



**Drywall Advisory Committee
June 18, 2010
National FCA Annual Council
New York, NY
Meeting Minutes**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:18 AM.

2. INTRODUCTION OF ATTENDEES

<u>Committee Members</u>
John Laing - Chairman – Rice Drywall Inc
Ben Duterte – Drywall Information Trust Fund
<u>Guest Attendees</u>
Kelley Oates – Koja Construction
Brian Gordon – Par Wall Finishing Inc
Joe Giordano – Drywall Tapers Local Union 1974
Keith Barakat – Rice Drywall Inc
Dan Penski – Finishing Trades Institute
Brian Gingras – Finishing Trades Institute
Steve Etkin – Association of the Wall and Ceiling Industry
<u>FCA Staff</u>
Bob Weaver – Regional Vice President

3. OLD BUSINESS

- A. Drywall Advisory committee Minutes (November 16, 2009) – approved as written.
- B. Chinese Drywall – The committee discussed recent EPA updates naming the Chinese drywall manufacturers and new recommendations on removal and replacement.
- C. Yellow Bleed Through Problems – The committee completed discussion on this topic and will remove from future updates.
- D. Committee Position Papers – The committee discussed increasing overall communication on various industry issues. Including core apprentice standards, ASTM C-840 and similar standards for levels of drywall primers and blue tape issues with various primers over drywall.
- E. Light-weight Mud Issues – The committee completed discussion on this topic and will remove from future updates.
- F. Thin Wall Application – The committee discussed the challenges with Level 5, skim coat. Too often General Contractors and Owners specify one level of finish but expect a much higher level of finish up to a veneer type finish. Completing the level 5 in the wrong light, such as temporary lighting, in critical lighting areas continues to be an issue. The committee discussed getting sign off when the finish must be completed with insufficient lighting.
- G. Status of National Curriculum and Expansion of the Finishing Trade into Related Areas – The committee discussed various related areas and agreed to explore various interior finishes. The Finishing Trades Institute stands by their commitment to give contractors an employable fully skilled workforce.

- H. Collaboration between AWCI Union Contractors Council and National FCSA Drywall Advisory Committee – The committee discussed a proposal by Steve Etkin of AWCI to have two joint meetings per year one at FIF and one at the AWCI convention. The committee discussed exploring various venues. The committee will make a recommendation to the National FCA Board of Directors and will get back to Steve Etkin.
- I. Levels of Finish – ASTM C 840 – The committee discussed the “drywall primer” issue in the standard. The committee also discussed working with technical representatives on this issue. The committee may also consider a position paper on this topic.
- J. E-mail Updates – The committee that e-mail updates on issues and new technical information would be the best course of communication.

4. NEW BUSINESS

- A. EPA’s Lead Safe: Renovation, Repair and Painting (RRP) – The committee discussed the current rules for this issue. Finishing Trades Institute reported that the training center is accredited nationally. They can work with the local certified trainers to provide the required training for their contractors using the national training centers certification number. This would require a three week notice to complete the proper paperwork. The contractors however must apply for the training.
- B. Minimum Certification Requirements for the Drywall finishing Trade – The committee discussed core requirements IE. (OSHA 10, Scaffolding and tool certification) The Finishing Trades Institute (FTI) updated the committee on new certification programs it is developing with our industry vendors. FTI also updated the committee on its progress with the 29 CFR 29 competency based Apprenticeship Standards. The FTI is looking to have standard training so that an apprentice in California is the same as one in New York. They both must meet the same base criteria based evaluations. The committee also discussed the following:
 - a. Some areas have used the CBA to tie increases to certifications.
 - b. Some areas use local ID cards with all certifications.
 - c. The IMS computer system may be an option to track certifications. This would be helpful in cases where a contractor needed a specific number of employees with specific certifications to man a job.
 - d. Apprentices must understand their cost to an employer with some level of production training. It is important for them to understand how much production is required to pay for them.
 - e. Employers have a responsibility to provide jobsite training. An option may be to move apprentices between several contractors. However, this would be detrimental to those companies that take pride in training and developing their apprentices. A mentor program with journeypersons or perhaps retirees may be options to consider.
- C. Magna Con – FTI updated the committee on a new table top, horizontal and vertical, router cutting system for drywall. They will soon have a demonstration unit at the national training center in Hanover MD. Additional information and samples were passed around for review.
- D. E-Verify – The committee discussed whether or not it would take a position. It was decided that no action would be taken at this time.

5. ACTION ITEMS

- A. Make recommendation to Board of Directors regarding joint meetings with AWCI Union Craft Committee and National FCA Drywall advisory committee; also respond to Steve Etkin once the Board has made a decision.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 PM.