



INDUSTRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TO: Standards Developing Organizations (SDO)

CC: ICC staff

FROM: Wanda Edwards, IAC Standards Update Task Group

DATE: February 11, 2014

**Subject: ICC Council Policy 28, Section 4.6
Consideration of revisions to the referenced standards update
process**

Ladies and gentlemen attending the ICC/SDO Referenced Standards Forum:

The Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) is committee of approximately 100 organizations representing national groups engaged in activities related to the purpose and objectives of ICC (see ICC Council Policy #6 for a complete description). At the September 2013 IAC meeting, a concern was raised regarding the updating of referenced standards. At issue is whether or not participants and ICC code committees need to be able to fully vet updated standards prior to approval for inclusion in the subsequent edition of the I-Codes.

For example, during the 2013 Group B Cycle, there were several standards that were approved prior to their completion as part of the implementation of Council Policy 28, Section 4.6 (see excerpt below and code change ADM62-13). Two standards came under opposition during the 2013 Committee Action Hearing (CAH) and Public Comment Hearing (PCH). The concern was that the technical content of the referenced standards was not known since the policy did not require the standards to be completed when ADM62 was considered at the CAH or PCH. Concerns were also voiced that when a standard is completed, it may conflict with the content of one or more of the I-Codes which had already been updated in the previous cycle (e.g. the IBC in the 2012 Group A Cycle). While the number of referenced standards under concern was relatively minor (e.g. 2 out of 900+ standards), the issue is whether or not the ICC policy should be recommended for revision to the ICC Board.

The IAC discussed the issue at length and felt it prudent to appoint a task group to investigate this further. The council policy under discussion is:

Council Policy 28 – Revised 9/28/2013

4.6 - Updating Standards Referenced in the Codes: *The updating of standards referenced by the Codes shall be accomplished administratively by the Administrative Code Development Committee in accordance with these full procedures except that the deadline for availability of the updated standard and*

receipt by the Secretariat shall be December 1 of the third year of each code cycle. The published version of the new edition of the Code which references the standard will refer to the updated edition of the standard. If the standard is not available by the deadline, the edition of the standard as referenced by the newly published Code shall revert back to the reference contained in the previous edition and an errata to the Code issued. Multiple standards to be updated may be included in a single proposal.

The following are the steps that were utilized in the 2013 Group B cycle to implement the policy:

- Fall/2012: ICC contacted the SDO's to determine which currently referenced standards the SDO anticipates will be updated and available by the December 1, 2014 deadline in order to be referenced in the 2015 I-Codes.
- Spring/2013: The standards proposed to be updated were compiled in a code change to be considered in ICC's 2013 Group B Cycle by the Admin Code Committee. They were assembled as code change ADM62-13.
- ADM62 was considered with the rest of the code changes submitted in 2013 to determine the final action on the proposed updates.
- The final action on ADM62 will be reflected in the 2015 I-Codes. In accordance with ICC procedures, references to updated standards that are not available by December 1, 2014 will be removed from the 2015 I-Codes, with the code retaining the reference to the previous edition of the standard.

Following several meetings, the task group has determined that there are three fundamental questions that need to be answered before proceeding any further:

Which code committee(s) should review the updating of referenced standards? Currently they are assigned to a single code committee - the Admin Code Committee.

During which cycle should the update code change be considered? Currently it is during the second year (Group B) of the three year cycle.

When should submission of the updated reference standard be publically available, or in final draft with no further technical changes, for submission to the ICC process? Currently it is December 1st of the third year of the cycle.

In light of the questions above, the task group has listed a number of points which it would like the SDO's to review at their February 19th meeting, as follows:

- For 2013, ADM62 had 900+ standards in the proposal, but only a few have been cited as being a concern. As a result, “Does this represent an issue which needs further attention?”
- Should the Admin Code Committee be the committee to consider all the updates to referenced standards or should each standard be assigned to a specific code committee responsible for considering code changes to the text of the applicable I-Code for which the standard is referenced?
- Should the code committee(s) assigned responsibility for updating referenced standards have access to the completed, publically available standard at the time of the Committee Action Hearing? If not, should the updated standard be available in time for membership action at the Public Comment Hearing?
- If separate code committees in different cycles are to be assigned responsibility and the standard is required to be completed during the cycle of update consideration, will the SDO’s be able to adjust their schedules to coincide with the applicable cycle?
- Should the updated referenced standard be publically available at the time of submission? Or, should the updated referenced standard be allowed to be in “final draft form with no ability for future technical changes” at the time of submission?

The chair of the IAC, Mike Gardner with the Gypsum Association, will be present during the ICC/SDO meeting to answer any questions by the SDO representatives. We will look forward to receiving your opinions and recommendations following your meeting. Thank you in advance for taking the time to address our inquiries.