INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL (ICC)
Code Technology Committee (CTC)

INTERIM REPORT NO. 1 OF THE CTC
AREA OF STUDY – BALANCED FIRE PROTECTION

Code Issue – Smoke and Heat Vents

October 19, 2006
Hilton Kansas City Airport

The CTC held a public hearing to receive written and verbal comments regarding CTC recommendations for the ICC Board - approved area of study entitled Balanced Fire Protection. In accordance with the July 25, 2005 Work Plan, the CTC held meetings to evaluate a specific code subject – Smoke and Heat Vents. This report includes interim recommendation No. 1 for this area of study, approved by the CTC upon conclusion of the public hearing on October 19, 2006. It should be noted that as an interim report this does not complete this area of study. Other aspects of this area of study are still under investigation. The recommendations contained in this report will be forwarded to the ICC Chief Executive Officer in accordance with ICC Council Policy No. 5.

Area of Study:

BALANCED FIRE PROTECTION. The study of balanced fire protection includes an assessment of the appropriate amount of active (ie fire sprinkler) versus passive (ie rated compartments) requirements to be required by the code. In this regard, many proposals have been considered in past cycles to revise the height and area provisions as well as the level of fire sprinkler trade-offs. The scope of this activity would be an investigation of the requirements in the code and the establishment of a clearly defined scope of work for the CTC to consider. Depending on the scope of work, the effort may result in a long term activity.

Code Issue – Smoke and Heat Vents

Recommendation:
The CTC created a Study Group to review this issue and report to the CTC.

Study group issues to consider (not all inclusive):

- Building area
- Sprinkler versus non sprinkler operation
- Impact on fire fighting operations
- Relationship to the on-going updating of NFPA 204
- The need for smoke and heat vent design requirements, regardless if smoke and heat vents are mandated by the code