



Technical Standards and Safety Authority

Minutes of the Ski Lift Advisory Council

Meeting on November 15th, 2023

Minutes of the Ski Lift Advisory Council meeting of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) held by teleconference at 11 a.m. on the 15th day of November 2023.

Present: John Ball, Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance; Ward Bond, Ski Lift Installation; Tom Cavers, Beaver Valley Ski Club; Brian Edwards, Edwards Insurance Brokers; Murray Frankcom, Leitner Canada; Sarah Kenney, Kenney Engineering Inc; Dave Mathewson, Mount Pakenham Ski Area; Kevin Nichol (Chair), Ontario Ski Resorts Association (OSRA); Mark Rutherford, Brimacombe; Robert Sheridan, Blue Mountain Resorts LP

Alexandra Campbell, VP Communications & Stakeholder Relations; AJ Kadirgamar, Director, EDADSKI; Ammara Khan, Manager, Stakeholder Relations; Rob Kremer, Manager, Engineering, Elevating Devices Safety Program; Ajay Raval, VP Operations; Olga Sousa-Dias and Kathy Pearsall, TSSA Advisory Council Support

1. Welcome & Constitution of Meeting

The Chair, K. Nichol, called the meeting to order at 11 a.m.

a) Safety Moment

For the safety moment, a video was shown about the importance of checking in on family and colleagues who may be struggling with mental health issues.

2. Adoption of November 15, 2023 agenda

Council adopted the agenda as presented.

3. Approval of April 11, 2023 minutes

Council approved the minutes as presented.

4. Review action items from last meeting

AJ Kadirgamar spoke to this item.

Candace Micucci's membership renewal is pending.



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A meeting to discuss SIL that would include participants from other jurisdictions was completed on May 2, 2023.

M. Rutherford shared documents yesterday with TSSA concerning challenges encountered with customer service. Council is waiting for TSSA to respond.
[ACTION]

R. Rutherford noted there is confusion about which forms to use. AJ Kadirgamar said he will follow up. [ACTION]

5. Chair's Update

The Chair said the industry faced weather and pandemic challenges in recent years. The Toronto Ski and Snow Board Show was a success last month. Seminars, tradeshow, and conferences have seen record levels of participation from resorts in the past year. A passenger detachable lift with a loading conveyor and heated seats is being installed at Mount St. Louis – a first of its kind in Canada.

6. Council Administration

A. Campbell spoke to this item.

Ward Bond, Dave Mathewson, Mark Rutherford, John Ball, and Christine Simpson have renewed their memberships. Craig MacDonald, representing the Private Club Sector, will not be renewing.

The Chair said it is important to have someone represent the Private Club Sector and has extended invitations to a few people to join the Council. On behalf of Council he thanked C. MacDonald for his years of service.

A. Campbell noted there are three large and small resort owners on Council.

7. Issue Prioritization Discussion

A. Campbell spoke to this item.

The new five-year Strategic Plan will focus on finishing what has been started, making TSSA a great place to work, and improving ease of doing business. Council members are encouraged to bring new asks forward for prioritization and to fill out the Agenda Item Request Form.



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At the spring council meeting it was agreed that SIL would be addressed within the code. Participation at a national level is encouraged to create harmonization between provinces.

The Chair noted that the SIL exercise is marked as completed within the Action Items. A few owner-operators will be wondering about the outcome of the SIL subcommittee. He asked R. Kramer for an update.

R. Kramer said requirements for SIL devices in the CAD were discussed at the spring meeting. It appeared CAD was exceeding code requirements. M. Frankcom sent out an agenda item to provide better understanding of TSSA requirements in the CAD and to determine TSSA acceptance of the NCP77 code Annex J provisions. At a May 2 follow-up meeting it was concluded that Z98 code requirements for SIL are to be based on the probability and consequence of failure. Designers are expected to do a risk assessment as defined in Annex L Z98. It was clarified that a risk assessment can be avoided if one pays for better quality components. It was clarified that TSSA did not own a copy of the B77 standard and that it was not possible at that time to speak about what was in the B77 Annex J. Subsequently, a copy of the B77 standard was purchased, the Annex J provisions were reviewed, and a meeting took place July 18 with many knowledgeable participants. It became clear that Annex J and B77 could not be read in isolation of the code book. Annex J specifies recommended minimal and nominal risk reduction levels. It suggests that SIL levels would not be appropriate when applied to a novel or atypical design. It is up to the designer to determine the appropriate risk level. In conclusion, B77 and Annex J cannot be bolted onto Z98 and requires more extensive work by the Z98 code committee to see if they want to do something similar or work together to see how the codes can be adapted.

8. Agenda Item Requests

D. Mathewson said booking annual inspections is challenging in Northern Ontario where small areas are run by volunteers. He would like to make it easy for them. There is also a continuing education component since nothing on the form states that the education is required prior. All communications from TSSA go to the townships where information may not be getting through. AJ Kadirgamar said he would follow up on the licensing form with respect to required continuing education.[ACTION]

AJ Kadirgamar said TSSA sent out 98 packages last month to schedule inspections. The goal is to hit 40% of the sites this year. There were delays in getting inspections done last year due to the strike. Anyone wanting to receive



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a package can email edadinspection@tssa.org or call Workforce Planning at 1-833-937-8772.

K. Nichol said it would help if operators can find out when inspections are scheduled. AJ Kadirgamar said they find out if they are one of the 98 who received the package. Otherwise, they must contact TSSA.

9. Other Business

J. Ball said there is a TSSA requirement for an SOP for summer maintenance from the manufacturer. He asked how this can be a requirement for orphaned equipment.

AJ Kadirgamar said he would get back on this. [ACTION]

The Chair said he heard that an inspector told a ski area operator that he had to join the Elevator Contractor Association of Canada. The ski area has an elevator in its base lodge.

AJ Kadirgamar said it may have been a misunderstanding and requested more information.

J. Ball asked, with respect to amusement device qualifications, if it is possible for ski lift operators to transfer their skills or hours to get credits toward being an AD mechanic.

AJ Kadirgamar said he would come back with an answer. [ACTION]

M. Frankcom said all manufacturers provide maintenance information, schedules, and requirements that are not seasonally related. There are issues associated with requiring a manufacturer to provide a standard maintenance operating procedure and having inspectors enforce this. Each resort develops its own maintenance procedures. Inspectors need to use their judgment on a case-by-case basis rather than throw it at the manufacturer. AJ Kadirgamar said he will look into this. [ACTION].

A. Raval said TSSA has an issue resolution protocol. Anyone who disagrees with an inspector's order or fees can bring it up with an inspector, and, if necessary, their supervisor. It is up to the supervisor to reach out to TSSA for resolution. Information about this can be found on the website.

A. Campbell said it is hard to believe that joining a national association would be a requirement.

AJ Kadirgamar said providing him with specific information on such issues would be helpful.



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K. Nichol said industry meets high standards in Ontario. Having aging, orphaned equipment that has passed at least one engineering audit should satisfy any inspector on how the maintenance has been done. He said he is comfortable with orphaned equipment having been well maintained.

10. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:54 a.m.