

ASHRAE SSPC161P meeting minutes

June 15, 2020 – telecon format

Voting members present (13):

Catherine Thibaud, Airbus (voting member for UTRC until July 1, 2020) (Committee Chair)
Stephen Trent, Boeing (Vice-Chair)
Judith Anderson, AFA-CWA (Secretary)
Allison Glaser, APA
Aaron Engel, Fresh-Aire UV
Ben Thiesse, American Airlines
Byron Jones, KSU
Daniel Tandoi, Vereinigung Cockpit
Don Largent – AAF-Flanders
Frank Brehany, passenger representative
John Hall, IAMAW
Lubos Forejt, Honeywell
Michael Massoni, TWU Local 556

Voting members who sent regrets:

Andreas Bezold, Airbus
Eric Tellmann, ALPA
Josh Kelton, Cessna Aircraft Company
Tamara DiMaddalena, CUPE

Non-voting members present:

Karl Peterman, SPLS Liaison
Mark Weber, Staff Liaison
Richard Fox, Aircraft Environment Solutions, Inc.
Stephanie Licht, Boeing
Timothy Ahn, Clean & Science Co.

Guests present:

Karen Reilly, ALPA (SSPC161P membership application is pending)
Katherine Owen, Owen Air Filtration Consulting
Rick Heiden, member of another ASHRAE standards committee

Committee Chair, Catherine Thibaud, welcomed attendees and led introductions.

Committee Secretary, Judith Anderson, confirmed that, because 13 of 17 voting members are present, we have quorum.

Membership:

Catherine confirmed that there will be a new committee membership roster at the end of this month which will not reflect all pending changes. Richard Fox has changed affiliations and some people renewed their membership. Also, Allison Glaser replaced David Rod, Karen Reilly is replacing Eric Tellmann, and Nathalie Garceau is replacing Tamara DiMaddalena. Andreas Bezold will transition to be a non-voting member and Catherine will be the voting member for Airbus. Some members missed the deadline to renew their membership in time for July 1, 2020, but can submit their paperwork now and be reinstated in the fall of 2020.

Meeting minutes:

Catherine confirmed that the Feb 2020 meeting minutes were voted on and approved by email.

Organophosphate task group:

Judith reported that the Organophosphate task group has not met since Feb 2020. In addition to Judith, task group members are Stephen Trent and Andreas Bezold. (Steve Tochilin resigned from the SPC161P committee in 2020.) The task group has been tasked to agree on edits to Table 8.2.4c (Aircraft sampling data for tricresyl phosphate isomers (TCP) and tributyl phosphate isomers (TBP)) in Guideline 28-2016 in order to update the data. She invited members to notify her by email if they wish to join the task group and committed to following up with the full committee by email to invite new members to join and to distribute a doodle poll to schedule the next meeting.

Table 8.2.2 task group:

Committee Vice-Chair, Stephen Trent, reported on the activity of the task group assigned to discuss his proposed edit to Guideline 28-2016 to add "Protective Action Criteria" values to Table 8.2.2 in Guideline 28-2016. In addition to Stephen, task group members are Lubos Forejt, Andreas Bezold, and Allison Glaser. Since Feb. 2020, the task group has had one telecon. The group was assigned to look at the applicability of health guidelines, including PAC limits, to system design, and which limits should be included in Table 8.2.2. A long debate followed regarding the applicability of the PAC limits (and any published exposure limits for individual chemicals) to aircraft ventilation system design. Stephen stated that PACs provide a set of emergency criteria that are relevant to failure conditions and are not limited to workers. Alison and Judith expressed concern that PACs were not developed for application on aircraft and, so, are unsuitable. Frank Brehany reported on similar discussions regarding whether published exposure limits are applicable to aircraft) in the EU. He shared that, instead of relying on exposure limits, a European cabin air committee has proposed to apply the hierarchy of controls and precautionary program, all within an airline SMS program. Stephen shared that his company uses PACs now for functional hazard assessment purposes, along with modified OSHA PELs, ACGIH TLVs, and German MACs.

Byron Jones suggested that the committee draft two tables – one relevant to designing to address failure conditions and one for normal operations, which initiated a discussion what constitutes a failure but did not resolve the debate.

Catherine said that data from the Cognitair study may provide some insight into the suitability of the proposed exposure limits. That study is measuring associations between different levels of VOCs (including CO₂) at reduced pressure on comfort and cognition. Byron said the results will take a while and are unlikely to be applicable to today's debate because the study is looking at relatively low levels of VOCs that would be present during non-emergency conditions.

Stephen Trent proposed that we utilize the expertise of some physicians within the Aerospace Medical Association (AsMA). Frank expressed the need to understand the funding of organization, with claims that its funders included OEMs. After the meeting, Stephen Trent circulated a list of their corporate and sustaining member donors: <https://www.asma.org/for-corporations/corporate-and-sustaining-members>.

Catherine encouraged the team to invite others to join the next telecon. Stephen agreed to do so. The task group will continue to schedule telecons and will report back at the next meeting.

Other issues:

Karen Reilly introduced herself and posed a question to the full committee for discussion. She asked why there is not stronger support to monitor the bleed air for carbon monoxide on new aircraft. She explained that many of her pilot union members have report symptoms consistent with exposure to CO during a fume event and that, in some cases, the pilots were barely able to land the aircraft. Stephen Trent, Richard Fox, Andreas Bezold, and Byron Jones told Karen that their testing of oil injection conditions on the ground has found minimal carbon monoxide, so they do not consider it to be a reliable indicator of exposure to oil fumes. Instead, their current focus is on ultrafine particles as a marker of exposure.

Next meeting:

Catherine asked about the next meeting. Mark Weber said that the decision of whether to meet in person in Chicago in Jan 2021 is to be determined. We may schedule another telecon for Jan 2020 (given anticipated challenges with travel), whether it will supplement or replace the in-person meeting.

Catherine announced that the meeting is adjourned.