

1305 Rule – 2003 IBC Advisory Committee Meeting Summary

From (Third) December 22, 2003 Meeting

- Our Third IBC Advisory committee meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM on December 22, 2003. There were eleven advisory committee members/alternates present, including the two Building Codes and Standards Division (BCSD) staff. There were also three other persons present for the meeting.
- BCSD Staff outlined the chapters of the code that would be covered for the meeting. They are IBC chapters 6 through 10. There was some discussion on other amendments that are being proposed by outside persons and how and/or when those documents would be reviewed. As outlined in an earlier meeting, the committee agreed that the elevator smoke and draft control amendments would not be discussed at this meeting. That issue will be covered at the January 12, 2004 meeting. BCSD staff submitted an outline of each current amendment for chapters 6 through 10. Each current code amendment was reviewed as follows:
 - **1305.0704 Exterior Walls. [Delete amendment]** 2000 IBC Section 704.2.3. 2003 code provides better language and clarification. No need for the amendment.
 - **1305.0707 Shaft. [Tabled until January 12th 2004 meeting]** 2000 IBC Section 707.7.
 - **1305.0714 Opening Protectives. [Tabled until January 12th 2004 meeting]** 2000 IBC Section 714.2.3.
 - **1305.0903 Automatic Sprinkler Systems. [To be review once SFM recommendations are made]** 2000 IBC Section 903. The committee discussed the 2003 sprinkler provisions for “R” occupancies. The 2003 IBC required all “R” occupancies to be fully sprinkled. There was also some discussion on the requirements for repair garages, parking garages and storage occupancies. The fire sprinkler provisions for these uses don’t really seem to make sense (5000 sq. ft vs. 12000 sq. ft. – depending on what a person defines the space as). BCSD will wait for recommendations from the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs code committee for amendments to this section.
 - **1305.0905 Standpipes Systems. [To be review once SFM recommendations are made]** 2000 IBC Section 905. BCSD will wait for recommendations from the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs code committee for amendments to this section.
 - **1305.0907 Fire Alarm and Detection System. [To be review once SFM recommendations are made]** 2000 IBC Section 907. BCSD will wait for recommendations from the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs code committee for amendments to this section.

- **1305.0910 Smoke and Heat Vents. [To be review once SFM recommendations are made]** 2000 IBC Section 910. BCSD will wait for recommendations from the Minnesota State Fire Chiefs code committee for amendments to this section.
- **1305.0912 Post Fire Smoke Exhaust System. [To be re-reviewed once a written submittal is received.]** 2000 IBC Section 912. The committee discussed some options to clarify this provision. Committee members feel that the provision is very vague and that some more specific language should be added to clarify what would be acceptable. BCSD staff indicated that the provision was intentionally left vague because the proponents did not want special inspection; nor did they want to affect a cities' ability to make determinations on how they are best suited to deal with a fire and smoke removal conditions of the department. With the language written as is, the designer should be working with the local building and fire departments to determine what works best for this condition – based on city fire fighting abilities and procedures. The system is designed as a post fire “clean-up” tool. As such, the idea was to keep the system very simple. There was some concern about the ability of a designer to use vertical and/or horizontal exits or stair enclosures for the smoke removal system. Similar concern was mentioned for use of the elevator shaft. It was pointed out that these concerns would only apply to conditions in a high-rise building, not in a mall setting. After some discussion, it was determined that horizontal and/or vertical stair enclosures should not be used for this type of system and that the code should be modified to address this. The original proponent of the discussion (MountainStar) said that they would submit a written code change submittal on this item for further review by both the IBC Advisory Committee and the State Fire Chiefs Fire Code Advisory Committee.
- **1305.1002 Definitions. [No change necessary. All definitions to be maintained]** 2000 IBC Section 1002.1.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 1 Bleacher Safety Act. [Keep amendment. Renumber to IBC Section 1012.1 Guards]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.2.12.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 2 Guard Height [Amendment to be deleted per previous agreement with the MN Builders Association]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.2.12.1. BCSD staff explained that there were a number of state amendments made to the 2000 IBC (and 2000 IRC) which effectively changed all code provisions relating to Group R occupancies - residential stair rise and run, stair handrails, guardrails, stair tread profile, handrail extensions, etc., back to what was previously required by the legacy code of Minnesota. Each of these amendments was specifically included under an agreement between the MN Builders Association and the BCSD – to allow Minnesota builders the term of one code cycle to prepare for the changes found in the “I” codes for these same conditions. Throughout the 2000 IBC/IRC code cycle, BCSD staff has repeatedly reiterated the conditions of this agreement and have made it clear that provisions of this nature would be deleted under the adoption of the 2003 “I” codes. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the agreement, the BCSD intends delete each amendment through the adoption of this code.

- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 3 Accessibility. [To be review once Accessibility Committee recommendations are made]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.2.13. All accessibility provisions are being reviewed by the BCSD 1341 Accessibility Code Committee. They will be making all recommendations for amendments relating to accessibility.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 4 Special Egress Control Devices. [Renumbered to IBC 1008.1.3.6 and possibly add I-3 with 5 or less]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.1.3.6. AMBO representative Pat Higgins represented the fact that this specific state amendment was brought to the national code hearing for consideration as an amendment to the IBC. At the national code hearing, the proposed amendment was denied. Mr. Higgins conveyed some of the primary reasons he thought the amendment was denied. The committee discussed the actual use conditions of the special locking provisions and generally agreed that without the amendment, it would be nearly impossible to provide adequate security in many buildings throughout Minnesota. There committee seemed to agree that locking conditions of this type were necessary, but that the national code and code groups were not ready to allow for it. As a result, AMBO representatives went on record to state that they were not in favor of carrying on with this specific state amendment. BCSD staff identified that this amendment had been used in Minnesota for a very long time, first as a policy, and then as an actual state code amendment. The provision was developed by staff from the State Fire Marshals office, MDH, and BCSD. The amendment is used on a regular basis in hospitals, correctional facilities and nursing homes throughout the state. BCSD staff also indicated that the amendment was necessary and that it will remain in the code until the national code organizations include provisions for doing so.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 5 Delayed Egress Locks. [Keep amendment. Renumbered to IBC 1008.1.8.6]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.1.8.2. This amendment, similar to the special egress control device amendment, is used very often in school buildings. The provision has been reviewed and accepted by staff from the State Fire Marshals office, CFL, and BCSD. BCSD staff indicated that the amendment will remain in the code.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 6 Treads and Risers. [Amendment to be deleted per previous agreement with the MN Builders Association]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.3.3. BCSD staff explained that there were a number of state amendments made to the 2000 IBC (and 2000 IRC) which effectively changed all code provisions relating to Group R occupancies - residential stair rise and run, stair handrails, guardrails, stair tread profile, handrail extensions, etc., back to what was previously required by the legacy code of Minnesota. Each of these amendments was specifically included under an agreement between the MN Builders Association and the BCSD – to allow Minnesota builders the term of one code cycle to prepare for the changes found in the “I” codes for these same conditions. Throughout the 2000 IBC/IRC code cycle, BCSD staff has repeatedly reiterated the conditions of this agreement and have made it clear that provisions of this nature would be deleted under the adoption of the 2003 “I” codes.

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- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 7 Profile. [Amendment to be deleted per previous agreement with the MN Builders Association]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.3.2. BCSD staff explained that there were a number of state amendments made to the 2000 IBC (and 2000 IRC) which effectively changed all code provisions relating to Group R occupancies - residential stair rise and run, stair handrails, guardrails, stair tread profile, handrail extensions, etc., back to what was previously required by the legacy code of Minnesota. Each of these amendments was specifically included under an agreement between the MN Builders Association and the BCSD – to allow Minnesota builders the term of one code cycle to prepare for the changes found in the “T” codes for these same conditions. Throughout the 2000 IBC/IRC code cycle, BCSD staff has repeatedly reiterated the conditions of this agreement and have made it clear that provisions of this nature would be deleted under the adoption of the 2003 “T” codes. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the agreement, the BCSD intends delete each amendment through the adoption of this code.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 8 Outdoor Conditions. [Keep amendment. Renumber to IBC Section 1009.5.2]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.5.2. This amendment will be maintained in the building code for the 2003 code cycle. AMBO took this amendment to the national code hearings and it was approved as a code change to the 2006 IBC.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 9 Circular Stairway. [Amendment to be deleted per previous agreement with the MN Builders Association]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.3.7. BCSD staff explained that there were a number of state amendments made to the 2000 IBC (and 2000 IRC) which effectively changed all code provisions relating to Group R occupancies - residential stair rise and run, stair handrails, guardrails, stair tread profile, handrail extensions, etc., back to what was previously required by the legacy code of Minnesota. Each of these amendments was specifically included under an agreement between the MN Builders Association and the BCSD – to allow Minnesota builders the term of one code cycle to prepare for the changes found in the “T” codes for these same conditions. Throughout the 2000 IBC/IRC code cycle, BCSD staff has repeatedly reiterated the conditions of this agreement and have made it clear that provisions of this nature would be deleted under the adoption of the 2003 “T” codes. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the agreement, the BCSD intends delete each amendment through the adoption of this code.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 10 Winders. [Amendment to be deleted per previous agreement with the MN Builders Association]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.3.8. BCSD staff explained that there were a number of state amendments made to the 2000 IBC (and 2000 IRC) which effectively changed all code provisions relating to Group R occupancies - residential stair rise and run, stair handrails, guardrails, stair tread profile, handrail extensions, etc., back to what was previously required by the legacy code of Minnesota. Each of these amendments was specifically included under an

agreement between the MN Builders Association and the BCSD – to allow Minnesota builders the term of one code cycle to prepare for the changes found in the “I” codes for these same conditions. Throughout the 2000 IBC/IRC code cycle, BCSD staff has repeatedly reiterated the conditions of this agreement and have made it clear that provisions of this nature would be deleted under the adoption of the 2003 “I” codes. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the agreement, the BCSD intends delete each amendment through the adoption of this code.

- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 11 Handrails. [Amendment to be deleted per previous agreement with the MN Builders Association]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.3.11. BCSD staff explained that there were a number of state amendments made to the 2000 IBC (and 2000 IRC) which effectively changed all code provisions relating to Group R occupancies - residential stair rise and run, stair handrails, guardrails, stair tread profile, handrail extensions, etc., back to what was previously required by the legacy code of Minnesota. Each of these amendments was specifically included under an agreement between the MN Builders Association and the BCSD – to allow Minnesota builders the term of one code cycle to prepare for the changes found in the “I” codes for these same conditions. Throughout the 2000 IBC/IRC code cycle, BCSD staff has repeatedly reiterated the conditions of this agreement and have made it clear that provisions of this nature would be deleted under the adoption of the 2003 “I” codes. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the agreement, the BCSD intends delete each amendment through the adoption of this code.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 12 Handrail Extensions. [Amendment to be deleted per previous agreement with the MN Builders Association]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.3.11.5. BCSD staff explained that there were a number of state amendments made to the 2000 IBC (and 2000 IRC) which effectively changed all code provisions relating to Group R occupancies - residential stair rise and run, stair handrails, guardrails, stair tread profile, handrail extensions, etc., back to what was previously required by the legacy code of Minnesota. Each of these amendments was specifically included under an agreement between the MN Builders Association and the BCSD – to allow Minnesota builders the term of one code cycle to prepare for the changes found in the “I” codes for these same conditions. Throughout the 2000 IBC/IRC code cycle, BCSD staff has repeatedly reiterated the conditions of this agreement and have made it clear that provisions of this nature would be deleted under the adoption of the 2003 “I” codes. Pursuant to the terms and conditions of the agreement, the BCSD intends delete each amendment through the adoption of this code.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 13 Press Box Roof Access. [Keep, but modify amendment. Renumber to IBC 1009.12.2]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.3.12.2. This amendment will be modified to allow for the use of a “ships ladder when the use and occupant load is as defined in the provision. If the use or occupant load change, a regular stair compliant with chapter 10 will then be required.
- **1305.1003 General Means of Egress. Subpart 14 Outdoor Conditions. [Keep this amendment. Renumber to IBC 1010.7.2]** 2000 IBC Section 1003.3.4.6.2. This

amendment will be maintained in the building code for the 2003 code cycle. AMBO took this amendment to the national code hearings and it was approved as a code change to the 2006 IBC.

- **1305.1004 Exit Access. Subpart 1 Laboratories. [Keep amendment. Renumber to IBC 1014.1 number 4]** 2000 IBC Section 1004.2.1. This item was brought to the national code hearing by AMBO and proposed as a code change to the 2006 code. The item was not approved. AMBO committee members identified a number of issues/reasons as to why they thought it was defeated at the national level. One of the primary reasons was the lack of statistics that specifically identified exiting as one of the contributing factors in any incident. This history of this issue (under the legacy codes) was debated at length, as was the size limits of the space (for when 2 exits are required). BCSD staff asked if the committee wanted to vote on this issue. There was really no consensus from committee. Representatives from the SFM office offered to provide additional NFPA statistics on this issue (which were e-mailed out on 12/22/2003 to committee members). Without a final recommendation or committee consensus on this issue, BCSD staff will keep this amendment as written, unless additional information is received or another proposal is submitted.
- **1305.1004 Exit Access. Subpart 2 Group E Exiting. [Tabled for further discussion. Renumber to IBC 1013.2.3]** 2000 IBC Section 1004.2.3.3. The committee did not discuss this item at the meeting. This item will be reintroduced for discussion at the January 12th IBC AC meeting.
- **1305.1004 Exit Access. Subpart 3 Public Areas Group B and M. [Tabled for further discussion. Renumber & Reword to IBC 1013.4.1 Exception #2]** 2000 IBC Section 1004.3.1.1. The committee did not discuss this item at the meeting. This item will be reintroduced for discussion at the January 12th IBC AC meeting.
- **1305.1008 Assembly. Subpart 1, 2, 3. [Tabled for further discussion. May adopt ICC Bleacher Standard]** 2000 IBC Section 1008. The committee did not discuss this item at the meeting. This item will be reintroduced for discussion at the January 12th IBC AC meeting.
- BCSD staff identified some potential changes that have been brought up by MN DHS for Family Adult Day services. Apparently, there may be some changes made to the licensing rules and/or statutory definitions and quantities or persons allowed in these types of facilities. Generally, they (DHS) are intending to increase the number of persons allowed under this type of license. If this occurs, BCSD has two options. One would be to amend our MSBC to be consistent with the statute/rule, or two, do nothing and let the other agency/legislators do what they want though their rule - and then respond accordingly to the mandate. The committee agreed that from the building code standpoint, nothing should be done until they actually change their rule/legislation. The committee determined that the standards in the code met federal standards and mandates for numbers of persons, their capabilities and proper occupancy classifications and if something was changed by statute or rule, BCSD should respond accordingly. That way,

code officials and/or organizations (and the advisory committee) would not be responsible for potential problems in these types of licensed facilities. BCSD and SFM staff both agree with that position. No amendment will be proposed.

- A discussion ensued regarding the proper occupancy classification of “sleep labs.” Committee members discussed the use conditions of these types of assemblies and determined that the proper classification would be a group “B” occupancy (if in a medical clinic setting). If the use was in a building classified as an “I-2,” the use would be an “I-2.” There was no further discussion on this item.
- BCSD staff noted that they may present an amendment for allowing a ships ladder scenario for access to an interior mechanical mezzanine. Currently, the code does not allow for this. There was some support for the idea, but no further discussion took place. Staff will draft a proposal for further consideration.
- The next IBC Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for January 12th, 2004 at 9:00 AM here at the BCSD offices. Possible agenda items for consideration are all smoke and draft control assembly amendments to elevator openings in chapter 7, all current state amendments to IBC chapters 11 through 15 and the three remaining amendments to IBC chapter 10 (as outlined above). The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Members present:

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

Members Absent:

Minnesota Insurance Federation
Minnesota Multi-Housing Association
Minnesota Retailers Association
Minnesota Fire Chiefs Association