



Drywall Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
November 16, 2009  
Finishing Industries Forum-5  
Las Vegas, Nevada

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman John Laing welcomed all attendees and called the meeting to order at 4:00 PM.

**2. INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES**

<b><u>Committee Members</u></b>
John Laing, Chairman, Rice Drywall, Inc., California
Mark Fowler, Western Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association, Inc.
Steve Sharpe, Sharpe Interior Systems, California
Tim Wies, T.J. Wies Contracting Inc., Missouri
<b><u>Attendees</u></b>
Keith Bakarar, Rice Drywall, Inc., California
Dan Benter, Painters and Allied Trades DC 36, California
Billy Campana, Painters and Allied Trades DC 36, California
Bob Campbell, Western Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association, Las Vegas
Albert Carillo, Western Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association, Arizona
Ed Charles, Associated Wall and Ceiling Contractors of Oregon and SW Washington
Keith Costanzo, Sharpe Interior Systems, California
Bill Dunleavy, Painters and Allied Trades DC 36, California
Brandt Goble, Painters and Tapers Local 77, Utah
Sue Klinker, Painters and Allied Trades DC 5, Washington
Grant Mitchell, Painters and Allied Trades DC 36, California
John Nesse, Minnesota Painting and Wallcovering Employers Association
Steve Rossa, Northern California Drywall Contractors Association
Patrick Smith, Painters and Allied Trades DC 5, Local 1277, Oregon
Chris Urling, Northern California Drywall Contractors Association
Jake Whittle, Niehaus Construction Services, Missouri
Dan Wienstroer, Painting and Decorating Foundation, Missouri
<b><u>FCA Staff</u></b>
Robin Smith, Director, Finance and Administration
<b><u>FCA Committee Liaison</u></b> <i>(not present at meeting)</i>
Tony Darkangelo, Regional Vice President

**3. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Chinese-Made Drywall**

Mark Fowler updated the committee on items discussed at the last meeting, in June 2009 in San Diego. He advised that reports on known domestic drywall issues from Chinese drywall increased, from seven to 41 states, and that a simple test is being developed to identify Chinese drywall. He

asked that attendees leave their business cards so that he could provide them with a link when the website test information is available.

**B. LEED-Rated Projects**

John Laing reported that he attended the recent Greenbuild seminar in Phoenix and affirmed that FCA contractors need to be on the forefront of LEED projects.

**C. Approval of the June 19, 2009, Meeting Minutes**

The attendees approved to accept the meeting minutes.

**4. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Yellow Bleed-Through Problem**

John Laing reported issues with mud or chipboard where the drywall turns yellow. Dan Wienstroer reported that boric acid in National Gypsum was causing yellowing. John Laing suggested attendees monitor this issue and share updates.

**B. Drywall Mud Application**

John Laing asked the group to discuss current application methods used on concrete decks. Tim Wies advised he was spraying, which covers significant ground in a short time. John Laing suggested contractors were using spray equipment for different purposes and that there was some overlap in trade areas.

**C. Level of Finishes**

John Laing reported has had no recent problems, but has had past problems that he worked with the manufacturer to resolve.

**D. Committee Position Papers**

John Laing suggested the committee could write position papers on drywall issues. Mark Fowler stated that the committee could serve as a powerful and informative voice if they wrote as a group.

**E. Light-Weight Mud Issues**

John Laing discussed recent problems with mud coming off on blue painters tape, with drywall mud on back, for which responsibility has shifted between painters and drywall contractors. He described a recent 3M presentation in Las Vegas on a precise method to remove tape (one inch of tape per second). He suggested the committee consider surveying members to determine which mud products are used and if light-weight mud should be used. He asked Mark Fowler to put together a short survey to determine if this is a problem.

**F. Expansion of the Finishing Trade into Related Areas and Training**

**1. Firestop applications and caulking**

John Laing suggested that training in this area might be desirable and would add value to the trade. Mark Fowler reported the plumbing code in some parts of the country includes firestop work. Tim Wies advised that, in California and other parts of the country, carpenters perform firestopping work, and it is often a contractual issue, with one point of contact assigned for firestopping so that a single contractor does all firestopping. It was noted that in some areas, larger contractors preferred that tapers do large jobs, while in another area, three trades claimed firestop work, with a fourth trade vying for the business.

**2. Thin wall applications**

John Laing asked the committee to consider recommending that national training address thin wall applications.

The committee recognized that trade lines have become increasingly blurred and that a national curriculum should standardize processes and work distribution among trades while not creating friction from local, jurisdictional issues. Wies offered to speak to FTI regarding the status of the national curriculum.

**G. Meeting with AWCI**

Steve Sharpe suggested that FCA drywall members have a joint meeting with the AWCI union council, 15 to 20 active and well-funded councils from around the country, to determine common goals, what efforts may be duplicated, how to better capitalize funding issues, and the best way to identify training goals. He recommended the committee ask the Board of Directors to have a joint meeting with the AWCI union contractors council. AWCI will hold a future meeting in Denver and FCA could be represented at that meeting. If such a joint meeting could be arranged, Steve Sharpe suggested Tim Wies could assist in developing an agenda.

**H. U Value versus R Value, and New Techniques and Systems**

John Laing reported that an issue related to U value versus R value had just come to his attention, and that some contractors were moving to European values in finishing.

John Laing suggested information on this issue, and other new systems, would be valuable to share and asked the committee to email updates on the topic. He also stated his preference was for the committee to communicate by email, rather than conference call, on drywall issues.

**I. Labor Productivity Study**

John Laing apprised the committee on the new program designed to increase participation in the ongoing FCA Labor Productivity Study and asked attendees to complete their surveys.

**5.SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

- Mark Fowler will provide attendees with a website link for test to identify Chinese drywall.
- Committee members should monitor for yellow bleed-through problems.
- The committee will consider writing position papers on drywall issues.
- Mark Fowler will survey members to learn what mud products are used and if light-weight mud is a problem.
- The committee will consider recommending that national training addresses thin wall applications.
- Tim Wies will speak to FTI regarding the status of the national curriculum and the expansion of the finishing trade into related areas.
- The committee will consider preparing a request to the Board of Directors for a joint meeting of the AWCI union council and FCA drywall contractors.
- The committee members communicate by email with updates on new techniques, and other issues.

**6.ADJOURNMENT**

- A. The meeting was adjourned by John Laing at 5:22 PM.