

## Pandemic Task Force

### Remote Operations Work Group

April 19, 2021

**Present:** Anthony Santiago, Elizabeth Bednarcik, John Catlett, Jonathan Wilson, Niki Lemin, Steve Jones, Doug Farquhar

**Absent:** Larry Lynch, Adil Tamimi, Tom Peterson

#### First Meeting of the Workgroup.

- Introductions
- ICC Codes Overview
- Mission Statement
- Goals of the Workgroup
- Product of the Workgroup

**Mission of the WG** – To identify policies and procedures to allow business and buildings to reopen/operate safely, to identify issues/solutions that can be implemented as code adoption changes as well as prior to code adoption changes, to modify codes to make buildings healthier for the occupant from threats caused by the pandemic or other health threats, to highlight successful policies that can be shared nationally. Codes should be the minimum standard.

**Goals of this WG:** The goal of this work group is to explore, identify and share those procedures/policies that make buildings (including residential and commercial, single and multifamily, public and private use) safe for occupants from the current and future health threats. Members should think of the health of people using the building, both the design and structure, to ensure buildings built to a specific code protect its occupants.

Specific policies may be applicable to certain codes based on building type or occupancy. Who will benefit from the adopted policies (code officials, design professionals, end users, the public, owners and operators?) Are the policies ones that can be implemented? In what circumstances?

**Products from this WG:** This workgroup is scheduled to meet monthly to learn about, discuss and share various policies that meet these goals. The result will be shared with the PTF for incorporation into a final document comprised of the work of all the work groups, and may be shared with jurisdictions for their adoption into a code or adopted in a specific ICC code.

#### Concepts for the WG to review:

- a. How can businesses and buildings open/operate safely?
- b. How to address inspections? They need to be manageable and reasonable.
- c. Identify/Lift Up Innovative and operational incentives to help businesses. Flag those that are successful. “Best Practices”
- d. Identify issues/solutions that can be put in place prior to code adoption changes
- e. Identify different stages and types of inspections that can be done virtually; such as property maintenance.
- f. What metrics are in place or can be developed to indicate success/failure in process/operations

- g. Who is going to benefit from decisions being made? Codes Officials? Design Professionals? End Users? Public? Owners/Operators?
- h. How to deal with different scenarios such as: New Construction, Change of Use, Alteration of existing spaces?
- i. Deal with the building and not the individual.
- j. Buildings are built for the ultimate health and safety of the occupant

#### Members of the task force had several comments:

- i. Do we need a public health person on this WG? It was suggested that the WG may differentiate itself by having a public health person speak to the group at one of its monthly meetings. Someone such as Dr. Jerome Paulson or Lindsay Mahr, U of VA
- ii. Pandemics v. COVID-19. This WG was initiated during the time of COVID-19, but the practices adopted will reflect making building healthy for occupants during pandemics, COVID or otherwise.
- iii. Codes should be the absolute minimum. A building code should represent the minimum of what how a building should be built and maintained. Options to make a building safer and more healthy can be suggested for a jurisdiction to adopt.
- iv. Best Practices. This WG should collect and review the best practices that make a building healthier for its occupants, such as ASHRAE's efforts or the NRA's guidelines for Restaurants. These Best Practices will be housed on the WG Web Portal
- v. What does remote operations mean? The WG was formed to address how the regulatory community will operate remotely, how to perform inspections and reviews without visiting the business or building. How many things are impacted by remote operations? Temporary structures? RVIs? Remote working in the time of COVID-19?
- vi. Does Remote Operations reflect the WG's mission and goal? The mission and goal are fluid, and may

#### Follow-up

- vii. Doug F. will set up a WG Teams Folder for the members to submit Best Practices and other documents.
- viii. The Third Monday at 11 am ET will be the reoccurring time for the monthly calls