Task Group on Food Equipment Fabrication
Teleconference Meeting Summary
January 10, 2013

Participating members:
Jim Brady (Wawa, Inc.)
Tiffany Curry (Franke Contract Group)
Burl Finkelstein (Kason Industries)
Tony Gagliardi (Consultant – Public Health)
Paul Klause (Southern Nevada Health District)
Mike Kohler (NSF)
Gary Maxon (The Delfield Co.)
Michael Perez (Baring Industries)
Willard Sickles (IntroMetro Industries Corp.)
George Zawacki (CAD Solutions Groups, Inc. (CGS))

Participating observers:
Kevin Smith (Food and Drug Administration)
Monica Leslie (NSF)

Supplemental Materials Referenced
FE 2011-1- Filters
FE 2012-14 - Stove shoes
FE 2012-17 - Handles for Cutlery and Hand Held Utensils
FE 2012- 18 - Sealants Clarification

Action Items:
1. NSF will solicit participation from cutlery manufacturers regarding potential requirements for handles for cutlery.
2. M. Kohler will revise the proposed language under 5.4 to address sealants per the discussion below (adding a reference to 5.3.3).
3. M. Perez will further investigate the design of cold plates in ice bins under 5.33.3 per the discussion on sealants below.

Discussion

J. Brady welcomed the group and called the meeting to order. M. Leslie read the antitrust statement and took attendance.

Hollow handles for cutlery

J. Brady gave a brief synopsis of the issue paper submitted by Mike Kohler regarding his suggestion to develop design requirements for handles of cutlery and other hand held utensils. This would ensure that the design does not allow the potential for liquids to harbor inside the handles. M. Kohler stated that this issue came up when speaking with a manufacturer at a trade show. There is a concern that liquid and moisture can get into the hollow space of these types of handles and potential for cross-contamination. Currently, there are only requirements for the outside of the handle pertaining to design and cleanability, etc. M. Kohler stated that this manufacturer was to submit additional information on issues that they have encountered in the field, but he has yet to receive any information. Although having supporting evidence
would be ideal, he stated that he does believe that this is an issue that the task group should consider regardless. B. Finkelstein raised the question of whether normal seal requirements would apply. M. Kohler agreed that they would, but in this case a composite material may be bonded or fastened to a metallic material. While sealed initially, over time with continuous heating and cooling they may not remain sealed. The allowance of a hollow space behind that could cause a problem. This is what we came across with slicers.

J. Brady gave some background information on the slicer issue. There were some incidents of food borne illness that were traced back to slicers. Due to the way the handle was attached to the carriage tray, a large hollow space existed. In some cases it was filled with silicone, but over time that deteriorated. Some of them started leaking and allowed the growth of bacteria. The bacteria was then spilled out on to food and made many people ill. J. Brady agreed that there could potentially be a concern here as well. K. Smith stated his support to prohibit the allowance of a hollow space in the handles of hand held knives and utensils. M. Kohler noted that there is currently not a specific section in the standard to address knives or cutlery; everything is based on general requirements. J. Brady asked the group for feedback on whether or not there have been reports of these products actually causing a problem. K. Smith stated that he was not aware of any specific known incidents that have been traced back to these products. This approach would simply help to protect against unknowingly getting contamination from a product that has undergone some wear and tear, and may have a minor crack or loose joint.

M. Kohler suggested that it would be helpful for manufacturers of these products to become involved and provide feedback on what the implications may be (health concerns, potential cost of product redesign, etc.). Several members agreed, and it was suggested that NSF send a letter to their certified manufacturers of these products to let them know that this task group is considering the addition of requirements to these products and whether they would like to become involved. M. Kohler agreed to invite cutlery manufacturers to participate. It was suggested that this group go ahead draft up some language so that the manufacturers will have an actual proposal to review.

**Sealants clarification**

M. Kohler recommended that language should be added to the materials section under 5.44 and 5.5.2 to clarify that sealants shall meet the requirements for the zone in which they are located and shall only be used as permitted in 5.4.4 and 5.5.2. J. Brady asked for feedback from the group with regards to whether this group would like to simply clarify the current requirement, or broaden this discussion to include additional requirements. M. Kohler stated that his intent is that the current requirements in the standard are clear. He stated that the requirements for sealants are only contained in the fastener and joints and seams sections. However, there are occasionally manufacturers that wish to use a sealant for other applications. This becomes difficult to enforce because the current language is too vague. J. Brady asked the group if the proposed language would adequately address this. The question was raised of whether the proposed referring to section 5.4.4 applies only to a splash or non-food zone. M. Kohler explained that it is a section referring to joints and seams and is not zone specific. J. Brady read the proposed language from M. Kohler’s
original issue paper. M. Kohler noted that someone must have had a concern with this exact wording, otherwise this would have probably have gone straight to ballot. It was suggested that perhaps the concern was whether this would cause an inconsistency in any of the other standards. M. Kohler agreed that this language would be boilerplate and would be added to all of the other standards. The task group would need to look at all of the other standards to see if there are any exceptions that would need to be added. For NSF/ANSI 2, M. Kohler stated that this proposed language should be fine. The group discussed the possibility of adding a qualifying statement that sealants shall only be used to seal joints and seams unless explicitly covered in another standard. M. Kohler suggested adding this language to NSF/ANSI 2, and adding additional language where needed in the other standards separately. It was noted that 5.3.3 addresses sealants with regards to ice bins. M. Kohler suggested removing that language from 5.3.3 since this is already covered under the section for joints and seams. The exception to the radius requirements should remain, however. The group voted and agreed that the redundant statement under 5.3.3 should be removed and to recommend the current proposed revision to 5.4.4. The group discussed whether the statement referring to sealing compounds under 5.33.3 should be left in the standard. How cold plates are built into the bins was discussed. It was suggested that an investigation be done first to see how these seams are affected. J. Brady stated that this would actually be a separate issue. The group agreed. After further discussion, the group agreed that it may be better at this time to just add reference to 5.3.3 to the proposed language, and leave the language under 5.3.3 and 5.33.3 as is. M. Perez stated that he will do some additional research on how the cold plates in ice bins are designed.

**Stove shoes**

This task group has been charged with addressing the design and construction requirements for stove shoes. J. Brady opened the discussion and asked the group whether materials requirements should be taken into consideration. Should the group consider durability? It was suggested that the standard specify that they are for non-food zone. The question was raised of whether these should be certified under the standard at all. M. Kohler stated that the purpose of submitting this issue was to have the JC look at these and determine whether or not they should be allowed, and if so, then the task group would draft the language for the applicable requirements. It was explained that for equipment not on casters, the stove shoes allow for the equipment to be moved more easily for cleaning, etc. However, it was noted that it doesn't seem likely to put them on something like an ice machine that is piped in, but that is what the photograph is showing (Issue paper FE-2012-14).

It was suggested that a simple requirement for this be that the cup is self-draining. M. Kohler noted that the product featured in the issue paper has a drain hole in it. Perhaps a minimum size requirement for the drain hole, or a notch so that it drains outward and not downward should be specified. Wording could be added that it be designed to be self-draining and not collect debris. J. Brady noted that the JC did allow for the exception of these stove shoes to be NSF certified until the design and construction requirements were developed by this task group. The product would then need to meet these new requirements in order to remain certified. It was pointed out that the website www.stoveshoes.com shows an excellent digital image showing the drain hole coming out of the side. The group discussed that hard debris could get trapped in these types of products. It was suggested that a notch be required rather than a small hole. It was reiterated that the main issues with these would be cleanability. Another issue would be the requirement of a restraint
if a gas line is attached. These are used only on equipment with legs as an add on piece. It was stated that these are not as easily moveable as casters. The group agreed that durability is not as much of an issue.

M. Kohler reviewed the options for floor-mounted equipment. It should have sufficient clearance, or should be mobile, portable, or sealed to the floor. He noted that all of these are fine for these products as well, with the exception of the term "mobile." Mobile is currently defined in the standard as "mounted on casters, rollers, gliders, or rollers that allow the equipment to be moved easily along a surface." The group discussed that these products could be considered gliders, but could they be considered as easily moveable if, for example, it takes two people to move the equipment?

K. Smith asked what criteria was originally used to evaluate the products that are listed. M. Kohler explained that they were simply evaluated against the general requirements of splash zone equipment. It was smooth and easily cleanable with no seams. If you look at it as a stand alone item it is fine, but when it is in use together with a leg, it may be questionable. However, the JC agreed during the initial discussion at the annual meeting that they appeared to be easily cleanable. This task group could decide that if that is not the case, it could recommend that these are not appropriate to be covered under the standard. It was stated that although casters are also at risk for getting quite dirty and may not be so easily cleanable, the fact that these are a cup-like shape distinguishes them. It was suggested that perhaps these should be held to the same requirements as a leg. J. Brady asked the group whether or not to move forward with developing criteria under the standard. M. Kohler and M. Perez both stated that under the current design they should not be covered under the standard. M. Kohler stated that if there is a product design out there that this group believes is appropriate, we could specify it. Due to the lack of time, the group agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting. J. Brady stated that he will send out some dates for the next teleconference. The meeting was adjourned.