



Marine Chemist Association, Inc.

76 Farmholme Road ■ Stonington, CT. 06378

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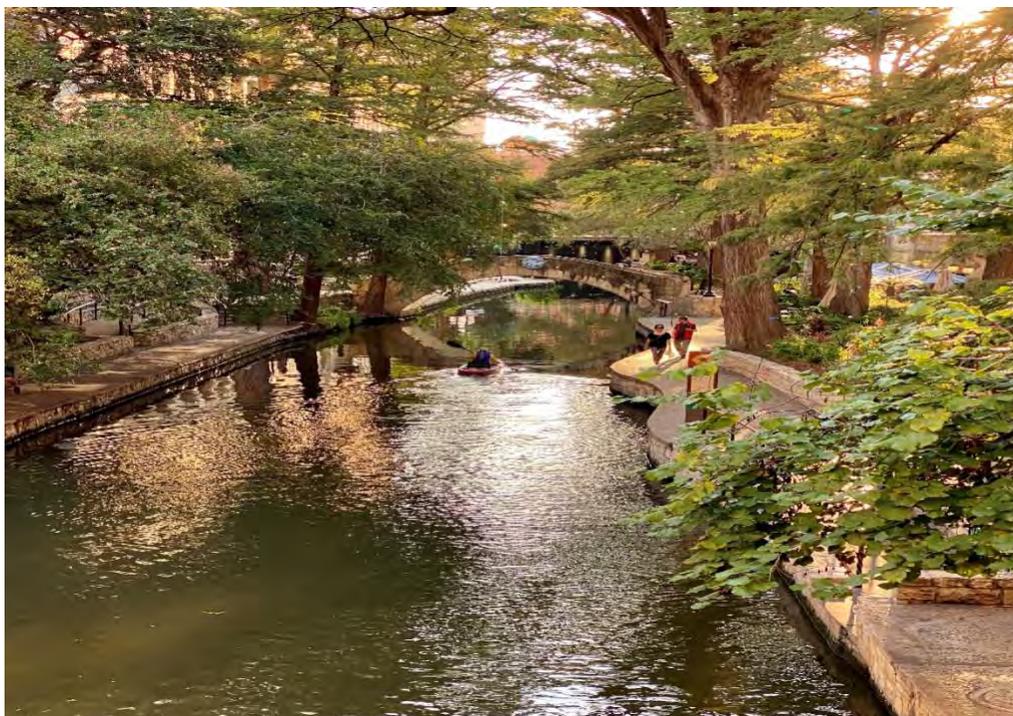
December 2021



Marine Chemist Association Newsletter

The Marine Chemist Association held a Board of Directors (BOD) meeting on November 20, 2021 at the Chicago O'Hare Hilton

A meeting summary and general information follows.



The MCA is excited to announce that our 2022 Annual Seminar will be held in San Antonio, Texas from July 18 – 20 at the Hyatt Regency on the Riverwalk.

This will be our first in person seminar in two years.

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Our 2022 Annual Seminar will be our first in person meeting in about two years. The MCA is excited to hold it at the Hyatt Regency Hotel directly in the heart of the Riverwalk in San Antonio. The details are being finalized and we are hoping for a good turnout for the meeting.

The popularity of our recent annual seminar lends a degree of uncertainty to the turnout. A recent poll sent out trying to get information on attendance at the seminar only had 40% of chemists replying making it difficult to obtain an accurate number for the seminar. As a result the MCA is going on past history for attendance. A low turnout will result in the Association paying extra for failing to meet its obligations, so please consider coming. It should be a good time.

The Hyatt is in the center of the Riverwalk. You can walk out of the hotel and enter the Riverwalk area. There is a large assortment of shops, restaurants and attractions within minutes of the hotel. The MCA is in the final stages of planning many of the events. Our spouse's tour will be a guided river barge tour up to the Pearl District where there are historic shops and restaurants. This will be followed by lunch and a ride back in an air conditioned bus. Our annual social event is being planned at the Buckhorn Saloon and Museum. It contains an eclectic mix of exhibits along with a saloon. We will have a card shark available along with a line dance instructor for some group fun.

The hotel is about a 10 minute ride from the airport and is walking distance from the Alamo. More information about the event will follow after the first of the year.

As far as technical topics for the chemists currently we are planning to have an instrument seminar with various manufacturers presenting on their types of instrumentation.

A link to make a reservation at the Hyatt follows;

<https://www.hyatt.com/en-US/group-booking/SATRS/G-MCAN>

After the start of the year registration and payment information for the annual seminar will be available on the website. Payment can be made by going to our pay site.

www.marinechemistpaysite.com



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November 29, 2021 BOD Meeting Summary

Your BOD is as follows;

- a. Executive Committee (BOD)
 - i. Michael Schmidt, Chairman, Term expires 7/22
 - ii. Brian Axelrad, Past Chairman, Term expires 7/22
 - iii. Philip Giles, Chairman Elect, Term expires 7/22
 - iv. Donald Raffo, Secretary/Treasurer
- b. Board of Directors (BOD)
 - i. Peter Raffo, Atlantic, Term expires 7/22
 - ii. Austin Montanti, Atlantic, Term expires 7/23
 - iii. Bryan Berna, Pacific, Term expires 7/23
 - iv. Vince Pempeit, Pacific, Term expires 7/22
 - v. Tom Govey, Gulf, Term expires 7/22
 - vi. Toby Turcotte, Gulf, Term expires 7/23 (absent)
- c. Guests
 - i. Larry Russell
- d. Future Sectional Alternate Directors (Not present)
 - i. Lucas Kuebler, term starts 7/22 after annual meeting
 - ii. Brent Campbell, term starts 7/22 after annual meeting
 - iii. Brian Axelrad, term starts 7/22 after annual meeting
 - iv. Pacific alternate Jeff Hanson
 - v. Atlantic alternate Robert Albert
 - vi. Gulf/Inland alternate Gary Snell

Member Comment Period at Meetings

The BOD has begun the shift from virtual to in person meetings. All members are welcome to attend and at the start of each meeting time will be provided to members who wish to speak. Typically a 3 to 5 minute time limit per speaker will be followed. A sign up will be available prior to all meetings.

By-Laws and the BOD Policy Manual

During the summer meeting the membership approved changes to our By-Laws and these are posted on our website. As in many Corporations and Non-Profits the By-Laws govern the guiding principles of the organization and the details are found in a Board of Directors Policy Manual. The BOD at its recent meeting approved a Policy Manual which details many of the



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general principals found in the By-Laws. This manual has been placed in the Members Only section of the website and is available for all members to view.



The Alamo, a short walk from the San Antonio Hyatt

NFPA 306

During the past newsletter a call for applicants to become the MCA 306 alternate was advertised. Chemists Lucas Keubler, Brian Axelrad and John Edgar applied to become an alternate. The applications were reviewed and John Edgar was nominated to become a 306 alternate MCA representative. Mr. Edgar brings a wealth of experience to the position and will be a valuable asset to the committee. He now will apply to NFPA to represent the MCA as an alternate.

The 306 Committee met in October with 73 inputs and developed 52 first revisions and two committee inputs. The NFPA Technical Committee on Gas Hazards will be balloted on the First Revisions for the next edition of NFPA 306 on January 31, 2022. The First Draft Report will be posted on the NFPA Document Information Page for NFPA 306 no later than March 22, 2022.

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The closing date for Public Comments on the First Draft of the next edition of NFPA 306 is May 31, 2022.

During the initial 306 meeting the MCA lodged a protest over an individual entering comments on behalf of the MCA. The MCA requested the comments be removed from consideration.

MCQB Report

A fall meeting was held on October 20, 2021 and included the following new membership. Amy Wangdahl has been replaced by Jeremy Fuchs who is in OSHA enforcement. Bernard Diaz with Southwest Shipyard in Houston is also the new shipyard industry representative. The Board finalized the developed requirements for a new certification MC emeritus status: Marine Chemist Emeritus (MCE). *The Rules for the Certification and Recertification of Marine Chemists* have been revised and approved by the NFPA Board of Directors, effective 01 September 2021. The revised Rules are available on the NFPA website. The next meeting will be March 15/16, 2022. The location is presently in Charlotte, NC, but that could change to a virtual meeting depending on any COVID-related travel restrictions.

A review of the MCQB representatives was made in accordance with the two year requirement in the by-laws. A discussion was held on the performance of the representatives and there have been no issues raised by the MCQB on the member's attendance or any other issues related to being on the board. The representatives are elected by membership and are given wide independent discretion on voting matters. Their charge from the MCA is to use their training, knowledge and experience to ensure that the minimum requirements of NFPA 306 are met. They are not on the board to defend any individual and are free to express any opinions. The BOD endorsed the representatives to continue to represent the MCA on the MCQB.

Marine Chemist Emeritus

The NFPA has notified the MCA that Mr. Donald Sly submitted an application to become a Marine Chemist Emeritus and the application has been accepted and approved. He is the first Marine Chemist Emeritus.

Marine Chemist Emeritus Information

The NFPA Board of Directors has approved a revision to the *Rules for the Certification and Recertification of Marine Chemists* (Rules) effective 01 September 2021. This latest revision to

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the Rules creates a new qualification status, Marine Chemist Emeritus, for certain qualified individuals. A copy of the current Rules is posted to the Marine Chemist SharePoint page under the Recertification Forms tab. Here is a link to that site:

<https://groups.nfpa.org/MC/Recertification%20Forms/Forms/AllItems.aspx>

Marine Chemist Emeritus (MCE) is defined as: *The holder of a valid Certificate issued by the National Fire Protection Association in accordance with the "Rules for the Certification and Recertification of Marine Chemists" establishing the holder as a person qualified to provide consultation and training services related to confined space entry and work, and shipyard employment but no longer conducts test and inspections for the purpose of issuing Marine Chemist's Certificates.*

In accordance with Section VII.D of the Rules, the Marine Chemist Emeritus qualification is established to recognize those Certificated Marine Chemists who have been actively engaged in Marine Chemist profession and will no longer conduct test and inspections for the purpose of issuing Marine Chemist's Certificates; but will continue to provide consultation and training services related to confined space entry and work, and shipyard employment.

NFPA Marine Chemist Rules Revision 01 September 2021 – Marine Chemist Emeritus Page 2 /3

Like the traditional Marine Chemist qualification certificate, the MCE qualification certificate shall be valid for a period of five (5) years, or such reduced or extended time or times as is considered appropriate by the Board, unless the MCE certificate is sooner cancelled by the Board. To differentiate an NFPA Certificated Marine Chemist from the Marine Chemist Emeritus the certification number for the holder of the MCE certificate shall be identified by the qualification document number assigned at the time of his or her initial certification as an NFPA Certificated Marine Chemist followed by the letter E (e. g. 123E).

Applicants must meet the eligibility requirements in Section VII.D.5 of the Rules and summarized here:

- Successfully completed four (4) concurrent certification periods. However, the MCQB may consider an applicant with less than four (4) concurrent certification periods if the applicant has demonstrated extraordinary or exemplary service to the Marine Chemist profession.
- An applicant shall be of and maintain good character and be in good standing with the MCQB.
- An applicant's qualification certificate shall not be suspended or revoked at the time of application for emeritus status.
- An applicant shall not have any unresolved business with the MCQB or the Marine Gas Hazards Control Program.
- The applicant shall provide evidence that surcharge fee payments to the Marine Gas Hazards Control Program are current.
- The applicant shall affirm in writing that he or she shall no longer perform activities related to the tests and inspections of vessels, tanks, or structures within the scope of NFPA 306,

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Standard for the Control of Gas Hazards on Vessels; and shall no longer issue Marine Chemist's Certificates.

- The applicant shall affirm in writing that he or she will no longer use the title, Certified Marine Chemist (CMC), except when referencing his or her years of certification, (e. g., Certified Marine Chemist, 123, from 1985-2015). The MCE certificate holder shall be identified with his or her qualification certificate number followed by the letter E.
- The applicant shall agree to be available to the Marine Chemist Association, Marine Chemist Trainees, and the Board for consultation or training activity.

Initial emeritus certification requirements are provided in Section VII.D.6 of the Rules. The holder of an MCE qualification certificate shall be required to apply for recertification as per Section VII.D.7 of the Rules. NFPA Staff are creating an application form for the MCE qualification document. Notification will go to all Marine Chemists when that application form is posted to the Marine Chemist SharePoint page that is maintained by NFPA.

There is a provision in the Rules, Section VII.D.8, for moving from emeritus status back to certification as a Marine Chemist for the purpose of issuing Marine Chemist's Certificates.

NFPA Marine Chemist Rules Revision 01 September 2021 – Marine Chemist Emeritus Page 3.

As with the Marine Chemist qualification certificate the MCQB reserves the right to suspend revoke or cancel the MCE qualification certificate at any time in accordance with the requirements in Section VII.D.9 of the Rules. The requirements in Sections IX.C through IX.G (inclusive) of these Rules shall be applicable to the Marine Chemist Emeritus.

Ethics

The BOD had an attorney review the prior ethics policies and procedures of the MCA. The attorney stated that while they were well written they were not written to meet legal requirements. The attorney re-wrote the ethics policies and procedures to withstand a legal challenge and they were presented to the board. A review of the attorney rewrite of the ethics policies and procedures was held. The BOD accepted the rewrite of the Ethics Policies and Procedures. The new policy and procedures became effective on November 20, 2021 and are posted to the member's only section of the website.

Insurance Fund Update

The Insurance Fund is not officially part of the MCA and the BOD has no say in the operation of the Fund. However, many members are enrolled in the Fund and elect sectional representatives to the fund. The following news was provided to the MCA by the Fund. The MCA was notified that a member of the MCA sued the fund through its D&O policy based on statements made by a fund member. The chemist successfully won the suit and was

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awarded a “substantial” amount of monetary damages. The D&O insurance policy to the fund was immediately dropped by the insurer. The fund then went to about 25 other insurers to obtain this coverage as many insurers no longer wanted to provide the coverage based on the lawsuit. It finally did obtain coverage at double the price. This increase will be part of the cost of obtaining insurance through the fund and passed on to members. If you have any questions on this you should contact your sectional fund representative.

Website

The MCA website (www.marinechemistassociation.com) is continually updated. There is a members-only section which requires a log-in. In the members-only section you can view seminar attendance for the past several years. This is one of the most popular areas for chemists. If you have an issue with your log-in you should contact the administrator at support@marinechemistassociation.com

There is also a Forum section which only chemists can view. It is an area where news and technical discussions can be posted. If you are registered, you will get a text message whenever there is a new post. Information on seminars and newsletters can be found on the site also. This has turned out to be a popular feature on the website. If you have not registered you will not get notifications and must manually enter the site to obtain the latest news and posts. We encourage all chemists to join the forum and obtain notifications. Newsletters, information and contact information will be located on the site. If you have any suggestions on the site please contact Don Raffo. This is the primary way communication with members will occur. In our recent By-Law change failure to register for the Forum constitutes an agreement not to receive notices.

Chairman Elect

Geoffrey Jenny 685, has submitted the required paperwork to be considered as the next chairman elect. No other candidates have submitted paperwork at this time. The deadline is Dec. 31, 2021 for voting as the next Chairman elect. If you wish to run for Chairman Elect you must submit the required information prior to December 31, 2021. If no other individuals. If only one person applies the BOD can elect them without going for a membership vote in accordance with the By-Laws.



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San Antonio Riverwalk with the Hyatt in the back right

Scholarship

Committee members. (Based on current structure of the committee)

P. Giles, Atlantic Term expires 4/23 (Replacing B. Axelrad)

Austin Montanti, Atlantic, Term expires 4/23

Bryan Berna, Pacific, Term expires 4/23

Toby Turcotte, Term expires 4/23

Joe Cox, indefinite as chair of MGHCP

Don Raffo, Non-voting administrator

The MCA will no longer manage the scholarship but will supply members to the committee. This was due to tax conflicts with the MCA administering the Scholarship. The secretary/treasurer will continue to support administrative functions of the committee. A draft scholarship application has been submitted to the MGHCP for review for 2022. The MGHCP is awaiting an attorney review. Once complete it will be placed on the website. Some information on the committee.

- Any member on the committee will not be eligible to have any person related to them apply for a scholarship.

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Membership on this committee is not an appointed position and goes to the senior sectional representative and the Chairman elect.

Seminars

A 2021 Fall Sectional Zoom Seminar was held on 10/23/21. Seventeen chemists attended (6 did not get credit as they attended both spring and fall seminars)

i. The topics were

1. Introduction
2. Cleaning a tank for Safe for Hot Work, Marshall
3. Inspection of a tank for Safe for Hot Work, Labauve
4. Writing a Safe for Hot Work Certificate. Raffo

A virtual spring seminar 2022 will be held on April 2nd 2022 with the following topics

- a. Events and Occurrences,
- b. 306 Revisions

The seminar will focus on the changes under consideration for 306. The initial submissions to 306 will be complete and the process will enter into the second revision process before becoming final. Your 306 representatives are expected to be on the call to listen to any inputs by chemists so they can understand the concerns and bring them to the committee. L. Russell will present on Incidents and Occurrences and D. Raffo will provide a 306 update.

An in person BOD meeting will be held in Boston, MA on April 24, Sunday at the Boston Logan Airport Hilton Hotel.

A fall sectional seminar will be held at the Chicago O'Hare Airport Hilton Hotel on October 22, 2022. This will be our first in person sectional seminar in about three years due to prior virtual seminars. The BOD will be closely watching attendance at this seminar to determine the overall efficiencies to the training program. Depending on the topics the MCA may also request that the MCQB allow a separate credit for attending this seminar although it is too early to make a firm decision on this.

Seminar Discussions

A discussion on in person vs Zoom seminars continues to be reviewed by your BOD. Some information follows;

Summary of polling on seminars.

- 69% of eligible chemists voted (63 chemists)
- Number of Chemists who attended one of the virtual seminars 84.8%
- Voting to hold two virtual sectional seminars per year 44.6%

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- Voting to hold one virtual sectional seminar and one in person sectional seminar per year 33.0%
- Chemists who would prefer that the Annual Seminar be in person 80.0% of the vote.
- Voting on schedule to maintain three seminars per year 93.1% of the vote.

A motion was made by Phil Giles to hold one virtual and one in person sectional seminar in 2022. The motion was seconded by, Austin Montanti. The motion was unanimously approved. (Approved at the BOD meeting in August 2021.)

The BOD discussed virtual meetings and how they felt some attendees were not engaged and cited examples where individuals fell asleep and appeared to be at sporting events for the family while watching. A reassessment of virtual meetings will be done after the spring seminar.

A discussion was held on the difficulties of obtaining a Presidential suite in hotels and how it limits the properties to the few that have one. This type of room is no longer the norm for many properties. For example there was only one hotel on the River Walk in San Antonio that had the required Presidential suite. Other nicer properties were passed over since they could only offer alternative suites. Direction from the board was given which will permit the secretary/treasurer to explore alternatives to the traditional hospitality suite going forward.



San Antonio, 2022

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The Buckhorn Salon and Museum in San Antonio

The following shows the current schedule of seminars vs the initial schedule.

Current	2020		2021		2022	2023	2024
March	Atlantic (Canceled)		Pacific (Virtual)		Virtual	TBD	TBD
Annual	Pacific (Canceled)		Gulf/Inland (Virtual)		In Person San Antonio	San Francisco	TBD
October	Gulf/Inland (Canceled)		Atlantic (Virtual)		In Person Chicago	TBD	TBD
Initial	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
March	Gulf/Inland	Atlantic	Pacific	Gulf/Inland	Atlantic	Pacific	
Annual	Atlantic	Pacific	Gulf/Inland	Atlantic	Pacific	Gulf/Inland	
October	Pacific	Gulf/Inland	Atlantic	Pacific	Gulf/Inland	Atlantic	

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MCA Committee Appointments

The following individuals represent the MCA on various committees. This is put out for general information.

Control of Gas Hazards - NFPA 306. (Appointed Positions by BOD)

Greg Grondin, principal, Jim Bruff alternate

John Bell, principal.

Hot Work Operations – NFPA 51B. (Appointed Positions by BOD)

Greg Grondin principal.

Robbie Walker, alternate.

Tank Leakage and Repair Safeguards - NFPA 326 & NFPA 329. (Appointed Positions by BOD)

Brian Axelrad, principal.

Vince Pempeit, alternate

NFPA 350 Guide for Safe Work in Industry Confined Spaces (Appointed Positions by BOD)

Robbie Walker, principal.

Vince Pempeit, alternate.

MCQB (Voted in by membership)

John Ward, principal

Brian Axelrad, alternate

Marine Field Service Advisory Committee (Appointed Positions by BOD)

Donald Raffo

Chairman elect

SSRAC (Volunteers)

John Ward, principal

Robbie Walker, alternate

MACOSH (Appointed by BOD)

Amy Liu

Information on NFPA 51 B Greg Grondin, Principal Representative

On July 19-20, 2021 a virtual meeting was held to review the public inputs submitted to the NFPA 51B technical committee. Both Robbie Walker (alternate) and I were present for the first day but work prevented me from attending day 2. Robbie was present.

There were 11 public inputs. Most were editorial such as updating references with their appropriate latest revisions.

Three inputs had potential marine chemist interests.

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1 As a result of several fires and explosions associated with above/underground storage tanks and piping, the Chemical Safety Board submitted an input to add language directly into NFPA 51B. The language was primarily taken from NFPA 326. Unfortunately, the CSB submittal did not follow NFPA protocol for submission and could not be handled in the normal fashion. Due to the recognized hazard and the importance of addressing it in some method, the committee added paragraph 5.5.1.16 to 51B. When performing hot work on tanks or pipelines containing or having contained ignitable liquids or gases refer to NFPA 326. As you know NFPA326 is the pertinent document when making repairs to AGSTs and there isn't a logical need to restate language in 51B.

2 The standard now allows the Permit Authorizing Individual (PAI) to determine if the one hour fire watch requirement, after hot work has completed, can be reduced to 30 minutes if there are no fire hazards present.

3 The appendix was updated to reference API RP 2201 when hot tapping on liquid pipelines and ASME B31.8 on gas pipelines.

Voting on all inputs is scheduled to complete by Sept 7, 2021.

Information on NFPA 350, Robbie Walker Principal Representative

The subject Guide did not receive any public comments to the second draft. The last legs of the current revision cycle will be the NITMAM Closing Date: September 2, 2021 and the NITMAM Posting Date: October 14, 2021. Afterwards, the latest edition should come out sometime in 2022.

Information on NFPA 306, Greg Grondin, Principal Representative

On October 26-27, 2021 the 306 committee met via a "zoom" like session. This report is a general perspective from one committee member and will not get into any specifics as we will all have an opportunity to read the outcome of these meetings after the committee votes on them in January and during the Public Comment period. Of special note, during this revision cycle, there were several proposals that asked for total rewrites of chapters which I believe indicates that the standard as it is currently written is causing confusion and that there may be a disconnect between the MCQB and chemists and possibly between chemists and their clients. Most proposals submitted were attempting to clarify the current language and I believe the committee made huge strides in simplifying the intent of the standard.

NFPA Staff Liaison had grouped the proposals on specific paragraphs which helped us expedite the process. The fact that there were several proposals on the same paragraph indicates that confusion existed. The committee took the best language from all of the similar proposals and drafted new language in hopes of adding clarity to the text.

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Some of the major proposals were total rewrites of chapters 5 and 6 as requested by the MCQB. These were both accepted although the committee did some tweaking of the text. Having our oversight board take the time to submit major change proposals is an indication that they are willing to work with NFPA and the chemists to further define what is expected and necessary to keep our clients safe.

Another area of obvious concern was pipelines such as heating coils. Several changes were made to address those concerns.

The term "subject space" which is used in the standard is now defined. This should help clarify those spaces from adjacent spaces and affected adjacent spaces.

Preservative coatings is a term used potentially inappropriately throughout the standard. Clarification was made by adding "soft and greasy" preservative coatings in several areas within the standard.

The SSD, Safe for Shipbreaking, was significantly revised to add much needed detail to this dangerous process.

Two chemists submitted significant rewrites which the committee has asked that those chemists collaborate and submit a single proposal. Don Raffo and I have agreed to do that. Our submittals involve chapters 6&7. Our similar goal was to clarify what is needed during the cleaning process, the inspection process and the certificate issuance process. Although Don and I attacked this issue differently it was apparent that we were attempting to achieve the same thing, clarify the standard.

A new chapter that deals with cleaning, inspecting and certifying above and underground storage tanks in the shipyard or waterfront facility was proposed.

Overall, I believe the committee had a common goal, for common reasons, in search of a common outcome. I urge all marine chemists to read all submittals during the Public Comment period as this was a lot of information for your committee members to digest over two days and we need your help and value your opinions.



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Additional information on NFPA 306, John Bell Principal Representative

The NFPA 306 technical committee met by video conference on October 26-27, 2021. I encourage everyone to read and study the proposed revisions which should be made available after the formal committee vote. I have made note of the following general items:

There will be a new chapter on landside storage tanks within a water front facility.

Pipelines are referenced more prominently in the Standard.

Hollow structures are not considered to be adjacent spaces but must be tested prior to hot work.

The term "subject space" is defined.

The standard safety designation "safe for shipbreaking" has been retained with some clarification. This designation refers to "combustible materials" which is defined in the Standard. This definition does not include combustible liquid such as fuel oil.

The term "preservative coatings" has been modified to indicate soft and greasy preservatives.

In addition, a lot of material has been added to the explanatory annex.

For three public inputs, the committee decided that it did not have enough information to proceed. These will be issued as "committee inputs". A committee input is a trial balloon to see what the public thinks of these proposed changes. The inputs from Mr. Raffo and Mr. Grondin seek to place all cleaning, inspection and certificate writing requirements under the section of standard safety designations, creating a "check list" for the Marine Chemist. Mr. Guidry (MCQB) proposes a total rewrite of NFPA 306 Chapter 5. I believe most of these are more of a "how to" list rather than statements of conditions that must exist for a standard safety designation. The 306 committee has historically dealt with this type of material by putting it in the annex.

I agree with the concept of some form of checklist for the Marine Chemist to follow but I am not sure if it should be in the mandatory section of the Standard. The rapid expansion of the non-mandatory annex indicates the need for guidance. The MCA Board might consider creating a "Recommended Practice" manual in cooperation with the MCQB. This was done in 2012 to create the "Recommendation for Preparation of Marine Chemist's Certificates". I believe the inputs from Mr. Raffo, Mr. Grondin and Mr. Guidry would form the basis for such a manual.

MACOSH Update from Amy Liu, MACOSH Representative

The Shipyard workgroup has been holding monthly video calls.

There was a full committee meeting on Sept 14, 2021 that was held virtually.

At the meeting products were presented for approval by OSHA. Topics from the shipyard workgroup:

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1	Safe Operation of Small Boats in the Workplace	Fact Sheet
2	Awareness of Surroundings	Fact Sheet
3	Hydrogen Sulfide Hazards	Poster and Toolb Talk
4	Injury and Illness Reporting and Recording	Fact Sheet

Safe Operations of small boats:

- Small boats are sometimes used in shipyard employment to provide employees access to work areas that would otherwise be inaccessible.
- Small boats are also used for other specialized activities associated with the repair, maintenance, and construction of maritime vessels.
- This Fact sheet is intended to provide best practices for employers to ensure the safety of workers when small boats are used in the workplace.

Awareness of Surroundings:

- Employee awareness of work hazards and knowledge of how to avoid exposure is key for keeping themselves and others safe.
- This document identifies best practices for workers to help keep their work environment safe, as well as includes example scenarios of certain distractions that can lead to injury.

H2S Poster & tool box:

- Hydrogen Sulfide (H₂S) is a toxic gas:
- In marine environments, H₂S forms from the decomposition of organic material, such as fish products, sewage, oily waste, and fire-fighting aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).
- Sources of exposure to dangerous levels of H₂S is often overlooked, leading to the injury or death of workers.
- The poster and Toolbox talk slides are intended to raise awareness of the signs and risks of H₂S among workers.

Injury & Illness Reporting:

- The recording and reporting of occupational injuries and illnesses help employers to learn of and correct dangerous conditions.

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- This information also ensures injured or ill employees receive the proper medical attention and/or worker's compensation benefits.
- This fact sheet highlights worker rights and responsibilities to report work-related injuries and illnesses, as well as provides a basic overview of associated terminology and how reported information is used.

The workgroup is currently working on

- Heat stress in confined spaces
- Fire prevention poster
- Fire barriers document
- And some other topics are under development.

If there are any topics that Marine Chemists would like to see products on, please let us know.

The workgroup continues to meet monthly and there are plans for the next full committee meeting in Feb 2022 (virtual at this time.)

Topic of interest brought by a Marine Chemist for OSHA to discuss at the committee meeting: OSHA interpretation of 25ft rule and the exemption.

MCQB Information from Brian Axelrad, Alternate MCQB Representative

MCQB recently held their fall meeting. It covered the final passage of the new Marine Chemist Emeritus setup, including the application approval and rollout. We also have our first approved Marine Chemist Emeritus, Don Sly. The Board also reviewed a few incidence reports. None were the results of Marine chemist activities. Two were related to confined space fatalities, and lack of testing prior to entry. Two were related to shipyards introducing flammable liquids into the worksite before performing hot work. As a reminder to chemists, please be aware of the information you send to the board, and make sure it matches the description of the incident report. Amy Wangdahl is now the alternate and Jeremy Fuchs is the new OSHA Representative. Bernard Diaz is the new Shipyard Representative. Currently there are 23 Registered Trainees, with the possibility of 5 interviews in 2021. The next MCQB meeting is scheduled for March in person in (Charlotte?).

Certificate Counts

The following numbers are from certificates purchased as of December 7th. These numbers are not certificates issued.



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YTD, 16,840 EMCC Certificates have been issued vs 16,243 in 2020 (4% increase).

YTD, 468 certificates packages vs 478 in 2020 (2% decrease). (Package of 25)

All in all, looks like 2021 and 2020 will very similar on certificate purchases.

The certificate numbers are important because they can have an effect on the surcharge and budgets. Please promptly report your certificate numbers at the end of the year on the NFPA site.

Code of Conduct for Meetings - During any official MCA meeting there should be no discussion of personal matters, private disputes, or business pricing. Discussion should be limited to technical matters and the business of running the MCA.

Facebook Page - For those of you who are on Facebook, visit Friends of Marine Chemist Association. It is a closed group and only chemists, spouses and friends may view and post on the page. If you'd like to see the page, send a friend request to the group. We encourage all to post information, photos, comments or anything else related to our profession, seminars, and events. Please check it out. It proved very popular when posting information about our annual seminar. Please consider sharing some on the job photos.

If you have any comments, thoughts or ideas please submit them to me and I will work with the BOD to present them. Be safe all.

Respectfully submitted,
Don Raffo
Secretary/Treasurer MCA

Any opinions, policies or statements expressed in this newsletter are the personal opinion of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policy of the MCA.



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