

**HEALTH FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HFAC)  
MINUTES FOR JANUARY 7, 2004 AT 1200 Eastern  
CONFERENCE CALL**

A. Roll Call

Present:       **CAPT Jose Cuzme, Chairperson**  
                  **CAPT Douglas Ott, Vice Chairperson**  
                  **Ms. Diane Stewart**                   **CAPT Gary McFarland**  
                  **CAPT Kerry Gragg**               **Mr. Kenneth Harper**  
                  **CAPT Kevin Stover**               **CDR Darrell LaRoche**

Not Present:   **CDR Gary Gefroh**

Visitors:       **CDR Kathy Mercure, CAPT Michael Verschelden, Tommy Bowman,**  
                  **CAPT Mike Weaver, Joe Bermes**

B. Approval of the previous meeting minutes (August 27, 2003)

**Motion to Approve: Passed**

C. Old Business

(1) An update on past issues was given.

Clarification: Engineering Services does not recommend the new ASHRAE Guidelines for Design of HVAC systems in Healthcare Facilities be adopted by IHS. Ken Harper sent a memo regarding this to all members of HFAC.

Authority Having Jurisdiction Technical Handbook Chapter – HQ Facilities Operations has hired Danielle Earhart to update some of the IHS Technical Handbook chapters. The Engineering Services Code Committee made comments on the AHJ chapter and forwarded them to Ms. Earhart. Ms. Earhart completed the revisions and submitted the chapter to CAPT Stover for review. The Chapter will then go to CAPT Chelikowsky for final approval. Target date for approval will be before the Facilities Managers Workshop in February. Mr. Harper commented that the chapter is not substantially different from the original, but merely clarifies the existing chapter.

D. New Business

- (1) Ambulatory vs. Business Occupancy Code Requirements----- Harper  
It appears the CMS decision that Ambulatory Surgical Centers need to meet the Ambulatory Care Chapter of the Life Safety Code regardless of the number of patients capable of self-preservation is in conflict with the Life Safety Code. Mr. Harper sent three letters in an e-mail on 11/13/03 to HFAC regarding dialogue that Engineering Services has been having with CMS.

Mr. Harper stated that the most recent clarification from CMS stated that if identified surgical procedures were performed in buildings not complying with the Ambulatory Care Chapter of LSC that CMS can still be billed for those services, however only for the physician's services and not the facility charge.

There were a number of questions regarding the CMS decision that ES-Seattle's Mr. Bermes is looking into. The Aberdeen Area performed a life cycle cost analysis on a building under construction and estimated the lost revenue because of not meeting the Ambulatory Care chapter of LSC at \$8 million over the 40 year life of the building.

Mr. Bermes stated that IHS already requires fire sprinklers to be installed in all buildings, so the majority of the difference between the two occupancies is the passive fire protection features like smoke compartments.

Mr. Harper stated that the probable increase in construction cost from Business Occupancy to Ambulatory Care Occupancy is about 10%.

The CMS billing based on this new decision will be retroactive to the date of the signing of the decision.

Dr. Rick Olson (HQE) thinks that only one facility in IHS will have an issue with this decision since most surgical procedures are performed in the hospital setting.

This decision has an impact on both the facility and the business aspects of healthcare.

At the suggestion of Ms. Stewart, the HFAC decided a workgroup should be formed to investigate this issue further and provide recommendations to HFAC. It was suggested that the following people participate on the workgroup: Mr. Bermes (ES-Seattle), CDR Mercure (Aberdeen), Mr. Elmer Brewster (HQE), Dr. Olson (HQE), Ms. Dorothy Dupree (CMS?), a representative from ES-Dallas, and a Facility Engineer.

**ACTION ITEM: Jose Cuzme will form a workgroup to provide**

**recommendations. Once the workgroup is formed, they will select a Chairperson.**

- (2) Real Property Subgroup----- Stover

The issue of creating a sub-group to HFAC or separate group for Real Property issues was discussed at the Real Property Workshop. CAPT Stover brought it to the HFAC membership for comment. It was agreed that the idea had merit.

**ACTION ITEM: CAPT Stover will take back to Real Property staff option to create a HFAC workgroup composed of facilities and real property representatives.**

- (3) New Area Representatives for HFAC (3 members term expire January 2004)

Three Area Representative positions on the HFAC will be open after January 2004. The Representatives with terms expiring are: CAPT Kerry Gragg, CAPT Gary McFarland, and CDR Darrell LaRoche.

CDR LaRoche will send an e-mail to all Area Facility Engineers requesting nominations. The Area Representatives must be the Area Facilities Engineer; however, the Area Facility Engineer can designate an alternate that is not an Area Facility Engineer. Area Representative serve a term of three years.

Nominations for the three Area Representatives should be received before the Facility Engineer's Workshop in February. The new Representatives will be announced at the Facility Engineer's Workshop.

**ACTION ITEM: CDR LaRoche will send an e-mail requesting nominations prior to the next HFAC meeting.**

E. Other Issues

- (1) Open Discussions

Next agenda will include a discussion of the methodology in implementing the Life Safety Code 101 on projects that was brought to the HFAC's attention by Dan McLaughlin of the Navajo Area.

- (2) Next Meeting: **February 11 at 5:00PM in conjunction with the Facilities Managers Workshop in Nashville, TN.**

