

STATE FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE COUNCIL TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of the technical subcommittee reviewing the **2006 International Energy Conversation Construction Code** for adoption by New York State, held at the Albany office of the New York State Department of State, Albany, New York, on September 10, 2007.

APPEARANCES:

Gary Cassaro, member (by conference call)
Frank Champitto, member (by conference call)
George Christopher, member (by conference call)
Scott Copp, member (by conference call)
Michael DeWein, member (by conference call)
Mark Eggers, member (by conference call)
Scott Frank, member (by conference call)
Adam Hinge, member (by conference call)
John Jones, member (by conference call)
Michael McGowan, member (by conference call)
Deborah Taylor, member (by conference call)
Craig Connor, public (by conference call)
Jean Cox, public
Shirley Muns, public (by conference call)
Michael Burnetter, DOS
Joseph Hill, DOS, Committee Chairman

MEETING MINUTES:

Joseph Hill opened the meeting at approximately 9:30 A.M., there being a quorum of members present by conference call, with only one member not present. He reviewed the agenda, meeting schedule and housekeeping arrangements. The members were then introduced.

Joseph Hill asked for opinions of the eSolutions training site. None forthcoming, the topic of the Code comparison charts/base codes was opened to the floor for discussion.

Michael McGowan wanted clarification on Section 101.4.4.2, exception 5, particularly the requirement for re-insulating when sheathing is exposed during the re-roofing process. Michael explained that exposing the sheathing is a necessary step in re-roofing, and does not result in a loss of insulation. As such, re-insulating that area is not necessary and is cost prohibitive. Joseph Hill explained that in commercial construction the sheathing is often the insulation component of the roof system. It was agreed to revise the language to clarify this point. A proposal to change the wording from "where the sheathing or insulation is exposed" to "where the insulation is exposed" was brought up and was suggested to be submitted as a change for review.

Scott Frank had a question about Section 101.4.4.2, as well. In some projects, specifically commercial projects which only affect a single floor or section of a building, the 50% threshold at which compliance with the code becomes necessary is not passed. A proposal to change this wording was discussed, however, the 50% threshold is a part of the NYS Energy Law. Therefore, it was suggested that interested parties may want to consider the proposal of a Bill to the State Legislature to change the Energy Law Section 11-102 definition of "Substantial renovation" from fifty percent of any building, to fifty percent of any building floor was suggested.

Deborah Taylor asked about Section 104 in the 2006 IECC. Michael Burnetter stated that this section was removed by Steven Rocklin in the 2007 Code, but will be reinstated by DOS Staff to support the actions of the NYC Department of Buildings. Adam Hinge suggested an amendment to clarify this section.

Michael McGowan asked for clarification on section 402.2.3: Access Hatches and Doors. Michael mentioned a problem with the wording on this section, specifically "and insulated to a level equivalent to the insulation on the surrounding surfaces." Michael wanted to change the wording of this addition to read "equivalent to the prescriptive level required by the code for ceilings," as it is often not possible to include the same type of insulation above an access hatch as is used in surrounding sections of the ceiling (e.g., blown or sprayed in insulation). A proposal to this matter is forthcoming.

Scott Copp brought up the inclusion of conversions from fossil fuels to electric resistance heat into the code. These conversions are not addressed in the current code, except when they fall under the definition of "substantial alterations." A proposal will be considered by Mr. Copp to address this shortfall.

Scott Frank brought up a proposal to eliminate Chapter 5: Commercial Buildings entirely from the IECC, instead using ASHRAE 90.1 as the base standard for commercial buildings. This will be considered, and will be up for further discussion - subject to committee approval.

Mike DeWein requested that all Energy Code Technical Subcommittee members be provided with a hardcopy of The Energy Conservation Construction Code of New York State 2007. This request will be forwarded to DOS Code Development.

Three members of the Public were present for the meeting they were, Jean Cox of Carr Public affairs, Shirley Muns of Greenfiber, and Craig Connor of Building Quality. Craig has submitted drafts for three proposals for change in the Energy Code, those being

- 1) Add an option for a way of showing that an air handler is sealed. The requirement for sealing is already in the code. This just makes it workable.
- 2) Remove the artificial limits on fenestration trade offs. Doesn't change the main requirements. Removes a confusing section of the code.
- 3) Add a requirement for 50% of the residential lighting to be CFL or equivalent. This is remarkably cost-effective (2 year or less payback) and not very controversial. Also saves a lot of energy.

A schedule of future meetings was then set forth, and the meeting was adjourned around 12:00 PM.