

**Plumbing and Mechanical Systems Examining Board
Plumbing Code Committee Meeting Minutes
July 21, 2009**

Committee Members Present:

Thomas Day, Chairperson
Jane Hagedorn
Mick Gage
Mike Magnant
Stuart Crine - Absent
Carol Crane – Absent
Patty Broerman – Absent

Staff Attending:

Cindy Houlson, Executive Officer
Susan Van Horn, Program Planner
Wendy Zimmerline, Clerk Specialist
Matt Oetker, Assistant Attorney General
Mary Swinehart, Secretary 1

Committee Chair, Thomas Day called the meeting to order

Mike Magnant spoke about his experience during the process of adopting the codes in Chapter 25 State Plumbing Code. UPC and International Plumbing Codes were used. In the process of adoption there have been some amendments to the model code. The Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) is generally supported by the organized building codes, basically plumbers. International Plumbing Code (IPC) is supported by builders and developers. They seem to think that building under the IPC is somewhat cheaper.

The UPC & IPC are the two main codes to use by this committee to re-write a new Chapter 25.

Iowa chapter of IAMPO has been supportive. Experts were brought in as staff did not have expertise needed. Legislator mandated the department shall publish a code and we have tried to maintain it.

The initial rule was done in 2001 and has not been updated since.

A good share of what is in the current rule comes out of the suggestions and the text that IAMPO has provided to us over the years because they are the experts and we are not. We have not had plumbing expert on staff since the mid 80s.

The current rules (handout) were adopted in 2001 using the 2000 codes. Changes of the UPC have not been incorporated into this document. This entire document was written before sending to rules committee.

Question: Did you put out some type of notice that we are going to update the plumbing code for the State of Iowa?

Response: We have tried to let those that are interested in the code know that we are going to undertake an update cycle.

Question: Nothing to post as an official document?

Response: Certainly can. Last time we did this our web presence was not anywhere near where it is right now. It is certainly something that can be put out now that we have a significant web presence.

Matt: We are handling as a board with a committee process. Because our committee does not constitute a forum for open meetings requirements there is a difference. Generally, committee meetings do not apply. The Chair would decide the format.

Question: What was the greatest difficulty?

Response: There was significant response at the public hearing as well as at the ARC meeting. Actually shows up in every point of the process.

Question: Did International challenge it after completion?

Response: No they did not.

Question: Was the Department of Safety's involvement?

Response: We have always tried to cooperate with the Department of Safety.

Next process:

Next steps are up to the Committee. Following discussion it was agreed to contact IAPMO and IPC for written comments. That information would be provided to the Board Members for review before the next Board Meeting.

IAMPO have in the past been most helpful in technical aspect of the project. They prefer UPC which would have to be taken in account. Deciding if any what amendments you would like to adopt.

Question: Time wise can you tell us how long this process took?

Response: Plumbing code adoption took about eighteen months.

Question: Why not treat this any different than any of our other committees work and the regular process that we have used?

Response: I don't believe that any of the other rules we have drafted have been as political as this will be. Would like to show the ARC Committee as much public participation as much as possible.

Mike continued exchanging his information.

The last part of this rule was made up. 25.5 is completely separate from and outside the model code. 2009 code does not address.

25.5 (5) Backflow Prevention Program Large cities over 15,000 have to have a backflow program that addresses containment.

The department has Backflow Licensing Program they will continue to maintain regardless what this board does.

We have no statutory authority for Backflow Prevention, however we do have statutory authority for the plumbing code.

The only thing different from the plumbing code is this part that stipulates any municipality over 15,000 has to have a backflow prevention program. This did not come directly out of the code.

Question: The board has state code; do you envision 25.5 staying as is?

Response: Entirely up to the committee.

25.5 requires large cities to have a specific type of program that addresses cross connection controls. Requires cities to look at who they are providing water to and if there is enough of a risk at those facilities to justify putting a backflow preventer on the line going to that facility.

Swimming pools is completely separate set of rules.
Separate set of rules for licensing of backflow testers.

Mike Magnant will be member of this committee.

Adopted specific chapters of the code

Chapter 12 – fuel gas piping - deferred to Public Safety and Fire Marshall's Office

25.3 - Change references but need not address. (change references)
Chapter 11 – storm drainage At the time we adopted this IAPMO group did not want to address.

Chapter 16 New in 2009 – Reuse of water (grey water systems) Suggest involvement of Department of Natural Resources as relative to any rules they may have.

Chapter 1 Administrative Procedures. Most has to do with the process of submitting for permits and fees.

Table 4.1 - Number of plumbing fixtures a facility has to have, has proven, since adoption, to be difficult to handle. Suggest looking at to see if should be kept as part of the code or refer them to the International Building Code. They receive at least 4 requests for variances per month. There are some differences in the 2000 Code, which specifically addresses egress occupancy and the 2009 code.

State code applies to plumbing in any city, of any size in Iowa; and any facility connected to city water or sewage system.

Next Meeting: August 18, 2009 (following Board Meeting)

Code books will be available for the next meeting.

Meeting adjourned

Respectfully submitted
Mary Swinehart