliation with OBCA or TSSA’s TCAB

Other(s):

- Removed minimum (1) position for insurance and added as an example for recruitment.
- Moved Standards Development Organization or Certification Bodies under the “other” category as an example.

There was some discussion on this topic. Several council members commented that this is a positive move which would allow the council to be more flexible to changes within the industry. Responding to a comment about whether removing the necessity for association affiliation would mean that the association would be excluded from nominating a member, D. Fernandes advised that the Terms of Reference for the council stipulate a preference for associations and so having this requirement in the matrix is duplicative. She explained that the change allows the membership to be open to those who may or may not be part of an association. In response to a question about recruitment for open membership positions, D. Fernandes advised of the process first begins with councils’ approval of the membership matrix proposal. She noted that the proposal is then reviewed and approved by the CEO, after which calls for nominations will be posted for open positions with a notification to council members.

A motion was passed to approve the matrix as proposed with no amendments.

Action: D. Fernandes to present the proposal to the CEO for approval.

b. Membership Renewal – Rae Dulmage

D. Fernandes confirmed the renewal of R. Dulmage for another three-year term.

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7. LFAC Issue Prioritization

a. Standards for Tanks and Piping

The Chair spoke to this item referencing the request form shared in advance of the meeting. He explained that the bio-content of fuel is increasing as a result of the clean air standard, noting that this will have an effect on existing fuel-fired equipment. He added that unlike the US, Canada currently does not have an appropriate standard to address biofuel. He explained that in Ontario, existing equipment is not tested or approved for the use of biofuel. He provided council with an overview of a letter he received from Imperial Oil showing the company's plan to increase the bio-content in fuel, explaining that the change in fuel content is imminent and cannot be ignored. He suggested that TSSA consider issuing a Director's Order to allow American standards to be used until a standard is developed in Canada and adopted into a national code.

There was significant discussion on this topic. Several council members stressed the urgency in addressing the matter. B. McBain commented that ULC has been addressing ethanol-grade fuel compatibility with existing equipment. He advised that ULC/UL has authored a report, which has been shared with provincial ministries of environment explaining that consideration must be given to current infrastructure since compatibility concerns raise with the increase in ethanol content in fuel. He noted that ULC is harmonizing with US standards, adding that the standards must be updated to assess compatibility of existing infrastructure. The Chair commented that it is up to TSSA to determine how to deal with non-conforming equipment, noting that the government is moving forward with clean air measures, and refineries are moving ahead with increasing bio-content. There was additional discussion on some of the challenges related to increased bio-content in fuel, including separation, gelling, and seizing among others. It was noted that ethanol content could have implications for fuel-fired equipment in a marina environment. A council member commented that this issue really brings to the surface questions about fuel quality versus fuel safety, noting that there will be safety incidents due to incompatibility. The Chair commented that this will likely be a core priority for the LFAC.

b. Harmonization for Certificate Holders

The Chair spoke to this issue referencing material shared in advance of the meeting. He urged council to consider as a priority the harmonization of Oil Burner Technician (OBT) and Petroleum Mechanic (PM) certificates. K. Kennedy provided council with an update on the status of the gas fitter reconciliation agreement, noting that while the initial goal was certificate harmonization in the form of a national Red Seal, what has been settled on is greater uniformity in application processing times and timelines for jurisdictions to adopt codes. He explained that if council determines this initiative to be a priority, the acceptance and pace of national reconciliation processes are dependent on parties outside of TSSA. It was noted that council does not deem this to be an immediate priority but would like TSSA to discuss feasibility at greater length with the Provincial-Territorial Advisory Committee (PTAC).

Action: K. Kennedy to raise Oil Burner Technician and Petroleum Mechanic certificate harmonization issue with PTAC and report back to council on process and feasibility.

c. Mobile Fueling License – Update

J. Wood spoke to this item referencing the form shared in advance of the meeting. He requested an update from TSSA regarding mobile fueling licenses.

S. Sadeghi advised that forms and templates have been developed for registration, additionally noting that a module has been implemented into the OASIS program (CRM) as a preparatory step.



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He asked if this is still a priority for council given that the issue no longer seems to be an emerging trend within industry. J. Wood commented that it does not seem to be a trend, and as such may not currently warrant further action. There was some discussion about the existing regulatory infrastructure that governs mobile fueling. A council member commented that this may be a trend in the future that council should not lose sight of. It was determined that council would table the issue again should this re-emerge as an industry trend.

The council prioritized the following for TSSA consideration with the following amendment:

1. Bio-fuel – The effects of modernized biofuels on standards for tanks, piping, connected equipment, and end user equipment.

Responding to a comment about the backlog in fuels engineering, S. Sadeghi explained that eliminating the backlog is a priority for the fuel safety team, noting that he is committed to improving service and is confident that his team will deliver.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 11:25 a.m.