

Meetinghouse Standard Plan Committee

Meetinghouse Facilities Department

MSPC Decisions Affecting North America Operations—No. 9

MSPC Meeting: 19 February 2015, 4 June 2015, 18 February 2016

Notification to Field: 15 March 2016

Item 1: Fluorescent Lamp Color

For over 45 years standard plan meetinghouses have been specified with 3000K “warm” lamps.

Warm color temperature lamps provide a less institutionalized feeling and provide better appearance for flesh tones. In spite of this longstanding preference, many meetinghouses have intentionally or unintentionally been fitted with “cool” 4100K lamps. Although there is no difference in cost or light output, there is a common perception that 4100K lamps are “brighter” because most schools, offices, hospitals, etc. use 4100K lamps, and these buildings are lighted to higher levels than meetinghouses.

Because 4100K lamps are being used in many of our meetinghouses a 4100K lamp has been added to the master specifications, in order to control the quality of the lamps and fixtures that is needed. Standard plans will continue to specify the preferred 3000K lamps.

Item 2: Musical Instruments in Meetinghouses

Musical instruments are provided in meetinghouses for the purpose of accompanying the singing of hymns and to provide appropriate prelude and postlude. Instruments provided in the chapel are also intended to support choirs and special organ, piano and vocal musical numbers.

Meetinghouses of capacity for attendance of 170 or more have a chapel, and are provided with the following (6) musical instruments:

- A digital organ and an acoustic grand piano in the chapel
- One upright acoustic piano and one digital organ/piano for use in the relief society and primary rooms
- One free-standing keyboard for young women
- One portable keyboard for priesthood meeting opening exercises

Meetinghouses of capacity for attendance of 130 attendance are provided with the following (4) musical instruments:

- Two digital organ/pianos for the assembly area and primary room
- One free-standing keyboard for the relief society room
- One portable keyboard

The digital organ/piano can be played as a conventional instrument and also has recorded hymns and primary songs for use in areas where there may be limited individuals with musical abilities. When used as a conventional instrument it is totally acceptable for hymn accompaniment, prelude and postlude, and for accompanying choirs or for special musical numbers in smaller units and facilities. The cost of the digital organ/piano is less than half that of an upright acoustic piano, and also reduces O&M costs. Acoustic pianos should be tuned twice a year, while the digital instruments do not require any maintenance.

Instruments can be placed in any location the occupying units desire. They are identified by room in the Selection Record for new facilities only to aid in the ordering and delivery process, and in the list of approved instruments above only as a suggestion regarding their placement and use.

For new facilities project managers should not deviate from the number and type of musical instruments as currently listed on the Selection Record. As instruments in existing meetinghouses meet replacement standards, facilities managers should replace them with the quantity and type of instrument matching the standard for new meetinghouses.

Item 3: New Meetinghouse Video Distribution System Qualifications Guidelines

When the Heritage 09T Series of approved standard plans were implemented, the capacity of the assembly area in stake centers (chapel and cultural center) was reduced in size, as a cost saving measure. Technology to stream stake conference sessions and other meetings to additional meetinghouses in the stake made this possible. To accommodate this, full building video distribution systems were included in the designs for all new meetinghouses, allowing video generated from the stake center to be broadcast to the chapel of these buildings, and also to other overflow rooms in the building. However, observation of meetinghouses which have been constructed with full building video distribution systems indicates that most streaming needs to overflow buildings can be accommodated with a laptop and projector in the chapel with audio/visual overflow to the cultural center, and audio only overflow to other assembly rooms in the building (relief society room, primary room, etc.) Significant savings (up to \$20,000 per building) can be realized by not providing a full building video distribution system to overflow meetinghouses.

At the project initiation meeting for a new meetinghouse project the project manager and stake president should discuss whether a full building video distribution system is needed, using the *New Meetinghouse Video Distribution System Qualifications Guidelines* document, which gives criteria for making that determination. This item will be added to the Project Initialization Meeting Agenda in PMOM, and the Guidelines document will be added to the items in the Project Initialization Meeting packet.