



Finishing Contractors Association

Industrial Painting Contractors Committee Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, November 13, 2007
Caesar's Palace
Las Vegas, NV**

Attendees; Ed Smith, Mark Chuplis, David Boyd, Fred Philipp, John Lignos, Mike Kouimanis, Chris Repchinsky, Rob Phillip, Mark Levy (WWSPE), Tim Gergens (WWSPE), Dan Wienstroer (PDF), Bill Knopf (FCA Staff).

Union – Association Guests: George Galis (IUPAT), Dan Penski (FTI), Bill Candelori (IUPAT), Garth Rattray (IUPAT), Bill Shoup (SSPC)

Ed Smith called the meeting to order at 3:00 pm and introduced George Galis from the IUPAT to make his opening remarks.

George Galis advised industrial painting contractors to look at local agreements and make sure that they include provisions for Utility Worker Classification on bridge projects to do clean up, cover up and unskilled non painting and sandblasting activities. Painter tender classification is not part of prevailing wage laws so a contractor might have to later bump pay up to 100% of scale if this job classification is not called out in the local CBA.

George noted that the training center in Hanover is essentially for train the trainer programs, but for industrial contractors, he has committed to perform winter block training directly for IUPAT members. In addition, George noted that Doug Christopher of DC 16 (SF) has offered his new industrial painting training center as a western regional center to complement Hanover for winter block training. It was noted that IUPAT has made a strong push through FTI to make industrial painting a separate career path with a 3 year curriculum, as opposed to a 3 month curriculum embedded in the traditional apprentice painter program. He advised that in his opinion, the wage gap between an industrial painter and a commercial painter needed to be widened beyond a small \$1.00 per hour premium as called for in many current CBAs in order to attract more young people to the trade.

Dan Penski reported that FTI continues to train trainers capable of going out to shops or jobsites to train others. Dan expressed disappointment why SSPC would not certify FTI's training. Dan noted that FTI now has 55 credentialed trainers available to instruct on the local level.

Bill Shoup from SSPC stated there is a difference between training and certification. Bill stated that FTI training was comprehensive and worthy of certification. However he could not/would not provide blanket certification to anyone without somehow monitoring the teaching process and/or testing.

Page Two

Mark Chuplis commented that FTI had paid the SSPC money to provide an industrial training program, and wouldn't it follow that SSPC also provide certification for a program it had sold?

Bill Shoup replied that it would take more discussion and deliberation with members of the SSPC board before SSPC would certify the training, and noted that several board members were open shop contractors.

Guests were excused at this point and contractors resumed discussion.

Ed Smith suggested we get a list of the current SSPC Board and poll each one to see if we can get a consensus and an affirmative vote.

David Boyd suggested additional SSPC certification may not be necessary to our customers. Let FTI provide the Industrial Applicator Training, and let FTI provide a Certificate of Completion or Diploma for the training and the contractor can take this as well as a written statement detailing the training and SSPC's role in providing the training program to FTI. This may be all we need.

Action Item:

Develop a letter or statement a contractor can use in conjunction with FCA, IUPAT, LMCI, FTI, SSPC to get his or her customer to "sign off" on FTI training. Also, the statement should point out that SSPC was instrumental in the design and content of the FTI Industrial Applicator Training.

Ed Smith then introduced Mark Levy, a painting contractor from Seattle who is active with the local FCA affiliate there, the Western Washington Signatory Painting Employers' Association.

Mark then gave a brief overview on his association's proposal to DC 5 for a local or national IUPAT membership database. This system would be accessible by contractors and incorporate a national fringe benefit payment processing system. He said that the IUPAT's membership database program has suffered from delays. Mark was seeking support from the FCA's IPC group in his efforts to secure LMCI funding for the proposed software solution. The technology consultants his association had been negotiating with have attached a price of up to \$150k for a turnkey system. Mark reported that several contractors had met with LMCI a year ago at the Forum about funding but had not received a formal response. It was noted that a somewhat similar system for tracking a union member's training and certifications was in place in LA but without the "availability" option and without the national fringe benefit payment processing system.

As the time slot allocated for the meeting had expired, Chairman Ed Smith thanked Mark for his presentation and thanked all attendees for participating in the meeting.

In closing, Ed then summarized today's meeting as follows:

"Since our first meeting in St. Louis in July 2006 as the FCA Industrial Painting Committee, we have made some progress and accomplished several things:

Page Three

1. We have the attention of the IUPAT and George Galis in particular, whom I believe understands many of the problems Industrial contractors face when it comes to the need for a skill and safety trained work ready workforce. George has always attended our meetings when invited and said he will assist to the best of his ability to help signatory industrial contractors achieve our goals.
2. The Finishing Trades Institute working in partnership with FCA, LMCI, and SSPC and has developed an Industrial Applicator Training Program. I believe input and interest from our Industrial Painting Contractors Committee served to emphasize the need for this training. Finishing Trades Director Dan Penski has met with our committee and has asked for our continued input and ideas so FTI can deliver what we need.
3. The matter of centralized coordinated electronic dues and benefit reporting is still a priority for our committee. However, this is turning out to be more difficult than we had envisioned. We are a long way from achieving this goal. This will remain on our agenda until we decide it simply cannot be done.
4. We have the attention of industrial painting contractors community, both signatory and non signatory. This may be our biggest achievement and will be the deciding factor in whether or not this body continues to exist as a committee.

In conclusion, Ed said that at today's meeting Bill Shoup from the SSPC presented, along with Dan Penski from the FTI, several IUPAT representatives and numerous industrial painting contractors. We were able to get the matter of certification "on the table" with key decision makers present. Committee members came away with a better understanding of SSPC's position regarding training and certification. While the outcome was not what many wanted to hear, these discussions helped bring the subject of Industrial Applicator Certification into focus allowing us to proceed accordingly.

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 PM.