

# Meetinghouse Standard Plan Committee

## Meetinghouse Facilities Department

### MSPC Decisions Affecting North America Operations—No. 1

MSPC Meeting: 17 May 2012

Notification to Field: 25 June 2012

#### **Item 1: Accordion Folding Partitions**

**The decision regarding which accordion folding partitions (Cornell or Won Door) will be used on any specific new meetinghouse or R&I project will be up to the discretion of the Facilities and Project Managers, based on quality, cost and timeliness criteria.** Folding partitions will continue to be Owner-Supplied and installed. Purchasing will issue an RFP each year wherein each manufacturer will offer pricing for their products for the coming year. Purchasing has added a line to the Furnishings Design Selection section on the first page of the Style and Furnishings Selection Record for both new and A&R projects, where the FM and PM will select either Cornell or Won Door at the project initiation meeting.

#### **Item 2: Cyclorama Curtains and Track Hardware**

Cyclorama curtains are moveable full-height black curtains suspended from a metal track system over the platform area that serve as an adjustable background/backdrop for stage productions and performances. They have been installed in many Church buildings. In the early 1980's a decision was made to limit platforms to only stake centers and to no longer provide cyclorama curtains, due to high costs for initial installation, maintenance and replacement. This decision took into account the infrequent use of cyclorama curtains, as well as abuse and injury concerns from swinging and hanging from the curtains, tripping hazards, etc.

Platforms in our Church buildings are not sophisticated performance venues. Current standard plans provide track lighting over the platform to allow for different lighting levels and colors, but no expensive sound technology is provided for productions. Platforms support road shows or other amateur productions which use temporary, mobile backdrops and scenery.

The current International Building Code (IBC) indicates that including cyclorama or other suspended curtains within this space unavoidably changes the code designation from a "platform" to a "stage," requiring significant and expensive building modifications to achieve fire code compliance. In addition, current Heritage 09T and Independence series standard plans also would require a more rigid ceiling system to support cyclorama curtains than the suspended ceiling system over the platform areas in those designs.

**PMs and FMs should not install cyclorama curtains and track hardware in any new building. When worn out, existing curtains should be removed and not replaced, unless replacement is specifically requested by a stake president with a demonstrated need, and with written approval from the authority having jurisdiction that the building can continue to have cyclorama curtains without upgrades to comply with current fire protection code requirements. FMs and PMs should not install cyclorama curtains and track systems in existing buildings that do not currently have them.**

Stake presidents are requesting installation of cyclorama curtains in new meetinghouse projects. Installing cyclorama curtains will require significant redesign of the platform in both new and existing buildings to achieve code-mandated stage designation that is cost prohibitive, and such installations are not allowed. No exceptions will be considered.

Page 2

25 June 2012

**Item 3: Fixed Projection Screens, Built-in Projectors, Flat Screen Monitors, etc, in High Council Rooms, Relief Society Rooms, etc.**

Under the direction of the Presiding Bishopric, the Meetinghouse Technology Working Group, representing numerous Church departments as well as the priesthood and curriculum departments, is considering the best solution to make it easy to access, display and hear digital content in meetinghouses, for use in teaching classes and conducting training. The desire of the Bishopric is to have consistent, standard solutions and equipment throughout the Church.

**The installation of flat screen monitors, built-in projection cameras and fixed screens in high council, relief society and other rooms is out of boundary for Project and Facilities Managers. PMs and FMs should not include these items as part of new meetinghouse projects, or install them in existing buildings, until further notice.**

Stake and ward leaders requesting these items from Facilities Managers should be advised that they are NOT allowed until direction is received from the Presiding Bishopric. They should be encouraged not to use donated or local unit budget funds to install these items on their own.

Meetinghouses are the property of the Presiding Bishop of the Church, and local leaders and Church employees should not make any changes to Presiding Bishopric approved standards without permission to do so.