



International Code Council
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW
Sixth Floor
Washington, DC 20001
tel: 888.icc.safe (422.7233)
tel: 202.370.1800
fax: 202.783.2348
www.iccsafe.org

September 30, 2011

Standard Developing Organizations

Re: Referenced Standards in the International Codes

We greatly value the relationship we have with the construction standards development community and appreciate your taking the time to join us last month for the productive discussion regarding referenced standards in the International Codes. We realize that this is a significant issue. Therefore our goal was to come out of the meeting having learned more about your concerns in order to develop potential solutions.

Since we met, our staff has been vetting the issues and proposed solutions that resulted from our dialogue. To fill you in on where we stand with each of the ideas brought forth in the discussion, I have listed each below with a brief status update.

1. Move IBC-S to Group B: We believe the suggestion to move the IBC Structural from Group A to Group B has real value. Since the 2012/2013 cycle schedule is published, we are unable to make the change at this time. However, ICC will use the time between now and the 2015 cycle to thoroughly review and plan for such a change.
2. Addition of Third Year to Code Cycle: The proposal to add a third year to the code cycle in order to distribute the codes among 3 individual cycles versus the current 2 cycles presents some difficult challenges for the ICC. We would need significant justification as this would be complicated and costly to implement and maintain. A significant change of this nature would have to be approved by the ICC Board of Directors. To assess the value of the proposal, ICC will evaluate how the upcoming 2012/2013 cycle works to determine if there is a basis for further action on this concept.
3. International Structural Code: The creation of an International Structural Code would require a sizable commitment and presents coordination issues between this new proposed Code, the IBC and the structural standards promulgated by ACI, AF&PA, AISC, AISI, ASCE and ASTM (structural material related) to name just a few. As was noted in the meeting, coordination and timing between not only the I-Codes and standards but within the standards themselves would be required. A detailed analysis of not only the coordination/timing problem must be performed but at the same time it requires an assessment of whether or not this would solve the issue given the multiple variables. This recommendation will need to be put before the ICC Board of Directors for an in-depth discussion.
4. Institutionalizing CP #28 Section 4.5.1: The suggestion that the language regarding updating standards referenced by the Codes as set forth in ICC Council Policy #28 Section 4.5.1 be institutionalized is a reasonable solution. Currently the update process is found in Section 4.5.2 which requires the standard to be completed in the second year of the cycle. Following the process used to update the 2012 I-Codes which allowed the SDO's to have until December 1st of the third year will provide an additional year to



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complete the standards. ICC will present this item to the Board of Directors for their review at their October meeting.

5. **Separate Schedule/Tools for SDO's:** The creation of a separate schedule and tools to assist standard developing organizations with keeping standards in synch with the I-Codes is a good concept. ICC will follow-up on this idea and update the SDO schedules accordingly.
6. **Increased Communication:** In an effort to continue the constructive conversation begun at our meeting, ICC will commit to increasing the frequency of communication between our organization and the standards developing community by holding two face-to-face meetings as well as two conference calls each year.

As always, I welcome your feedback on any issues or concerns impacting your organization. I will be keeping you apprised of our progress toward workable solutions to the identified issues and maintain a high level of confidence that through continued collaboration we can resolve these concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Dominic Sims". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dominic Sims, CBO
Chief Operating Officer
International Code Council