



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Consumers Advisory Council

Meeting on May 9, 2024

Minutes of the Consumers Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held in hybrid format at 10 a.m. on May 9, 2024

Present: Rae Dulmage (Chair) (PAC), Jay Jackson (EDAC), Sunaina Menezes (NGAC), Ron Morrison (BPV/OE AC), Kathryn Woodcock (ADAC), Sheila Johnson (ASL interpreter)

Guests: Alexandra Campbell, VP Communications & Stakeholder Relations; Kristian Kennedy, Manager, Stakeholder Relations; Olga Dias-Sousa and Kathy Pearsall, TSSA Advisory Council Support

Regrets: Christine Simpson (SLAC)

1. Constitution of Meeting

The Chair, R. Dulmage, opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m.

a) Safety Moment

For the safety moment, K. Kennedy highlighted five outdoor safety tips for spring:

1. Practise ladder safety by having a buddy, placing ladders on level spaces, and securing the ladders;
2. Check outdoor cords that may have frayed or been damaged during winter;
3. Ensure equipment is properly fueled to eliminate inhalation risk;
4. If digging, contact Ontario One Call to locate buried cables, pipes and wires;
5. Stretch and warm up before beginning to work.

2. Adoption of May 9, 2024 Agenda

Council adopted the agenda as presented.

A member asked if council members would be asked about their preferences for in-person, hybrid, or virtual meetings. This item has been added for discussion under Item 8.

3. Adoption of Minutes of December 8, 2023



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Council adopted the minutes of December 8, 2023 with the following amendment.

A member asked that the following paragraph in Item 7, Section F, Propane AC be amended to include the context of one-pound tanks:

“J. Jackson said there are many videos online and companies selling adapters. Three provinces, including Ontario, have issued notices that it is illegal to change valves without training.”

A member requested that comments made during the meeting no longer be attributed to individual council members in the minutes. A. Campbell agreed that the comments will no longer be attributed to individuals. Comments made by TSSA members will continue to be attributed.

4. Review Action Items from Last Meeting

Action 1. K. Kennedy said the TSSA is reviewing five new applicants for council and that council members will be consulted in this process.

Action 2. The Chair said he has not heard back from Laval University on recommending a student with a wayfinding research background.

Action 3. K. Kennedy said the TSSA Research and Innovation Grant requires that work be undertaken by students under the supervision of an Ontario-based faculty member at an Ontario college or university. The student must already be admitted or recommended for admission and must prove permanent residency or citizenship. The student and faculty member do not have to be enrolled at the same institution.

Action 4. K. Kennedy said the TSSA can contribute data to the waterslide injuries research. Depending on the number of fields, the data could be provided within two weeks.

When researching waterslide injuries, council agreed that injury data must be viewed in relation to acceleration data. When acceleration is too fast, riders have neither the time nor the muscle to prevent them from falling out. The research will shed light on where and why most of the injuries are occurring.

At the last meeting, council agreed that research on waterslide injuries would be a good use of the Safety Education Fund. K. Kennedy suggested doing an offline call to get more granularity on the data that the TSSA can contribute.



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A member noted that publishing the waterslide injuries research publicly would inform the world and demonstrate that the TSSA is engaged. K. Kennedy noted that the TSSA contributed to zipline research in the past.

Action 5. Council agreed that behaviour-related research be given funding consideration. Inspection reports following injuries tend to blame the users, not the operators. For example, elevator mechanics and amusement park operators have been known to disconnect equipment alarms because they find them annoying.

Council agreed to identify specific topics for the behaviour-related research.

A member noted that focusing too much on data may defeat the purpose of understanding the role of human behaviour.

A. Campbell said the TSSA would be willing to hire a research firm to assist in the behaviour-related research study.

5. Chair's Update

The Chair said his municipality declined his request to post information from the TSSA that is of public interest. The municipality claims to only post information provided by its partners. The Chair said he will send a copy of the rejected posting to K. Kennedy.

A. Campbell acknowledged that municipalities may not recognize the TSSA as a partner, although municipal fire departments are familiar with TSSA. She will look into options for introducing the TSSA more broadly to municipalities.

6. Council Administration

Sunaina Menezes and Ron Morrison have renewed their memberships.

Council is still accepting applications for new members to fill vacancies.

7. Verbal Reports from Spring 2024 Industry Advisory Council Meetings

a. Amusement Devices



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The AD sector recently had a successful safety forum and two-day training session in Oshawa. A key issue was how many millright training hours would contribute to the AD mechanic license.

b. BPV/OE

There was much discussion about adjusting to, and contributing to the fine-tuning of, new TSSA systems and user portals. There has been significant improvement in communication between the TSSA and the insurance sector.

c. Elevating Devices

Council discussed the under-reporting of elevator outages exceeding 48 hours, which is a regulatory requirement. Currently, only owners and licensees of residential buildings and long-term care homes are allowed to report outages exceeding 48 hours. It was suggested that the chairs of tenant and patient organizations also be allowed to report, and that this be recommended to the ministry.

Comments

A. Campbell noted that approximately 10% of these outages are being reported.

It was suggested that the public could play a role in reporting outages and that a separate portal could be created for them. Equipment repair companies could also play a role.

A member noted that while data are helpful, they only scratch the surface of what is really going on.

d. Liquid Fuels

Council is looking to fill licensing gaps for Private Fuel Outlets and Fuel Distributor licenses.

Comments



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A member said new standards are needed for new fuels. K. Kennedy said ULC will adopt a code, based on the American code, to allow for safer use of biofuels in liquid fuel equipment.

e. Natural Gas

Council is looking for members to represent Standards Development and Contractors. Council recently reviewed pipeline strike data which have been decreasing in number slightly, year over year. Most strikes are concentrated in southwestern Ontario and none has resulted in human injury. The Chair is looking for more engagement from this council and is asking that more items be brought forward. An effort is being made to harmonize Ontario and national codes for carbon monoxide alarms.

f. Propane

The ministry will hold a public consultation to address the issues around drivers evacuating tanks. There was discussion about who should be refilling one-pound propane tanks and it was suggested that the provinces collaborate on this.

g. Ski Lifts

Council is concerned that it takes too long to get a Ski Lift mechanic approved. As well, there is concern that inspectors are inconsistent.

8. Meeting Formats

Council members were asked whether they prefer in person, hybrid, or virtual meetings.

They agreed that meeting in person is important and preferable, however, there should be a call-in option for those who cannot attend. It was suggested that one in-person meeting per year would make sense, and that this is what other organizations are doing.

It was suggested that in-person meetings be longer in duration, and that they be held in conjunction with other meetings.

K. Kennedy said the TSSA will survey all councils on this subject via email.



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9. Safety Education Fund

This was covered in Item 4.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:27 a.m.