March 6, 2007

ICC Code Technology Committee

Balanced Fire Protection
Roof vents study group

Teleconference Meeting Minutes

February 22, 2007

Chair Salvaggio initiated the teleconference at approximately 2:00 pm Central on February 22, 2007.

Members present (some joining late): Baldassara (Schirmer, CTC), Beyler (Hughes, alternate to Thornberry), Salvaggio (Collier County, FL, CTC), Schulte (Schulte Assoc.), Thornberry (AAMA Smoke Vent Task Group)

Interested parties present: Mo Madini (Florida), Heilstedt (CTC)

Staff present: Pfeiffer

Rick Thornberry introduced his revised outline dated 2/21/07. This was approved, with the following revisions: Move Item numbers 18 and 19 to the front of the outline and call them "Objectives".

Questions arose as to the availability of the NIST report and its multiple volumes. Beyler noted the following on NFPA's Research Foundation Reports website:

Fire Sprinkler - Heat and Smoke Vent - Draft Curtain

- Sprinkler/Vent/Curtain Fire Test Project: Scoping Tests (1997)
- Sprinkler/Vent/Curtain Fire Test Project: Heptane Burner Tests & Commodity Tests (1998)
- Sprinkler/Vent/Curtain Fire Test Project: Large Scale Experiments & Model Development (1998)

The SG continued with its review of the IBC/IFC provisions, starting with 910.2.2. Questions arose as to the purpose of this review. Questions were posed as to whether or not the current requirements add to the fire protection of the building and were they necessary? Modeling should be done to see if the vents add fire protection value.

The provisions of IFC Table 2306.2 were discussed, specifically noting that draft curtains were not required in all applications. It was noted that draft curtains are typically required for scenarios which have the potential for a heavily involved fire.

It was questioned as to what is the performance expected of roof vents. Schulte cited page 4-5 of his draft outline dated 2/12/07 – namely, such vents assist the fire department in fighting fires in buildings with high piled storage. The SG requested that Rich develop a performance statement and route to Thornberry and Beyler for review and comment.

It was noted that full scale tests would be preferred and that there was an abandoned Naval Air Station in CA called El Torro.

Questions arose such as to the length of time for which the building tenability is affected - with and without vents; and how does the timing of the fire fighters arriving on the scene impact the timing. The SG viewed this as worth investigating. Beyler noted he has a couple of late 1990's studies that may be of use to the SG in this regard.

The call was adjourned at 4:15 pm.