



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of Ski Lifts Advisory Council Meeting on March 27, 2013

Minutes of the Ski Lift Advisory Council (SLAC) meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held in Boardrooms 1433 and 1434, 14th Floor, Centre Tower, 3300 Bloor Street West, Toronto, Ontario at 09:30 a.m. on the 27th of March 2013.

Present: John Ball, Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance (CSIA), Ward Bond, Bond Ski Lift Installations/Loch Lomond Ski Ares, Murray Frankcom, Leitner-Poma Canada Inc., Dolly Gerrior, Consumers Advisory Council (CAC), Bruce Haynes (Chair), Ontario Snow Resorts Association (OSRA), Martin Kimble, Horseshoe Valley Resort Ltd. Craig MacDonald, Caledon Ski Club, Dave Mathewson, Mount Pakenham Ski Area, Kevin Nichol, Gougeon Insurance Brokers, Radu Petrut, Teora Engineering and Services Ltd., Mark Rutherford, Brimacombe, & Rob Sheridan, Blue Mountain Resort.

In attendance: Michael Beard, President and CEO (all items except items 14, 16, 17, 18, & 20), Bernadette Celis, Communications Advisor, Public Education (item 14), Roland Hadaller, Director, Elevating and Amusement Devices (all items except item 20), Judy Harrison, Project Coordinator (items 17 & 18), Maram Khalif, Council Coordinator (all items except item 20), Rob Kremer, Engineer (item 8), Lency Mulamootil, Decision Analysis Advisor (item 11), Jim Palmer, Regional Supervisor (all items except item 20), David Scriven, Corporate Secretary (items 7, 17, & 18), Joshua Sorman, Advisor, Training and Certification (item 15), & Supraja Sridharan, Public Safety Risk Analyst (Item 11).

Guests: Mohamed Awad, Policy Advisor, Ministry of Consumer Services (MCS).

Regrets: Guy Stewart, Canadian Ski Patrol System – Ontario Division.

1. Constitution of Meeting

B. Haynes, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:37 A.M.

2. Council Chair's Report

B. Haynes highlighted the ruling on the Blue Mountain accident reporting decision and acknowledged the Tourism Industry Association Ontario (TIAO) full support in this case.

He also reported to council the decline of school programs and its impact on the ski industry. The decline was caused by teachers supporting a policy from their Unions not to partake in any extracurricular activities with students. He reported to council that this issue was a standing item on the AGM for Ontario Snow Resorts Association (OSRA). Going forward, the focus will be on addressing standardized package and also creating Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) for each particular stakeholder involved in the process.

Other possible ways of reviving interest in school programs were discussed, among them, TSSA's support by promoting safety within the school system through partnerships.

3. Approval of Agenda

Council approved the agenda of March 27, 2013 meeting as presented.



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4. Approval of the Minutes

Council approved the minutes of October 10, 2012 Ski Lift Advisory Council meeting as drafted, as being a true and correct record of that meeting.

5. Review Action Items from Last Meeting

R. Hadaller reviewed the outstanding action items from previous meetings with council, noting that all were completed.

6. TSSA President & CEO's Report

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, council received a report from the President and CEO, regarding TSSA's key activities over the last quarter, which was treated as read.

M. Beard, the new President and CEO, was welcomed. He reiterated that the strategic and business plans for TSSA will remain unchanged. He further shared with council that TSSA's public safety initiative, Risk Information Decision Making (RIDM) was granted a patent pending in USA and the patent process is in progress in Canada.

7. Council Evaluation and Engagement Survey

D. Scriven informed council that the council evaluation and engagement survey will be conducted in May/June. He provided information around the background of the survey and council addressed the action items that arose from the last survey results.

The survey is currently set at a two year interval. D. Scriven requested to council that they consider slowing down the frequency of the survey to three year intervals Council supported TSSA to consider changing the council survey frequency to three years.

He encouraged council to participate and reminded that emails containing information will be distributed soon.

He also noted that the survey privacy was guaranteed.

Some members of council mentioned that another survey was being conducted. It was noted that the other survey may be for lift mechanics and was not related to TSSA. However, council were encouraged to contact TSSA contact centre if there were any issues with other TSSA surveys.

8. Engineers/Submissions

M. Frankcom introduced an issue related to the design submissions and its process at TSSA at the last council meeting. He advised that a task group was formed and met on March 1, 2013. He provided an update from the meeting by highlighting three key areas: code interpretation, rush priority and timing, and cost of installing stop button.

R. Kremer provided a high level discussion around the Z98 code versus B77 code. In Z98 devices in safety circuits need to be redundant and checked, unless a risk assessment can justify otherwise. In B77, the code identifies, by function, which devices are required to be deemed safety devices. For manufacturers familiar with B77, this difference in code approach causes delays in submission registration – that need to comply



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with Z98. The task group will look at possibly incorporating the device specific list from B77 into the ski CAD document.

He further provided historical background around the adoption of Z98 (a Canadian code) and the adjustments to Z98 via the CAD, in lieu of adopting the American B77 code. He also recommended that applicants book face time with engineers to go through new submission packages early in the process in an effort for both parties to get a thorough appreciation of the review as related to the submitted documents.

Around the timelines for completion of submissions, R. Kremer presented a handout at the meeting to highlight the duration of each submission in the administration process and in the engineering process at TSSA. Council further discussed the definitions for rush (priority service), and its impact on the work flow. It was explained that priority service alone cannot confirm a quick registration; it can only ensure that the submission will be moved to the top of the work queue. It was again noted that face to face meetings produce the best outcomes for the reviews performed in 2012.

R. Kremer noted that there were specific action-items resulting from March 1st meeting that will be followed up on and resolutions will be sought.

M. Beard encouraged the Ski Lifts Program to enhance the administration/engineering processes presented in the graph today and identify the gaps, if any. He further recommended looking into the work flow and providing clarity in the process and finding the root cause of the issue, if any.

In regards to cost of installing a stop button, an update will be provided to council at the next meeting. This issue was discussed by the previous aging devices RRG and requires a brief revisit of the issue.

ACTION: M. Frankcom and R. Kremer to report on the resolutions of the Engineering Submission Task Group at the next council meeting.

9. Priority Safety Issue: Enhance consistency among regulators

The decision in Blue Mountain v. Ontario Ministry of Labour (MOL) was shared with council. Council discussed some of the challenges inherent to reporting an incident to MOL.

10. Ministry of Consumers Services (MCS)

M. Awad provided a high level update of MCS current businesses. He reported that there was a new Minister, Tracey MacCharles and foundational briefing was underway. He noted that there has been positive media coverage for Delegated Administrative Authority practice. He also confirmed that MCS' mandate will remain the same due to the minority government in place and will continue to support those issues already in progress.

He further provided an update regarding MCS and TSSA involvement with the Ontario College of Trades.

11. Safety Compliance

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, R. Hadaller provided an update regarding the ski lift safety compliance. L. Mulamootil and S. Sridharan joined the meeting for this item.

R. Hadaller presented the compliance summary for the Ski Lifts Program including the top five cited orders. High level discussion ensued around the differences in each quarter, noting that inspections for Q1 (May-July) were low due to the summer season.



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Further discussion ensued around defining measurements that can be used across programs rather than using the “general” category for orders. TSSA was currently working on standardizing all orders for each program. Moving forward, presentations will reflect these changes.

12. Priority Safety Issue: TSSA technicians/inspectors availability to enhance inspector’s role in more safety promotion

J. Palmer provided a background on this issue. He reported to council that he was still working on centralizing this initiative by developing a stand-alone safety promotion presentation that can be provided to all resorts for their internal training and orientations. He noted that the tentative date for completion of this priority safety issue is in the fall.

13. Enforcement/Inspections/Reporting

D. Mathewson informed council that there was no update at this time. However, he noted that the changes to the Ministry of Labour reporting had not reached the Spills Action Centre. And that they were still asking questions that did not pertain to certain incidents that did not require medical assistance. A high level discussion ensued around how to inform the appropriate agencies/government when change to the policy occurs. Further discussion indicated that TSSA was a client of the Spills Action Centre which operates under the Ministry of Environment and therefore, TSSA can follow up on the incident reporting process along with council members.

Council recommended reviewing the process of incident reporting and approaching the Spills Action Centre in regards to updating the reporting routine.

TSSA will facilitate an initial meeting lead by R. Hadaller including D. McClellan, B. Haynes, R. Sheridan and M. Rutherford.

ACTION: R. Hadaller to coordinate an initial meeting to review the incident reporting process with the above mentioned council members and D. McClellan.

ACTION: R. Hadaller will also coordinate a meeting with Spills Action Centre to review the incident reporting process regarding ski lifts industry. Members of council may be required to attend this meeting as per R. Hadaller direction.

14. Priority Safety Issues: Ski lifts safety public education program end of season update

With the aid of a PowerPoint presentation, B. Celis provided an update on TSSA's ski lift public education activities results for the 2012/2013 winter season.

She re-capped the program activities which focused on new skiers and snowboarders by approaching them with direct face to face engagement and forming partnership support with key industry organizations.

She also highlighted the successful results of those activities. She noted that there have been 28,000 direct interactions at 10 ski resorts and 3,400 online contest entries. She further noted that TSSA teamed up with ski schools to highlight ski lift safety during lessons and engaged the new students in the common areas to promote online contests.



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She further provided an update on the on-site results by observing those who wore safety wristband which indicated the person received messaging from the RideSmart crew. Riders who wore a wrist band loaded the lift successfully 84.6% of the time compared to 80.2% for those who did not wear a wristband.

Regarding ongoing initiatives, TSSA partnered with the Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance (CSIA) and continued to support CSIA's Award of Merit Initiative.

A high level discussion ensued around the decline of school programs and its impact on industry. Further discussion ensued around broadening the partnerships with the PACE Penguin Program and Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance.

Further discussion ensued around ways to enhance safety initiatives for school programs and expanding partnership opportunities with respect to safety messaging, which may improve the decline of school programs. B. Celis will follow up on this issue with the appropriate program directors and will provide an update at the next meeting.

15. Training and Certification Advisory Board (TCAB)

J. Sorman informed council that the TCAB met on March 26, 2013.

He informed council that the examination banks for the SLM-C certificate of qualification were identified as inconsistent by the TCAB membership; as such the bank was reviewed to ensure uniformity to the applicable codes and regulatory information. A resolution has been reached and a frequently asked questions (FAQ) will be developed. Council requested this FAQ to be sent to OSRA for further feedback prior to posting.

Council discussed the possibility of developing an apprenticeship for the ski program. The historical background on this issue was shared. This is not under TSSA's mandate; however, TSSA develops curriculums needed for apprenticeships under its regulation. The development of apprenticeships was regulated under Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. This item will be discussed further at the next TCAB meeting.

J. Sorman further shared with council that MCS, TSSA and MTCU have been meeting with Ontario College of Trades (OCOT) to discuss the impact on certain programs' regulations as a result of the establishment of OCOT. Any new initiative involving these parties may be put on hold until the issue with OCOT is resolved. Ski Lifts AC will be informed of the result of OCOT impact on regulations.

16. Mechanics/Licensing/Training /Education

K. Nichol informed council that since individual councils members were assigned to categories within the industry, he has not received as many calls. He recommended including the categories and contact information in OSRA's newsletter so the industry is aware of them.

17. Input Industry Trends and Issues

As part of the advanced materials for this meeting, the council received a document for industry input/trends and matrix containing all the issues and trends that have been collected so far, which was treated as read.

J. Harrison provided the status and the next steps for this item. Moving forward, this item will be combined with item 15 to streamline all issues and trends pertaining to this council. This item will be presented as a standing item and all issues/trends will be updated as information becomes available.



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One of the trends indicating decline in school programs was noted as an area that requires attention.

18. Establishing Priority Safety Issues for 2013 to 2015

D. Scriven provided background information around this item. He also shared a list of all issues that were developed in the 2010 brainstorming session, in which, council voted to select the current priority safety issues.

Council reviewed the list (which will be incorporated into the input industry trends and issues item) and selected the next possible priority safety issues as follows:

- Availability of TSSA inspection/technical staff (ongoing priority safety issue)
- Enhance communication on customer interfacing processes (engineering process etc)
- Address aging equipment
- Broaden the reach of the lift look and lower safety education program

19. Questions on Information and Other Business

There was no business under this item.

20. In Camera

Council members met in camera without management.

21. Termination

The meeting was terminated at 12:53 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2013.