



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Liquid Fuels Advisory Council

Meeting on November 6th, 2023

Minutes of the Liquid Fuels Industry Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at 1:00 p.m. on the 6th day of November 2023.

Present:

Terry Ablett, Wagg's Petroleum Equipment Ltd; Theresa Espejo, UL Canada Inc; Brent Francis (Chair), Francis Fuels; John Lastoria, Canadian Tire Corporation; Laurie Marcil, Nature & Outdoors Tourism in Ontario; Brian McBain, Underwriters Laboratories of Canada; Derek Northcotte, Heartland Farm Mutual; Michelle Rae, Ontario Petroleum Contractors Association; Jennifer Stewart, Canadian Independent Petroleum Marketers Association; Jim Wood, Ontario Petroleum Transporters & Technicians Association

Alexandra Campbell, VP Communications and Stakeholder Relations; Rae Dulmage, TSSA Consumer Advisory Council; Kelly Hart, Director of Fuels Safety Operations; Gary Highfield, Manager, Fuels Engineering; Ammara Khan, Manager, Stakeholder Relations; Anil Lal, Manager, Engineering and Technical Services, Fuels Safety Program; Olga Sousa-Dias and Kathy Pearsall, TSSA Advisory Council Support

1. Welcome & Constitution of Meeting

The Chair, B. Francis, called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

a) Safety Moment

For the safety moment, council watched a video about the importance of keeping portable gas-powered generators outside of the home and operating more than 15 feet away from windows and doors to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning. A carbon monoxide detector is recommended indoors.

2. Adoption of November 6, 2023 Agenda

The agenda was adopted as presented.

3. Adoption of April 6, 2023 Minutes

The minutes were adopted as presented.



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4. Review Action Items from Last Meeting

A. Campbell said the webinar on working with local source water protection agencies has not yet taken place. Invitations will be sent out when it is scheduled.

A. Khan said B. Francis and T. Ablett have renewed their advisory council memberships.

J. Wood said an industry meeting was held with TSSA on Sept 18 to discuss B138 standard implementation. The meeting was productive and it is hoped another will take place before Christmas.

G. Highfield said TSSA does not see mobile refueling as a priority issue.

Next steps regarding biofuel standards are on today's agenda.

5. Chair's Update

The Chair said staffing issues still need to be addressed with the oil burner technician association, the controller mechanics association, and others, to determine their roles and to remove bottlenecks. The old approaches through the colleges do not appear to be working.

The invoicing system is expected to improve when the new portal is launched.

6. Council Administration

T. Espago has joined the advisory council. She is the program manager for codes and regulatory services at UL Canada Inc. She is based in Toronto.

A. Khan said B. McBain and L. Marcil have renewed their council memberships.

7. Issues Prioritization

A. Campbell said TSSA is committed to the priorities within the five-year Strategic Plan. Council members are invited to continue to table issues via the Agenda Item Request Form.

Current issues:

- Biofuel has been put forward as a chief priority and work is under way.
- Status authorizations and pending payments will be easier to see when the portal launches this year.



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- More information about fuel contractor businesses on the website is not possible to add in yet, but there may be a future opportunity to do so.
- Mobile fuelling has been completed as an action item.

8. Adopting Biofuel Standards

J. Wood noted that the standards are complete but will not be released until late 2024. He asked if TSSA is still working on them.

G. Highfield said should TSSA adopt the U.S. version, by the time it gets out it will be time to start notifying people of the ULC version. The release date was set to avoid confusion. The bigger issue is when to require equipment to meet the standards. Most new equipment meets them. The small mom-and-pops and the marinas are of concern. How to identify risks and when to bring them into compliance requires discussion. TSSA wants to hear from PMs and OBTs in the field about where the failures happen and gather the data.

T. Ablett said a significant Northern Ontario market was hit recently by a local biodiesel supply constraint. Many remote operators have hand-me-down pumps and dispensers that are more than 20 years old.

L. Marcil said she would be happy to facilitate discussions, including with manufacturers on the boat motor side, if needed.

J. Wood said PFOs have old equipment. Licensing and inspection are important to ensure they are approved for biofuel use.

T. Ablett said how old equipment will respond to significantly higher levels of biofuel is unknown. What is out there now is generally holding, but testing may be required.

The Chair noted that changing oil filter cartridges and gaskets at the same time is not always carried out diligently.

J. Stewart said corrosion with hanging hardware and pumps is the main issue. Even with the clean fuel regulation, blends can be averaged. A mass biofuel percentage will not be evenly spread across the province. Her group was not engaged in the PFO licensing consultation, but member feedback is available. With respect to biofuel, her group advocates funding for infrastructure upgrade funding. The hardware is the main issue. Post 1992 tanks are double-walled and are fine with E25-plus.



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M. Rae said the manufacturers are up to date with equipment for new installations. She offered to gather more information from them.

J. Stewart said the manufacturing specifications are not new to U.S. markets.

T. Espejo said the majority of those developing technical standards are American and Canadians should be on those committees. Nineteen binational standards are in development.

9. Mobile Refuelling

G. Highfield said TSSA does not see mobile fueling as a priority item.

10. Licensing Modernization Initiative

A. Lal said TSSA aims to streamline the licensing structure for industry and improve oversight in key areas. Annual licensing is proposed for operating engineer plants, propane distributors, digester, landfill and biogas plants, liquid fuel distributors, and private fuel outlets.

On the Liquid Fuels side, two new licenses are proposed to improve oversight without creating unnecessary burden. One is for distributor authorization for those delivering to PFOs. The other is for certain PFOs that exceed a certain volume threshold. There is a possibility of combining multiple fuel distributors to include propane, liquid fuels, and fuel oil.

In 2018 the Auditor General recommended that licensed businesses be captured by the regulatory framework. She also recommended that renewal processes be reviewed to determine if any devices or sites need to meet specific conditions. Specifically around private fuel outlets (PFOs), it was recommended that a risk-based period inspection program be established with source water protection to identify the location of the PFOs.

There is no current licensing requirement for distributors. Creating the license will allow TSSA to get at PFO data. The annual fee would include initial and follow-up inspections, an audit process, and a requirement to record initial and 10-year inspections under 5,000 litres.

J. Stewart asked if the intent is to ensure that PFOs understand regulatory responsibilities, and if so, how licensing would ensure that they are aware. A. Lal said data collection is the intent. He said he could not comment beyond that.



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J. Stewart said major downstream organizations are strongly opposed to the licensing and were not consulted. They would welcome consultation.

The Chair said clear definitions and clarity are needed, especially around regulation of small tanks and how the data will be used.

J. Stewart said the industry must be protected from any unnecessary burden. The 5,000 litre threshold is a big concern.

A. Lal said 5,000 litres is a placeholder number. K. Hart agreed. The intent is to have low-risk players inspected by distributors, not to capture them through licensing. The goal is to find high-risk sites and gather data.

11. Generator Installation Training

G. Highfield said the OPCA had requested TSSA to accredit their proposed B139 Technician course as an equivalent to the OBT1 and PM3 certificates. TSSA is supportive of the industry's ask. A new program resulting in a new certificate would allow a trained group of individuals to perform this work without compromising safety. The ministry is conducting jurisdictional research. TSSA is exploring requirements around curriculum development and timeline.

TSSA hopes to come back to industry in the new year about moving ahead.

J. Wood asked if, in the initial ask, it was for inspection only, not to install a generator. He asked if a PM can install a complete generator system. M. Rae said they can install the tank and run the piping. The issue is that the OBT scope had never included large-scale systems, and that is what is being addressed. J. Wood asked about training for installing venting and air supply. M. Rae said those are grey areas at this time.

J. Wood asked if a PM with further certification would be equivalent to an OBT1. M. Rae said he would be equivalent in terms of the final connection and the comprehensive inspections for generators only.

B. McBain asked if the different licensing and training would be required for integral generator tanks. G. Highfield said OBTs are required.

12. Agenda Item Requests

B. McBain asked when the Liquid Fuel Handling Code will be updated. K. Hart said it will be done in March 2024.



13. Questions and Other Business

The Chair asked J. Wood what OBT training programs are under way. J. Wood said initiatives are ongoing. Loyalist College cancelled its fall OBT3 online course but will rerun it in January. A job fair will be held tomorrow at Mohawk College.

The Chair asked if there are discussions about enabling students to start when they want. This might help to fast-track them. J. Wood said the flexibility will come as online instruction proceeds. It is a dollar and cents game. The colleges that run the courses want to see industry more engaged. A market needs to be garnered for them. In terms of practicality, a person in a remote community can easily learn the theory but not the practise. A mobile lab has been created to do onsite practical testing around the province starting next spring.

The Chair said OBT1s are getting old and the industry is in dire straits.

R. Dulmage said in the past there was discussion about people not getting into the profession because they do not see a future in it. J. Wood replied there will be demand for a long time. Hydrocarbons will not disappear anytime soon. There is still great demand for fitters and OBTs.

The Chair said the data from OASIS will provide interesting trends, such as how many OBT1s are over 70 years old.

A. Campbell said staffing shortages are a consistent concern across other council discussions. Sometimes people hang onto certificates when they are no longer working.

14. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:15 p.m.