Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Ski Lifts Advisory Council
Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Minutes of the Ski Lifts Advisory Council meeting for the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at **1:00 pm** on Wednesday, October 8, 2025

Attendance

Present	
Kevin Nichol	John Ball
Tom Cavers	Murray Frankcom
Dave Mathewson	Rob Sheridan
Mark Rutherford	Doug Wansbrough
Sarah Kenney	Brian Edwards
TSSA	
Iuliana Afanase	AJ Kadirgamar
Craig Durnan	Christina Passfield
Gaya Nair	Alexandra Campbell
Cy Gray	
Regrets	
Christine Simpson	Candice Micucci
Ward Bond	

Action Items

Action: AJ Kadirgamar to investigate and follow up on the issue of cost recovery brought forth by M. Frankcom at the Spring 2025 meeting.

M. Frankcom commented that the TSSA failed to follow up with him on the action item from the minutes of the Spring 2025 meeting. A. Kadirgamar responded that there is an escalation process for when an order is issued. This process should be triggered immediately when a site receives an order they interpret as incorrect. He encouraged the industry to escalate issues immediately to the inspector, then to the supervisor, and finally to the program director.

C. Passfield added that the TSSA works with industry to ensure devices are not taken out of service unless there is an immediate and blatant safety issue. The TSSA will communicate with the owners and managers of the sites throughout.

She further added that she is aware of the specific incident M. Frankcom referred to and will set up a meeting with him to discuss the next steps offline.

1. Constitution of Meeting

1.1. *Safety Moment presented by the Chair on ski incidents and the new technologies being implemented to enhance ski lift safety.*

2. Adoption of the Agenda

2.1. *Council Administration*
2.1.1 New Member for Private Resorts: Doug Wansbrough, Alpine Ski Club

2.2. *The agenda was adopted as presented.*

3. Adoption of Minutes of April 7, 2025

3.1. *Motion to approve the minutes by J. Ball, seconded by T. Cavers. The council approved the minutes as presented.*

4. Chair's Report

The Chair reported on the Fall Education Seminar and upcoming industry events, including the Toronto Ski and Snowboard Show.

5. Ski Incident Data Sharing

K. Nichol discussed the importance of cross-training and communication among departments to prevent ski incidents. He noted that incidents in TSSA's Public Safety Report refer to lack of training or training challenges. A deep dive revealed that miscommunication between departments, such as lift operations and snow school, was a significant factor. Presentations and continuing education for ski lift mechanics are helping to get the message across, and results will be measured this winter.

J. Ball reviewed the results from investigations, noting TSSA's efforts to gain consistency with inspectors and investigators. He questioned whether the issue was truly a lack of training or the efficacy of the training, as lack of training does

not instill confidence in the public. C. Gray responded that training is the responsibility of the employer, with continuous auditing of individuals. Investigations found that supervision or the structure of supervision was sometimes lacking, with supervisors being unaware.

K. Nichol mentioned that partner signs, such as the Z98 pictogram, need to be carefully managed to avoid sign clutter and ensure core messaging is clear. Resorts need to cope with busy periods by putting sufficient staff out and doing a better job of training and cross-training. C. Gray noted that some incidents occurred due to shared duties, such as shoveling and ramp maintenance while loading lifts. It's not always about training but having enough staff and appropriate signage. C. Passfield added that orders issued out of operations often require retraining, meaning refreshing information for operators.

J. Ball suggested that ongoing in-season training and record-keeping for in-season training could become industry best practices. C. Gray mentioned the use of cameras used at one facility as a teaching tool. Installation of cameras can help solve incidents and provide evidence for audits.

R. Sheridan suggested adding a column to track the month of incidents to identify patterns and trigger late-season training. C. Gray agreed that complacency can set in late season. K. Nichol emphasized the importance of providing TSSA with data, such as customer age, to help with ski incident data.

6. Issue Prioritization Update

6.1. *Kevin Nichol – Requested Improvements to Online Portal for Training and Certifications*

A. Kadirgamar and A. Campbell discussed the upcoming Portal 2.0, which will streamline the process for uploading continuing education and renewing certifications.

6.2. *Kevin Nichol – TSSA's Association Membership and Training with OSRA*

A. Kadirgamar confirmed that TSSA inspectors would consider participating in relevant OSRA training sessions when time permits.

6.3. *Kevin Nichol – TSSA Timeline for Adopting new CSA Codes*

J. Javier provided an update on the timeline for adopting the new CSA codes, with the 2024 Z98 code expected to be published mid-next year. She said that a meeting would be scheduled with the ski sector prior to adopting the code.

K. Nichol requested that A. Kadirgamar investigate the usage of stamps by inspectors on the inspection checklist/form as it is inconsistent. A. Kadirgamar agreed to follow up with confirmation, but C. Durnan noted it is standard practice.

7. Other Items

T. Cavers asked if periodic inspection can be completed when an inspection for a new lift is happening to reduce overall fees. TSSA confirmed that fees for periodic inspections are included in the licence fee and payment for a new device or alternation are part of the pre-paid fee for the approval. TSSA will, however, schedule the inspections at the same time.

It was mentioned that the notice to schedule inspections wasn't clear.

8. Adjournment

8.1. *The meeting adjourned at approximately 2:24 PM.*