



# Technical Standards and Safety Authority

## Minutes of the Propane Advisory Council

Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Minutes of the Propane Advisory Council meeting for the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at **2:00 PM** on Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Present	
James Callow	Dave Karn (Chair)
Ryan McLachlan	Jeremy Mitchell
Rob Leonhart	Rae Dulmage
TSSA	
Kelly Hart	Gary Highfield
Alexandra Campbell	Kristian Kennedy
Frank Pallotta	Iuliana Afanase
Jennifer Walkey	Owen Kennedy
Ajay Raval	Viola Dessanti
Guests	
Brent Caren	

### Action Items

There were no action items from the meeting.

#### 1. Constitution of Meeting

##### 1.1. Safety Moment

The chair showed a Safety Moment on winter driving safety tips.

##### 1.2. Council Administration

###### 1.2.1. Membership Renewal – Ryan McLachlan

R. McLachlan renewed his membership on the advisory council.

#### 2. Adoption of the December 3, 2024, Agenda

##### 2.1. The agenda was adopted as presented.

#### 3. Approval of May 2, 2024, Minutes

##### 3.1. The council approved the minutes as presented. The Chair commented that the minutes were late in being circulated.

#### 4. Chair's Update



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The Chair spoke to membership vacancies. He also noted that this is his last term as Chair. He asked if R. Loenhardt would be willing to chair the advisory council going forward. R. Loenhardt responded that he would.

The Chair noted an industry stakeholder from Sunbelt Rentals is interested in joining the advisory council. J. Callow said he is listed as a maintenance contractor but can be listed as a Large Retailer/Distributor so that the contractor category can be filled by someone else. With respect to the manufacturer category R. McLachlan said retailer issues are mostly what is raised at the meetings, and it is not clear what a manufacturer would have much to contribute at advisory council meetings. R. Loenhardt recommended the name of someone who participates on B620 Highway Tanks and TC Portable Tanks for the Transportation of Dangerous Goods code. He is a producer and a committee member who would have transportation knowledge to fill that vacancy.

**4.1. Action:** TSSA staff to connect offline with Chair to discuss advisory council membership composition.

### 5. Engineering Service Level Agreement

F. Pallotta spoke to standardized work statuses and work order completion, prerequisites for applications, on-hold standards, and expedited requests.

D. Karn asked what the proposed timeline will be for submissions that have all the prerequisites submitted in time. F. Pallotta indicated that TSSA is looking to thirty days in general. D. Karn suggested that making that timeline explicit would allow customers to avoid resorting to expedited service, the timeline for which sets out a clear number of days. R. McLachlan advised that setting out clear prerequisites up front would be helpful for submissions. There was a TSSA advisory in past years on this subject that was not very clear. Having portal access will be immensely helpful. In terms of the timeline, it would be helpful to be able to submit technical information while outstanding documents are outstanding. Seven days for expedited is reasonable. With respect to notifications acknowledging receipt of submissions, R. McLachlan added that propane engineering submission acknowledgments sometimes go to him, other times to other contacts. V. Dessanti noted that this issue has been identified as an item to be fixed.

### 6. Risk Score Follow-Up

V. Dessanti spoke to data-driven periodic inspection frequencies for propane facilities. She noted most propane facilities are inspected on a risk-based cycle.



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TSSA has been looking to consider a broader set of data to inform that process. Through the analysis, behavioural features were found to be stronger predictors than structural features.

R. McLachlan asked if the inflection point is conceptual or specific to propane. V. Dessanti explained that it is commonly used across several TSSA-regulated devices. R. Loenhardt asked for clarification on the amount of product on site versus the number of operations in TSSA's risk score calculations. V. Dessanti indicated the variable is capacity, based on U.S. water gallons. V. Dessanti commented that the compliance history has been a stronger predictor of risk than structural features. Structural features are helpful; however, the biggest predictor is compliance. The Chair asked if sites would learn of their risk profiles. V. Dessanti indicated that inspectors will communicate risk profiles prior to inspections. R. Loenhardt asked if there has been any thought to company-wide indicators, as opposed to site-specific, so that a company can be noted as a bad actor where the company's compliance record is the issue. V. Dessanti noted that the TSSA Compliance Support program has TSSA engaging customers at the company level to support poor compliance. R. McLachlan noted the validity of the assertions in the presentation. There is some level of risk reduction in the design of a facility. Capturing operational factors will be helpful. He noted that Level II Risk and Safety Management Plans must meet the Major Industrial Accidents Council of Canada (MIACC) criteria and asked if MIACC is factored into the risk-based inspections. V. Dessanti confirmed that some aspects of the RSMP are factored into the methodology.

#### **7. Liquid Propane Policy Amendment**

K. Hart introduced J. Walkey, the Director of Certification. K. Hart spoke to the proposal to address barriers to LP endorsements.

The Chair asked if there will be a criterion for accreditation. K. Hart said it will be reviewed by TSSA like other certificate programs. J. Callow asked if there was any consideration of what other provinces are doing in this regard since industry sometimes pulls from talent other provinces. K. Hart did not know for certain if that was one of the drivers of the policy change and would have to take it back. One big issue was to address bottlenecks and the need for an alternate path to compliance. R. Loenhardt noted that roadblocks around LP endorsement and Red Seal matters suggests that this would be a welcome change. R. Loenhardt suggested clarity on what is required to get out-of-province approvals and labour mobility would be helpful. K. Hart suggested someone from J. Walkey's team can assist in this regard. R. McLachlan asked if work propane



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experience in other provinces can count toward Ontario approvals as part of the 80 hours.

**7.1. Action:** K. Hart to investigate other provinces and territories' requirements.

**7.2. Action:** K. Hart to connect R. Loenhardt on the process for labour mobility and Ontario requirements.

## 8. Industry Prioritization Discussion

### 8.1. Recap of Priorities

G. Highfield noted that the priorities were highlighted during the plenary session. He enumerated the updates. He also noted truck permitting for Compressed Natural Gas is also going live shortly.

### 8.2. New Priorities

#### 8.2.1. Brent Caren: Gas Utility Technician (GUT) Certification to include Propane Distributors

B. Caren noted that the GUT certificate references natural gas specifically in O. Reg. 215/01. He suggested the work being done in propane is identical to that of natural gas; they are operating as a propane pipeline company. His company is having a difficult time recruiting gas technician, especially in rural areas. Recruiting and retention are the main drivers due to the difficulty in recruiting and retaining staff. Tanks, lines, and regulators are what they work with, much like a pipeline company. All that needs to be done is to amend the regulation and remove the word "natural gas" for the GUT certificate to put them on a level playing field with the natural gas industry. TSSA and the advisory council will consider the request in the context of other priorities.

#### 8.2.2. Rob Loenhardt: Quality Assurance Program for Propane

R. Loenhardt clarified that this request is related to the request to remove ten-year inspections as required in the regulation. G. Highfield recommended a separate offline call to go through the details.

R. Loenhardt commented that it would be good to refer this to the Ministry. He would recommend B. Caren join them to make the case for the change. He will pass it on to Sargent Propane.

**8.2.2.1. Action:** G. Highfield to invite R. Loenhardt to a meeting to discuss the issue.



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#### **9. Adjournment**

**9.1.** The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 PM.