Task Group on Data Plates  
Teleconference Meeting Summary  
December 15, 2014

Participants:  
Jim Wagner (Controlled Environment Consulting)  
Steve Williams (NSF International)  
Aaron Johnson (The Baker Company, LLC)  
William Peters (NuAire)  
Brian Garrett (Labconco Corp)  
Keith McKowen (University of Michigan)

Absent Members:  
Alex Atmadi (ESCO)  
Nick Flynn (B&V Testing)

Participating observers:  
Al Rose (NSF International)

Supplemental Materials Referenced

1) Agenda - Data Plates - 12-15-14.pdf  
2) BSC JC Meeting Summary 5-28-2014 - Data Plates Excerpt.pdf

Discussion

S.Williams welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. A.Rose read the antitrust statement and took attendance. Five of the 7 voting members were present (71%) representing a quorum.

S.Williams called the meeting to order and welcomed the task group to this first teleconference. He reminded everyone that the group was generated by the submission of an issue paper by K.McKowen, summarized the intent of the paper and challenged the group with developing other ideas related to the improvement of data plates.

S.Williams asked K.McKowen to further summarize his issue paper intent. K.McKowen said he was essentially looking for standardization, specifically in the data plate location, color, font size, etc. He added that many of the plaques he sees are difficult to read and standardizing would make these much more useful.

S.Williams asked the group to list off some things we can look at for this language development. B.Peters suggested the group discuss background of plate and font, then provided examples of white background and the contrast it offers with almost any font color.
K. McKowen said there is at least one cabinet manufacturer that uses a tan label with brown font and confirmed it is very difficult to read. J. Wagner said his company’s brand new labels have a glacier white background with dark brown font and added that anything older than 2007 will have various older labels.

K. McKowen gave some additional descriptions of the various cabinets he evaluates and says there are many differences both between and within cabinet manufacturers. B. Garrett said he understood and agreed, and added that this group is going to have to make reasonable decisions in order to meet certain marketing and brand identity issues.

K. McKowen asked the group if there is a way to incorporate a font size requirement into the standard. S. Williams confirmed yes but this group should be careful and critical about specifying a font type; the group agreed.

**B. Peters said he would copy and send to A. Rose for the purpose of sharing with the task group, the requirements for his company.**

S. Williams confirmed with the group that the one stated issue thus far is how readable the plate is and added the next topic of discussion would potentially be the consistency of the language on the placard. K. McKowen said his biggest issue was to get the location of the placard and the font size standardized, not necessarily the exact information on the placard.

This led to several minutes of discussion regarding the location of the placard.

B. Garrett confirmed his understanding is the current language of the Standard states that the plate is required to be visible from the front. A. Johnson agreed and read this section to the group (Section 5.33)

**5.33 Data plate(s)**

A data plate(s) indicating the following shall be readily visible on the front of the cabinet:

- manufacturer's name and address;
- cabinet model;
- cabinet serial number;
- nominal set point for downflow and inflow velocities (DIM and thermal anemometer);
- type classification;
- downflow velocity test grid dimensions (Annex A, section A.8.3);
- indication that the cabinet has potentially contaminated plenums that are at positive pressure directly to the room (if applicable);
- voltage requirements; and

A. Johnson added there is nothing said about the height of the placard such that a ladder may be necessary. He further added that he has some customers that insist on having the data plate NOT be on the front.
Some further discussion about the interpretation about what “front panel” means and what is “readily available” and “accessible”. The group ultimately agreed that although the dress panel may be located in the front, having to remove the cover would be undesirable.

Brief discussion ensued regarding the chemical resistance of the placard. K.McKowen said a lot of pharmacies are using bleach to sanitize the surfaces which is removing the labels somewhat over time. S.Williams added this may be another item to discuss and define.

K.McKowen then brought up the topic regarding “what” is written on the data plate, for instance whether the window area should be added. He confirmed this information is difficult to find even in the manual. The window opening dimension is very important.

S.Williams asked the manufacturers how they felt about adding this to the data plate; several minutes of discussion ensued with the group agreeing it is critical information for everyone to use the same values. There is too much error in measurement and rounding.

S.Williams took a straw vote asking: “should the window dimensions be one more requirement to the data plate”?

All were in favor; none opposed; none abstained.

A.Johnson suggested that all manufacturers send A.Rose a copy of each of their labels and share. Group agreed.

– Each manufacturer to send A.Rose a copy of their current B2 label

J.Wagner asked the group one more question: how about adding the CBV for B1 and B2. Additional discussion about the differences here between data plates with B.Peters stating this group should get the pictures over to A.Rose before going any further. Then we will see what each manufacturer has and start here.

**Action Item**

A.Rose to work with S.Williams about constructing yes/no straw ballots regarding:

1. Font color
2. Font height
3. Adding a bullet point to 5.33 regarding specifics about the window open area for inflow velocity
4. Use of a ladder