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BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS
NOTICE OF VIRTUAL MEETING

Fire Prevention and Fire Protection Subcommittee

In accordance with the provisions of G.L. c. 30A § 20, notice is hereby given that the Fire Prevention and Fire Protection Subcommittee of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) will convene a meeting in accordance with G.L. c143 § 97 on:

Meeting called to order on Wednesday, October 29th, 2025, at 9:38 AM
Meeting Minutes

Roll Call

Luke McKneally, BBRS Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Jake Nunnemacher, BBRS Member	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Carissa Lisee, DOL Appointee	<input type="checkbox"/> present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent
Tom Farland, Municipal Fire Official	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Gail Kubik, Municipal Building Official	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Michael Yanovitch, Building Contractor	<input type="checkbox"/> present <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> absent
David LeBlanc, Fire Protection Engineer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Eric Svahn, Architect	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent
Matthew Bourque, Developer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> present <input type="checkbox"/> absent

1) **Review/Vote Meeting minutes for September 24, 2025**

Chair LeBlanc introduced FFP meeting minutes from September 24th, 2025. Matthew Bourque noted that his name had been spelled incorrectly in the text. Luke McKneally motioned to approve the minutes pending the corrections, Matthew Bourque seconded. A roll call vote was held. Chair LeBlanc noted that member Tom Farland was absent for this vote.

Yes – Luke McKneally, Matthew Bourque, David LeBlanc,

No – None.

Abstain – Jake Nunnemacher, Gail Kubik

Motion passes with majority.



2) **Review Assigned Code Sections – Chapters 4, 7, 9, 33, A2L and Code Proposals**

Chair LeBlanc raised topic of chapter review and discussed ASHRAE resources. Jake Nunnemacher noted importance of life safety with regard to potential A2L refrigerant flammability and stated that a holistic approach should be utilized when reviewing subject as opposed to taking code change proposals individually. Chair LeBlanc noted a White Paper he had written on the subject and provided in subcommittee packet, agreed that topic should be reviewed holistically, and stated that a number of code change proposals would be redundant as they were submitted to bring forward 2024 ICC language which will be the basis of the 11th edition.

Jake Nunnemacher noted potential issues with storage of A2L refrigerants, changes in occupancy to High-Hazard (H-use group), and additional infrastructure required to accommodate A2L use in Massachusetts. Board Counsel Charles Kilb noted the subcommittee's charge relative to the 11th edition of 780 CMR as the full BBRS already voted on changes for the 10th edition.

Thomas Deary of the Air-Conditioning, Heating, and Refrigeration Institute (AHRI) spoke on topic of A2L refrigerants, providing background on AHRI, A2L use under 10th edition, outstanding issues surrounding storage, and detailed context of flammability and concentration requirements.

J.S. Rancourt of HTS – DXS New England Inc. spoke on topic of A2L refrigerants and noted overlap with code change proposals submitted by Daikin Comfort Technologies. J.S. Rancourt also noted that five of his existing code change proposals are now redundant as they were intended to align with 2024 I-codes, but that the remaining three would still need to be reviewed. J.S. Rancourt also noted current requirements for shafts would be clarified in latest ASHRAE 15.

Chair LeBlanc raised topic of increased flammability of A2L refrigerants compared with previous A1 materials, unintentional release, and associated risks.

J.S. Rancourt discussed concentration limits, lower-flammability limits, noting that ASHRAE does not allow more than 25%-50% relative to ignition sources. Chair LeBlanc raised the question of ignition of refrigerant within walls, particularly with potential exposure to electric spark from switches and outlets. J.S. Rancourt noted AHRI's White Paper on flammability of A2Ls and noted that natural gas is an A3 material, the piping of which is currently allowed in walls without a shaft.

Jake Nunnemacher noted that for purposes of this subcommittee, the topic of A2L refrigerants was now being considered for the 11th edition of 780 CMR, rather than the 10th edition, and that the subcommittee could reconvene on the matter at a later date. Jake Nunnemacher also noted that the proponents could appear before the subcommittee at a later date to provide information on topic.

Thomas Deary noted AHRI's willingness to provide more information on topic to subcommittee at future meetings and also spoke about ASHRAE's varied interest categories when reviewing code change with no more than 33% manufacturers and inclusion of fire service participation.

Luke McKneally recommended that proponents return to give presentation on topic. J.S. Rancourt stated willingness to do so. Members discussed and reached general consensus that proponents could return during a December subcommittee meeting.

3) **Discuss - Other Matters Not Reasonably Anticipated 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting**

Chair LeBlanc opened floor for matters not reasonably anticipated. Jake Nunnemacher raised topic of BBRS delegated Control Area interpretation to be added to agenda for next meeting. Subcommittee discussed potential chapters for review at next meeting and reached consensus to discuss chapter 33.

Jake Nunnemacher motioned to adjourn meeting, Tom Farland seconded. None opposed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:41AM.

Items Relied Upon

Agenda

Minutes

Code Change Proposals