

Background

Agenda item 6.4 at the February/2007 IAC meeting noted a concern of code officials testifying as representatives of a jurisdiction when their method of being funded to attend the meeting is in question. It was also noted that the potential for impropriety exists with code committee members relative to conflict of interest. A recommendation was offered that the IAC develop a policy where-by participants in the ICC Code Development Process sign a statement indicating their representation and funding when participating in the process. The IAC created a task group to study this issue. The task group is to be chaired by Jeff Shapiro and includes: Ron Nickson, Jake Pauls, Stan Smith and Ed Sutton.

The following is a draft of their recommendation to date, for which they are interested in receiving IAC feedback.

Canon of Ethics and Public Disclosure For Participants in the ICC Code Development Process

The process of developing codes and standards that protect life, health and property is a solemn responsibility of the highest order. The public's trust has been bestowed upon the International Code Council (ICC) to develop model codes and standards that are fair and impartial to any proprietary interest, and ICC fulfills this obligation by:

1. Advocating the development of codes and standards using a process that is open, balanced, fair and transparent, and
2. Charging individuals who are engaged in the development of ICC's codes and standards to adhere to the highest standards of ethical conduct.

To fulfill their obligation, participants in the ICC code development process shall place public welfare above all other interests; shall demonstrate integrity, honesty and fairness; and shall strive for excellence in all matters of ethical conduct. These principles shall be demonstrated in the development of codes and standards by:

1. As the submitter of a code change proposal, public comment or modification thereto, fully disclosing any personal financial interest, any financial interest being represented and/or any funding source that would stand to gain from the proposal, comment or modification,
2. As a participant at a public hearing, fully disclosing any personal financial interest, any financial interest being represented and/or any funding source that would stand to gain from the proposal, public comment or modification thereto being discussed. Such disclosure shall be made prior to offering testimony at any public hearing, and
3. For individuals representing a non-governmental entity, other than an association governed by and representing the interest of governmental employees, a statement must be filed with ICC prior to any public hearing where testimony will be offered describing the entity's funding source(s). Such disclosures shall be adequate to clearly convey the business interest of the entity and the entity's funding sources. ICC shall make such documents available for public review, and upon the request of any individual at a code development hearing, ICC staff shall read a requested disclosure into the public record.

In addition to the foregoing, individuals serving as voting representatives of an ICC Governmental Member jurisdiction shall:

1. Avoid any circumstance that could create the appearance of a conflict of interest or otherwise compromise professional integrity,
2. Abstain from testifying on any code change proposal, public comment or modification thereto in which he/she has either a personal financial or business interest unless such interest is clearly disclosed prior to offering testimony,
3. Abstain from voting on any code change that would provide a direct personal financial benefit.

4. Abstain from voting on any code change that would provide a direct financial benefit to an individual or company with which the voting representative has a business interest

In fulfillment of this canon, all registrants at ICC code development hearings shall be required to sign a copy of this document, acknowledging receipt and vowing to adhere to the principles and requirements conveyed herein as a condition of registration.

_____ do hereby acknowledge receiving a copy of the ICC Canon of Ethics and do hereby agree to comply with the principles and requirements therein conveyed.

Signature

Date