

**STATE FIRE PREVENTION AND BUILDING CODE COUNCIL  
TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING**

**D R A F T**

Minutes of the meeting of the technical subcommittee reviewing the **2006 International Residential Code** for adoption by New York State held at the Department of State, 11th floor, 41 State Street, Albany, New York, on November 1, 2007.

Note: This subcommittee meeting was conducted with members participating via teleconference call.

**APPEARANCES:**

PRESENT: Julie Nemeth-Weisser (Chair)  
Kevin Ezell  
Kevin Kelly  
W. Roy Scott  
Richard Schunk  
Jeffrey Wilkinson

Brian Tollisen, DOS Senior Building Construction Engineer

**MEETING MINUTES:**

1. The chairman called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Roll was called, with members Ezell, Kelly, Schunk, Scott, and Wilkinson participating. There was a quorum of members present. Also participating was Brian Tollisen, DOS Senior Building Construction Engineer.
2. The minutes of the October 25, 2007, meeting, previously forwarded in draft form via e-mail to all members for review and comment, were approved with no additional comments. The approved minutes are to be posted on the Department of State website.
3. Richard Schunk expressed concern with the action of the subcommittee on item 33.1 at the last meeting. Item 33.1 proposed the removal of Part VIII (Chapters 33 through 42) of the 2006 International Residential Code (IRC) and its replacement with a reference to the National Fire Protection Association's NFPA 70-2008, the 2008 National Electrical Code® (NEC®). Mr. Schunk felt that the subcommittee's action conflicted with the "stand-alone" one-book premise of the IRC. Kevin Ezell was also concerned with New York State's substantial deviation from the IRC's language. The chairman reminded the subcommittee that the

New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code Council is ultimately responsible for the content of the Codes of New York State, and that any action of the subcommittee could be overturned by the Code Council.

#### **4. OLD BUSINESS**

The subcommittee resumed its review of the ballot (comparison) chart.

Items 3.2 through 3.6, regarding the NYS rearrangement, modification, and deletion of tables and figures pertaining to design criteria, were reviewed by the questioning subcommittee member and any disagreement was resolved.

In response to unresolved questions on Item 3.7, involving Section R301.2.1.2 of the 2006 IRC which now requires that glazed openings in wind-borne debris regions be protected by impact-resistant glass and removed the allowance to design buildings as "partially enclosed" in lieu of protected glazing, the chairman introduced Brian Tollisen, a member of the Building Code of New York State Technical Subcommittee. As discussed at the last meeting, the Building Code of New York State Technical Subcommittee approved the modification of exception 2 of Section 1609.1.2, restoring the allowance for unprotected openings in wind borne debris regions where the building is category I or II and is designed as open and partially enclosed in accordance with ASCE 7. Mr. Tollisen explained the basis of the requirement in both the Code and ASCE 7; the impact on construction and construction costs; and the practical effects of the Building Code Technical Subcommittee's modification. After some discussion, a motion was made to modify the language of Section R301.2.1.2 of the 2006 IRC to restore the allowance of designing buildings as partially enclosed in lieu of providing protected glazed openings. The motion passed unanimously.

Item 3.16, regarding the NYS modification Section R311.4.3 of the 2006 IRC for landings at doors, was reported on by Richard Schunk. In addition to changes necessary to provide uniformity with the NYS modification of maximum riser height, it was proposed that the exception to the requirement to provide a landing on the exterior side of a door where there is a stairway of two or fewer risers be changed to where there are three or fewer risers. The subcommittee considered the effect of the proposed change on typical construction practices, and handrail and guard requirements. A motion was made to accept the proposal to modify the exception to apply to stairways with three or fewer risers. The subcommittee vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Item 3.19, regarding the NYS modifications to Section R313 to include carbon monoxide alarms and sprinklers, was discussed and the disagreement resolved.

Item 3.22, regarding the NYS modifications to Section R324 for flood resistant design, was discussed and the disagreement resolved.

Item 4.4, regarding the NYS modification to Section 403.1.5 to include stepped footings and NYS Figure R403.1.5 for stepped footings, was discussed. At issue were the dimensions cited in Figure R403.1.5 as “minimums” and “maximums” and their source. Some dimensions conflict with the typical modular dimensions of both concrete masonry units and forms for cast-in-place concrete. A motion was made to retain the language of Section R403.1.5 of the 2006 IRC and to delete NYS Figure R403.1.5. The subcommittee vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Item 4.65, regarding Section R404.1 for concrete and masonry foundation walls, was discussed. Mr. Schunk stated the extensive rewriting and new requirements of the section in the 2006 IRC were the subject of substantial changes in the 2007 Supplement to the IRC. As an example, Mr. Schunk pointed out the significantly decreased anchor bolt spacing specified by Table R404.1(2). The subcommittee was concerned about the impact of Section R404.1, and Mr. Schunk volunteered to provide the subcommittee with the supplement changes. The item was tabled for consideration at the next meeting.

Item 4.8, regarding Section R404.5 a new requirement for retaining walls not laterally supported at the top and retaining greater than 24 inches of unbalanced fill, was discussed. A motion was made to amend the language of Section R404.5 of the 2006 IRC to increase the wall height to 48 inches, and the vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Item 5.2, regarding new Section R506.2.4, which requires the support of reinforcement to maintain a specified location in a slab, was discussed and the disagreement resolved.

Item 6.10, regarding new Section R613.2, which requires a minimum 24-inch window sill height above a finished floor where the distance to grade outside the window is 72 inches or greater with some allowances and exceptions, was an item of concern to several subcommittee members. While the subcommittee understood the intent of the section - to reduce accidental falls by children out windows, they did not believe the requirement would solve the problem. A motion was made to delete Section R613.2 in its entirety. The motion passed unanimously.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

The chairman introduced the three code change proposals submitted by Jim Vogt on behalf of the Wood Truss Council of America (WTCA) and directed the subcommittee to the table of code change proposals at the end of the ballot (comparison) chart.

Item CCP1.1 proposes a new Section R104.11.3 addressing rejected approvals of alternative materials, designs or methods of construction by code enforcement

officials. It was noted in the subcommittee's discussion that similar administrative requirements are deleted from Chapter 1 of the International Codes as part of the state's modifications since Title 19 NYCRR, Chapter XXXII, Part 1203, the regulation for the administration and enforcement of the Code supersedes them. A motion was made not to accept CCP1.1 and the vote was unanimous.

Item CCP1.2 proposes an amendment of the language of Section R105.3.1 addressing action on building permit applications by code enforcement officials. For the same reason as CCP1.1, a motion was made not to accept the proposal and the vote was unanimous.

Item CCP2.1 proposes a new definition be included in Chapter 2 for "Building designer." As New York State education law addresses registered design professionals and the design of buildings; and because it was felt the term "building designer" was clear in its intent in the Code without a definition, a motion was made not to accept the proposal and the vote was unanimous.

Items CCP2.2 through CCP 2.11 proposed new definitions for inclusion in Chapter 2. Several subcommittee members expressed concern that the intent of the proposals was to duplicate in the RCNYS terms from the Truss Plate Institute's (TPI) standard. It was noted that many standards cited by the Code contain definitions not found in the Code and that those omissions have not created any problems. The proposed definitions also appeared to have limited application in the Code. A motion was made not to accept Items CCP2.2 through CCP 2.11 and the vote was unanimous.

Item CCP3.1 proposes an update of the 2002 edition year of the TPI standard TPI 1, *National Design Standard for Metal-plate-connected Wood Truss Construction*, cited in Chapter 43 to the more current 2007 edition. The subcommittee agreed that the most current version of TPI 1 should be cited in Chapter 43 and a motion was made to accept the proposal. The vote to accept CCP3.1 was unanimous.

## **5. OPEN BUSINESS:**

At this time there were no public visitors, nor any additional written or submitted documents to consider.

The subcommittee adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting will be on November 8, 2007, from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the 11th floor conference room at 41 State Street, Albany. The public and those subcommittee members

located are invited to attend. Those that cannot attend in person may participate via teleconference.