

1309 Residential Code Committee Meeting

December 21, 2011

Call to Order

Richard Lockrem the Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:06 A.M. He opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and proceeded with the roll call and having committee members introduce themselves to the guests in the audience.

Mr. Lockrem thanked all the committee members for maintaining a professional demeanor during the previous meeting regarding residential fire sprinklers. He also thanked all committee members who volunteered to work as a group to develop a fire sprinkler proposal that contains acceptable language for fire services, contractors, and building officials. Member Kathy Osmondson explained that the residential fire sprinkler group has not had the opportunity meet yet, but anticipates having a meeting shortly after the Christmas season. When asked about an anticipated proposal date, Kip Lamotte explained they will focus on a proposal of quality before approaching the committee. He did mention the group should have presentable proposal by mid-January.

Mr. Lockrem asked if there were any additional questions or comments regarding the last meeting. Having no further comments, he explained the review process for today's meeting, as starting with proposal reviews for IRC Chapters 4 and 5, then finalize IRC Chapter 2 proposals and conclude by reviewing IRC Chapter 3 proposals as time allows.

Committee Members in Attendance

Richard Lockrem, Committee Chair – Representing the Department of Labor and industry

Herman Hauglid, Co-Chair – Representing the Department of Labor and Industry

Jack Rossbach, Air Tamarack

Kevin Lee, Minnesota Concrete and Masonry Association

Rick Davidson, Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO)

Karen Linner, Builders Association of Minnesota (BAM)

Dave Neisen, League of Minnesota Cities

Kathi Osmondson, Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO)

Steve Pedracine, Minnesota Lath & Plaster Bureau

Alternates in Attendance

Marlene Bach, Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO)

Kip Lamotte, MN State Fire Chiefs Association Alt.

Tony Lehrman, Builders Association of Minnesota (BAM)

Committee Members not in Attendance

Scott Dornfeld, Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO)

Joe Ranweiler, Builders Association of Minnesota (BAM)

Mike Paradise, Builders Association of Minnesota (BAM)

Luke Stemmer, MN State Fire Chiefs Association

Tim Johnson, AIA Minnesota

Guests in Attendance

Steve Johnson, Anderson Corporation

Mark Mikkelsen, Anderson Corporation

The two guests attending represented the window manufacturing industry and each has had extensive code involvement with emergency escape and rescue opening and window fall protection requirements.

Introduction of Code Changes, Committee Discussion and Consensus Results

The topics covered in the December 21, 2011 meeting were as follows;

IRC-53, R403.1.1 – Minimum size deck footing table

This Proposal was to add Table R403.2 Minimum Size Footings for Decks. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After extensive discussion within the committee Karen Linner proposed a resolution to the concerns raised by Mr. Davidson and this proposed code change. Rather than add language to the code Karen will try to work with their engineer to develop a footing table in a handout format which can be distributed to communities. This proposal had previously been submitted to the Structural Advisory Committee and denied support.

IRC-57, R405.1 Concrete and Masonry Foundations

This proposal offered to add language to the drainage requirements for clarity. Specifically, to add the language for a gravity drain (daylight) and to clarify what a mechanical means is (sump pump). Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After extensive discussion between the committee members, the committee reached a consensus which was not in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-50, R502.6 –Bearing (Joist)

This proposal was submitted to try to resolve what the author saw as a conflict between two sections of the code. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

This proposal has been deferred to the Structural Advisory Committee for review. The SAC will review this proposal when they get to chapter 5 and will forward its recommendations to this committee.

IRC-60, R501.3 - Fire Protection of Floors

Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

This proposal was heard at the December 14th meeting. The committee was in support of this proposal.

IRC-36, R202 – Definition - Balcony

This was a proposal to add the definition of “Balcony” to the code. It had previously been deferred to the SAC for consideration. The SAC denied this proposal since decks and balconies now have the same design criteria in the 2012 IRC. Since the differences between the design criteria for decks and balconies have come into alignment with one another the SAC did not believe there would be any reason to provide the definition. The author believes the term “Balcony” is used in the code and therefore should be defined. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

In our meeting of November 30, 2011, the committee had reached a consensus in support adding the definition of “Balcony” to the code.

IRC-74, MR 1309.0202 – Definition - Story Above Grade Plane

Proposal to remove in its entirety the definition of “Story Above Grade Plane” from the state amendments. This language has now been added to the model code and there is no longer a need to have this definition. Submitted by Richard Lockrem (DLI)

After a short discussion between the committee members, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-89, R202 Definitions - Dwelling

This proposal is to modify the definition of “dwelling” which the author believes will provide more clarity for what a yard is in terms of size. The author also believes this will help to provide uniformity in the enforcement of the code since the definition will help to provide prescriptive requirements. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After extensive discussion between the committee members, the committee reached a consensus which was not in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-91, R202 - Definitions - Townhouse

This proposal is to modify the definition of “Townhouse” which the author believes will provide more clarity for what a yard is in terms of size. The author also believes this will help to provide uniformity in the enforcement of the code since the definition will help to provide prescriptive requirements. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After extensive discussion between the committee members, the committee reached a consensus which was not in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-90, R202 - Definitions - Crawl Space

This proposal is to modify the definition of crawl space currently found in Minn. Rule 1309.0202. This proposal provides clarity by identifying a maximum ceiling height for a crawl space. Anything above the maximum ceiling height may be defined by other terms in the code such as habitable space, closet, storage, utility space, etc. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After a short discussion between the committee members, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal with some language modifications.

IRC-84, MR 1309.0305 – Minimum Ceiling Height

This proposal is to add an exception for the minimum height requirements for habitable rooms in basements. The author is concerned with the number of basements that end up being finished living space without permits or inspections, simply because of headroom issues. By lowering the ceiling height it will allow for permits to be issued and inspections to take place for these finished areas increasing the level of safety to occupants. Submitted by Kathi Osmondson (AMBO)

After considerable discussion the committee suggested that author re-write this proposal since it appears the language may be in conflict with other provisions. Kathi agreed to re-write and re-submit at the next meeting.

IRC-100, MR 1309.0310 – Replacement Windows

This proposal is to replace the window replacement language currently found in Minnesota Rule 1309 which is providing exceptions to egress requirements when dealing with replacement windows.

Submitted by Kevin McGinty, Deputy State Fire Marshall

After discussion within the committee and the members of the audience, the committee reached a consensus that was not in support of this proposal.

IRC-66, MR1309.0310.1.5 – Replacement Windows

This proposal offered editorial corrections to the “Replacement Windows” provisions currently in Minnesota Rule 1309. Submitted by Richard Lockrem (DLI)

After a short discussion between the committee members, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-28, R310.1 Emergency Escape and Rescue Required

This proposal was withdrawn by the Author.

IRC-41, R310.1 - Emergency Escape and Rescue Required

This proposal was to provide additional language which should help in clarifying where egress windows will be required. By adding the language “but not required in adjoining areas of the basement”, as it had been written in previous code documents. This modification included two new exceptions for existing basements. Submitted by Richard Lockrem (DLI)

After a short discussion between the committee members, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-70, MR 1303.2300 - Window Fall Protection

This proposal is to delete the requirements for window fall protection from MR Section 1303.2300. This language is now part of the model code in section R312 Guards and Window Fall Protection. Therefore it is no longer required in 1303. Submitted by Richard Lockrem (DLI)

After a short discussion between the committee members, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-71, R312.2 - Window Fall Protection

Proposal is being withdrawn by the author, Richard Lockrem. Karen Linner will be re-writing Proposal IRC-86 and incorporate some of the language from this proposal into that proposal. IRC-86 will come back to the committee for review upon completion of the modifications.

IRC-98, R312.2 - Window Fall Protection

This proposal was withdrawn by the author.

Richard Lockrem Closing Comments:

Mr. Lockrem thanked everyone for their hard work and wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He also reminded all committee members that all proposals should be submitted to DLI by Friday, December 23, 2011. This is necessary since Mr. Lockrem and Mr. Hauglid will be out of the office the week between Christmas and New Years and the proposals will need to be forwarded to all committee members for review before the next meeting on January 4, 2012.

Meeting Closed. 1:00 P.M.