

1305 Rule – 2003 IBC Advisory Committee Meeting Summary *From (Tenth) April 15th, 2004 Meeting*

- Our Tenth IBC Advisory Committee meeting was called to order on Thursday, April 15th, 2004 at 9:10 AM. There were eight committee members/alternates present, including two BCSD staff members. There were also five other guests present for the meeting.
- The first item of consideration was a code change proposal by Mr. Gary Turpening. Mr. Turpening had submitted a request to the BCSD for consideration of a change to Chapter 10 to require an intermediate/lower handrail at stairs used by young children in places like schools, churches, daycare centers, etc. Mr. Turpening offered to draft code language if the committee decided to recommend approval of the concept/idea. Committee Chair Jerry Norman, while acknowledging the condition, indicated that this item was not a condition specific to Minnesota. He indicated that the proposal should be considered at the national code change level rather than at the state level. Other committee member's echoed the same sentiment. Further discussion ensued regarding the history of code changes relating to stairs, guards and handrails at the national hearing level. The condition of climbability was discussed, as were the relevant duties of the design professional and their personal liabilities in the design of guards and handrails. A committee vote was taken and the proposal was denied. **[Proposal denied]**
- **MSBC 1305.1503 Secondary Roof Drains:** BCSD Staff informed the committee that the existing 1305 rule relating to secondary roof drainage sizing will be amended to remove the "by two" sizing reference. The original language was carried over from the IPC, but was corrected with errata after the state code was adopted. Shortly thereafter, the Division developed an interpretation to clarify the provision with intentions to fix the code in this cycle. BCSD staff also informed committee members that they had met with MN Department of Health, Plumbing Codes Unit (MDH) staff to work out a fix for better coordination of the requirements between the plumbing code and the building code. The next time the plumbing code is updated (MN Rule 4715), they will add language for sizing overflow/secondary roof drains. The BCSD will then change and/or delete amendments in 1305 for overflow/secondary roof drains to reference the plumbing code. Details of the changes will be worked out between the BCSD and the MDH - Plumbing Unit. No vote was taken, but the change will move forward for code coordination purposes. **[Proposal continued]**
- **IBC 302.1.1.1 Incidental Use Separation.** A proposal was submitted to amend the incidental use separation requirements in sprinkled buildings. Essentially, the intent of the provision was to remove any/all required incidental use separation requirements in Groups B, F, M, S and U occupancies if the building is sprinkled with an NFPA 13 sprinkler system (throughout). Language in the sonar did not track properly to state the intent of the proponent, but upon modification on the

floor, the proposal was clarified. The proponent conveyed that this proposal had been brought before the Fire Code Advisory Committee and that they had recommended approval of the provision. Initially the provision was tabled, but in the end, the committee voted and the proposal was passed. The proponent was directed to rewrite the sonar with exact code language and electronically mail it to the recording secretary for re-distribution to all committee members. If committee members have additional comments, they can then e-mail Paul with their commentary. **[Proposal approved]**

- **IBC 901.6.2 Fire Alarm Systems.** A proposal was submitted to delete this section of the code entirely. The proponent indicated that the reason for the proposal was that the provision conflicted with previous state amendments for fire alarm systems. He also indicated that he had taken the proposal to the Fire Code Advisory Committee where they recommended approval of the provision. Committee members discussed examples of possible conflicts and contradictions of the affected section. The committee also discussed and confirmed the definitions of supervisory station and supervisory services and the conditions between NFPA 72 and the IBC. Jon Nisja confirmed that the definitions were the same so if the provision were approved, NFPA 72 would cover and clarify alarm supervisory provisions if/when an alarm system was required by revised (907) provisions of the state code. Associated costs and/or the feasibility of the requirements were discussed. The committee concluded that the provision would not add further costs because it was already covered in NFPA 72. A committee vote was taken. **[Proposal approved]**
- **IBC 403.3.2 Shaft enclosures.** A proposal was submitted to delete this section of the code entirely. Reasons for the proposal were outlined in the proponent's sonar. They are: The reduction is only given in high-rise buildings where the need for properly installed passive protection systems are crucial; the provision for the reduction is not in the Life Safety Code; pipe and ductwork can create substantial obstructions within the shaft which reduces the equivalency of the active protection system; a sprinkler poking through the shaft wall is unlikely to encounter enough heat to activate; with a properly designed sprinkler system, shaft ratings are a non-issue because sprinklers will control the spread of fire. However, if the sprinkler system is out of service at certain floor levels, shaft wall protection may be degraded and sprinklers won't stop the spread of smoke into a shaft once the shaft is compromised. Committee members discussed the UBC/IBC history of this provision. Committee members also discussed related construction costs. They generally admitted that there would be added costs to construction if the proposal was approved, but determined that the costs would be rather marginal for the added life safety provided. The proponent informed committee members that he had taken this proposal to the Fire Code Advisory Committee and that they recommended approval of this code change proposal. The conditions/requirements for shaft continuity were also discussed. A committee vote was taken. Finding unanimous support, the proposal was approved. **[Proposal approved]**

- **IBC Sections 404.6, 909.11 and 2702.2.2 Stand-by power for atriums – without required exiting through the atrium.** A proposal to modify each of the three code sections was submitted. Essentially, the intent of the provision was to delete (by exception to each) provisions for required standby power (usually generators) in atriums when there is no portion of exit access through an atrium space. The definition of atrium was discussed as was exit access and exiting. Examples of many atrium-exiting conditions were discussed. Costs relating to generators and standby power were also discussed. The proponent informed committee members that he had taken this proposal to the Fire Code Advisory Committee and that they recommended approval of this code change proposal. After further discussion, a vote was taken. Committee members voted to deny the proposals.
[Each proposal denied]
- **IBC 2308.9.1 Size height and spacing (wall framing).** A proposal for changing requirements for the maximum height of unsupported wall studs was presented for consideration. The proponent, after discussing the issue with Frank Berg, who is also on the IBC/IRC Structural Advisory Committee, decided to withdraw the proposal and to resubmit to the Structural Advisory Committee. No committee action was taken on this proposal. **[Proposal withdrawn]**
- **Floodproofing regulations.** BCSD Staff informed the committee that the IBC and the IRC needed to be changed to add necessary amendments for proper/required references to MN Rule 1335, the floodproofing regulations for the State of Minnesota. The IBC/IRC both have references to floodproofing regulations that are inconsistent with MN Rule 1335. BCSD Staff will amend the 1309 (IRC) and 1305 (IBC) rules so that floodproofing is properly referenced per MN Rule 1335. These amendments are necessary for proper code reference/use for both the IRC and the IBC. There are expected to be no additional costs incurred due to the amendment. It would simply provide for proper direction to an existing state rule. Necessary amendments will be handled internally by BCSD staff. No committee action/vote was taken. **[Proposal carried over]**
- **IBC 407.8 and 2702.2.20 Required standby power for fire pumps and alarms in new I-2 occupancies.** A proposal to modify each of the above code sections was submitted. Essentially, the intent of the provision was to require a specific type of standby power to the fire pumps required for the fire sprinkler system and fire alarm system. Initially, the proposal was also intended to apply to only “hospitals,” but the reference to I-2 included “all” I occupancies. The idea was to add a clear design provision (in the IBC) so that designers could install emergency power supply under the same parameters of NFPA 99 and 101, which is mandated by the MDH. Committee members discussed the intent of the term “new” and the idea of how this would apply to other “I” occupancy uses under the I-2 laundry list. Committee members also commented on associated costs of this type of system. The proponent informed committee members that he had taken this proposal to the Fire Code Advisory Committee and that they recommended approval of this code change proposal. After some discussion, the committee voted to deny this proposal.

[Proposal denied]

- **IBC 1509.2 Penthouses.** A provision was submitted to add an exception to the penthouse provision. The exception would allow for other accessory uses necessary for the maintenance of the building systems contained in the penthouse - if the “penthouse” was sprinkled with an NFPA 13 fire sprinkler system. The intent was to keep the original state amendment along with this new exception. After further committee discussion however, it was determined that the original state amendment could be deleted entirely. (The original state amendment allowed for an increase in penthouse height from 12 feet to 28 feet maximum.) Committee members discussed examples of some of the uses that they normally see in penthouses as well as building and penthouse sprinkler requirements. Committee members tended to agree that this proposal would actually rectify a condition that they normally see taking place in penthouses anyhow. A committee vote was taken. The proposal was approved. **[Proposal approved]**

- **2003 IBC AC Sunset** – The meeting was adjourned at 12:20 PM. The committee finished reviewing all code change proposals to date as well as completing the review of MN Rule 1305 and the 2003 IBC document. At this point, the 2003 IBC Advisory Committee will “sunset” its regular meeting schedule until after BCSD staff complete a draft of the entire 1305 rule. The committee will then be recalled to review the final draft and make necessary recommendations [on the proposed 1305 Rule] to the State Building Official. BCSD staff hopes to have a final draft of the 1305 rule completed by mid-to-late summer this year.

- **Recognition:** Committee Chair Jerry Norman and Vice Chair Paul Heimkes thanked all 2003 IBC AC members along with all other regular participants for taking time out of their personal schedules to work on the proposed rule.
 - ❖ **Regular committee members include:** Mike Post - Minnesota Fire Marshals Association, Steve Thorp – AMBO, Jon Nisja - State Fire Marshals Office, Roger Larson - AIA MN, Pat Higgins – AMBO, Frank Berg – AMBO, Ed Solvedt – BOMA, Steve Fichtel - AIA MN and Kathi Osmonson – AMBO.

 - ❖ **Others who attended/contributed include:** Mike O’Hara – MountainStar Group, John Swanson – State Fire Marshals Office, Bob James, City of Bloomington, Rick Breezee - MAC, Clay Larson – City of Coon Rapids, Tim Manz – U of M, Paul Kourajian – Moline Corp., Steve Kaas – Hanson Spancrete Midwest, Inc., Kent Warden – BOMA, Dave Stringfield – U of M, Dave Leighly – BWBR Architects, Curt Wiehle – BCSD, Gary Thaden – MMCA, Duane Becker – Fire Trak Corp., Laura Offerdahl – LMC, Russ Sanders – NFPA, Jim Peterson - MDH and Gary Turpening – Architecture Direct

Your contributions are greatly appreciated !

- **Members Present/Absent at this meeting:**

Present:

Mike Post, Minnesota Fire Marshals Association
Paul Heimkes, BCSD
Jerry Norman, BCSD
Steve Thorp, AMBO
Jon Nisja, State Fire Marshal
Roger Larson, AIA MN
Pat Higgins, AMBO
Frank Berg, AMBO

Absent:

Minnesota Insurance Federation
Minnesota Multi-Housing Association
Minnesota Retailers Association
Minnesota Fire Chiefs Association
Ed Solvedt, BOMA
Steve Fichtel, AIA MN
Kathi Osmonson, AMBO