

Meetinghouse Standard Plan Committee

Meetinghouse Facilities Department

MSPC Decisions Affecting North America Operations—No. 7

MSPC Meeting: 28 May 2014

Notification to Field: 4 June 2014

Item 1: Use of Meetinghouse Artwork as Teaching Resources by Missionaries and Members

In conjunction with the Missionary Department, a default artwork package has been created for each meetinghouse type giving emphasis to basic gospel themes that will facilitate sharing the gospel through art during meetinghouse tours by missionaries. Priesthood leaders may select the default artwork package or create a custom package. The *Meetinghouse Artwork Guidelines for Facilities Managers and Project Managers* contains guidance regarding gospel themes to be considered in selecting and placing artwork.

The number of artwork pieces and budgets established for the various sizes of meetinghouses have not changed. Sharing the gospel through art or meetinghouse tours in existing buildings can be done with existing artwork. Facilities managers should not order any new artwork to supplement an already full complement of artwork in an existing building.

The *Meetinghouse Artwork Guidelines* caution about placing too much artwork in meetinghouses. Church facilities are not intended to be art galleries, and too much artwork can actually detract from its significance and diminish its overall impact.

Item 2: Corridor Paver Tile in Lieu of Carpet

Carpet is the standard floor carpeting in foyers and corridors in Presiding Bishopric approved standard plans. Carpets currently being provided for meetinghouses were selected based upon strong criteria for stain resistance and cost effectiveness. Some retrofits have occurred in existing buildings where paver tile has been installed in the corridor between the serving area and cultural hall, to provide an easily cleanable surface that is susceptible to spills that may happen while transferring food from the serving area to the cultural hall.

The retro-installing of paver tile in place of carpet in foyers and corridors is not authorized. Paver tile is significantly more costly, is a visual disruption of the flooring material that is aesthetically distracting, requires more maintenance which brings water into proximity with the adjacent carpet, may result in a tripping or slipping hazard, results in higher noise levels in corridors and foyers which disrupts worship and classroom activities, and in areas subject to weather effects shows dirt tracking immediately and the visible dirt on tile lingers long after drying. **Standard plans will not be altered to include paver tile in areas other than the serving area, custodian and toilet rooms. The Area Physical Facilities Committee (APFC) may authorize the retro-installing of paver tile in lieu of carpet in existing buildings, when the carpet meets O&M replacement standard, and after all other alternatives are exhausted:**

- Training members to be more conscientious regarding spills and soiling of carpet, to keep buildings clean and immediately address spills
- Providing temporary walk off mats to protect carpet between the serving area and cultural hall during events where spills may occur
- Providing walk off mats and/or walk off carpet at building entrances

Should it be felt that it is absolutely necessary on new construction to install paver floor tile in areas other than where it is shown in the standard plans, APFC should present the recommendation to PFAC for approval to have the project manager modify the standard plans or approve its use in a custom design.

Item 3: Pews versus Opera Chairs on Rostrums

Compared to opera chairs, pews are less costly, require less maintenance, provide more seating capacity for choirs, more seats for leaders and speakers, and more flexible seating for children's programs. While pews are the default seating for meetinghouse rostrums, priesthood leaders have been given the option to have opera chairs installed on the rostrum, instead of pews.

Pews will be the only option for seating on the rostrum of new construction projects or additions where a new chapel with fixed seating is provided. Opera chairs will not be an option. For existing buildings, opera chairs will remain in the *Purchasing Reference Guide* for the repair or replacement of individual seats or a small group of seats, but when the rostrum seating meets replacement standard the opera chairs should be removed and replaced with pews.

Item 4: LED Replacement Lamps

Due to energy conservation legislation which went into effect January 1, 2014, incandescent lamps over 40 watts may not be imported to or manufactured in the United States. Several areas in meetinghouses, S&I and Welfare facilities are affected: down lights in cultural halls, track spotlights for platforms, pulpit spotlights in chapels, and utility area lights in attics and storage areas. **AEC has replaced these lamps with LED lamps in the standard specifications. When existing incandescent lamps burn out and need to be replaced, facilities managers will only be able to purchase LED replacement lamps. While more expensive, the LED lamps in these uses save energy and have a quick payback.**

Due to the limited use of our meetinghouses (about 20 hours per week or less) it is still not cost effective to use LED lamps or fixtures in other area of our meetinghouses. AEC will continue to monitor improvements and cost reductions in LED technology.

Items 5: Tritium Exit Signs

Self-luminous (tritium) exit signs have been used in North America meetinghouse standard plans since 1983. Due to regulation and disposal concerns the Church began using LED exit signs for new construction in 2010. When tritium exit signs in existing buildings reached their 20 year life, they have been replaced with another tritium sign and the old sign has been disposed of by a Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensee. In the past few years the viability and reliability of companies supplying and disposing of expired tritium exit signs has become questionable, and a backlog exists for a large number of signs that have expired life.

As tritium exist signs expire, they are to be replaced with a wired LED exit fixture. Meetinghouse Technical Support (MTS) is the supplier of the approved fixtures. Facilities managers will need to arrange locally for an electrician to run power to the new exit light fixtures.

Item 6: Asphalt Maintenance

Industry best practice indicates that preventive maintenance of asphalt parking lots will provide significant reduction in the total cost of ownership by delaying or eliminating the need for expensive repairs or premature replacements. If the paving is properly designed, installed and maintained to prevent water from getting into the subbase and to keep the surface from deteriorating, the life of paving can be extended to 40 years, and even indefinitely.

Since 2011 the Meetinghouse Replacement and Improvement Standards for Asphalt Paving have indicated that **when asphalt paving is 12 to 18 months old, a surface sealer should be applied to the asphalt to protect the surface from oxidization and raveling, and to close hairline cracks. This is extremely important, as following initial placement the sun hardens and dries out the pavement, which accelerates oxidation, cracking,**

raveling, and erosion of the top layer of asphalt. Every 3 to 5 years thereafter a seal would be placed as preventive maintenance, with every second or third application, every 9-10 years, being a slurry seal.

Recent information obtained by AEC engineers at a conference of the Asphalt Institute indicates that the initial seal application can be made no less than 30 days after placement. On new building projects the cost of this seal could be included in the initial construction cost, instead of being a maintenance cost to the facilities manager from the next year's budget. It also eliminates the need to restripe the parking lot after the seal is applied 12-18 months after placement, as striping would not occur on the new project until after the seal is placed. The next seal would not occur until the 3-5 year resealing cycle is implemented. For replacement projects at existing buildings, if the building is occupied the new lot will need to be used immediately after placement. It can be used for 30 days, without markings, then the seal would be installed, and then the permanent markings would be installed.

Church Master Specifications for asphalt paving, and the *Replacement and Improvement Standards* will be modified to have the first seal on new asphalt no sooner than 30 days after placement.

Item 7: Geotechnical and Civil/Structural Materials Testing and Inspection

In 2011 MSPC approved **five national testing and inspection firms for training as preferred providers of geotechnical and civil/structural materials testing and inspection.** Fixed pricing was negotiated through a Master Agreement for their services. Processes and tools were created and refined by AEC to achieve consistency and completeness of reports for all Church projects. With APM approval a project manager could recommend alternate firms to receive training from AEC as local suppliers of these services. About 67% of these services were provided by the preferred providers with the balance by alternate firms.

The master agreements with the preferred providers have expired and will not be renewed. A list of the preferred providers and alternate firms who have received AEC training will be provided to PMs upon request from Chris Barker, chris.barker@ldshchurch.org. Recommendations may be submitted for other alternate firms to receive training from AEC. All approved processes and tools created for testing and inspection should be used, including Church Agreements for services, and not those provided by the service provider.