

LOG OF MEETING

DATE: September 27, 2011

LOCATION: 401 N. Michigan Ave, Chicago, Illinois

SUBJECT: ANSI ASC A14 Ladder Safety Meeting at American Ladder Institute (ALI) Offices

ALI ATTENDEES: Chairman Erick Knox, Vice Chair Dave Plotner, Secretariat Janet Rapp, Brett Latimer (Werner Company), Alan Kline (Scaffold Industry Assoc.), Carl Pedersen (Illinois Assoc. of Building Maintenance Contractors), Michael Lorenzo (ASSE), Irving Ojavo (independent specialist), Eric Kruse (Cosco Home and Office Products), Tom Schmitt (ALI), Wolfgang Gelhard (Featherlite Ladders), Greg Renne (Int'l Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades), Paul Junius (Risk Retention Services), Peter Simeonov (NIOSH), Stan Virkler (Nat'l Frame Builders Assoc.), Don McKinney (Precision Ladders), Don Bloswick (independent specialist), Stan Kiska (Chair of A14.11), Oreste Simonetta (Canadian Standards Assoc), Brandon Schuh and Denny Simpson (Tricam Industries) Mike Van Bree (incoming Chair of A14.5), Bill Switalski (incoming Chair of A14.7), Marty Silverman (Chair of A14.7), Jon Ver Halen (Chair of A14.9)

CPSC ATTENDEES: Jason K. Levine, Chief Counsel to Commissioner Robert S. Adler

MEETING SUMMARY: This was the bi-annual meeting of the ANSI-ASC A14 Committee on ladder safety.

The meeting convened with approval of minutes of the previous meeting (April 19, 2011) and some administrative matters. The possibility of formatting the A14 standards into digital formats to be supported by I-Pads or other electronic books was discussed.

ALI continues to update its multimedia training materials and will be covering mobile ladders and stands in its next module. The committee continues to focus on educating users of the product with respect to proper use.

The Incident Data Collection Task Force, a subgroup of the A14 Committee discussed its meeting with CPSC staff at CPSC Headquarters in May 2011. The Task Force was charged with working with the CPSC to find ways to improve the quality of the data collected relating to ladder incidents. In response to questions Mr. Levine briefly described the current in-depth investigation (IDI) process used by the CPSC and CPSC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS).

The committee members were all supportive of finding ways to work with the CPSC to gathering more useful data relating to ladder incidents and injuries. There was some suggestion by the A14 committee members in connection with comparing NEISS and CPSC data to the data collected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA).

Mr. Levine encouraged the committee to work with CPSC staff to obtain the most useful data for all stakeholders in the hopes that better data could lead to safer ladders and safer ladder use.

After selecting new chairs for three subcommittees, each subcommittee gave a report. No changes or substantive updates were provided for A14.1, .3, .4, .7 and .9 subcommittees.

A14.2 (Metal Ladders) and A14.5 (Reinforced Plastic Ladders) report focused on possible changes relating to articulated ladders and a potential inclusion of extendable articulating ladders – with a goal of producing new materials in 2012. There was additional discussion of the effort to select a new test surface and test techniques for whichever surface is selected. Round-robin testing will take place to assist in final selection.

Labeling was discussed at length, with some discussion of the need for uniform label standards and whether labels are being replaced frequently enough.

A14.8 (Accessories) A final draft of a new standard will be presented shortly followed by a public review process.

A14.11 (Step stools) The recent changes are awaiting approval from the subcommittee members with an intention for the final version to be moved back to the full committee prior to the next full committee meeting.

Peter Simeonov from NIOSH delivered an update to a study he has been involved in regarding transfer from ladder to roof. He is also working on the development of a mobile phone application which will work as a type of level for those using ladders in the field. He had some concerns about long term funding for updates of the application after it is first released. He also noted there is a new issue of the Human Factors Journal focusing on falls that bears some relevance to ladder safety.

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LOG CREATION DATE: 10/21/2011