

**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 October 11, 2007.

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

APPEARANCES:

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

MEETING MINUTES:

1. The chairman called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Members Carparelli, Ezell, Kelly, Moniz, Scott, Schunk, and Wilkinson participated via teleconference call. There was a quorum of members present.
2. The first business conducted was administrative. The minutes of the September 6, 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. The ballot (comparison) chart was discussed. The chart is to be updated to include additional items for review suggested by subcommittee members and to address errors in the *2007 Residential Code of New York State (2007 RCNYS)*.
4. The use of the eSolutions website and annotations were briefly covered.
5. The submission of code change proposals, from subcommittee members and outside interested parties, necessary accompanying documentation, and the October 15 deadline, were reviewed.

6. The question was raised again as to the lack of several 2006 IRC appendices on the ballot chart. The chairman remains unsure of the process of adopting an appendix or deleting a previously adopted appendix, but will inform the subcommittee at the next meeting.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**

The technical subcommittee began reviewing those items on the ballot chart indicated by members as being disagreed with.

Item 2.1, regarding Section R201.3, was discussed and the disagreement resolved.

Item 2.2, regarding the definition of “accessory structure,” was discussed and it was suggested that a definition for “floor area” should be included in the 2007 RCNYS. The definition of floor area from the Building Code of New York State will be included in the ballot chart for the subcommittee’s review.

Item 2.3, regarding the NYS modification of the definition of “addition,” was discussed and the disagreement resolved.

Item 2.4, regarding the NYS modification of the definition of “alteration,” was discussed and the disagreement resolved.

Item 2.6, regarding the NYS modification of the definition of “exterior wall,” was discussed. A motion was made to accept the language of the *2006 International Residential Code* (2006 IRC) as written, and the subcommittee vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Item 2.7, regarding the NYS deletion of the definition of “precast concrete,” was discussed. A motion was made to accept the language of the 2006 IRC as written, and the subcommittee vote to approve the motion was unanimous.

Item 3.1, regarding Section R301.2.1.1 of the 2006 IRC which decreased the prescriptive Code provision use limitation to 100 mph in hurricane-prone regions, was discussed. A subcommittee member expressed concern that the true impact of the change was difficult to judge. The other subcommittee members agreed. The chairman volunteered to research the change further and to report back to the subcommittee.

Items 3.2 through 3.6, regarding the NYS rearrangement, modification, and deletion of tables and figures pertaining to design criteria, were questioned by a subcommittee member as to the necessity of such actions. The questioning member offered to review the NYS changes more closely to determine if all were still necessary and to report back to the subcommittee.

Item 3.7, regarding Section R301.2.1.2 of the 2006 IRC which removed the allowance to design buildings as "partially enclosed" in lieu of protecting openings and which also made wood panel opening protection more specific/restrictive, were discussed. In that the impact of this change is also difficult to judge, the chairman volunteered to research it further and to report back to the subcommittee.

Item 3.8, regarding Section R302.1 and Table R302.1 for exterior wall locations in the 2006 IRC which increased fire separation distance requirements and the NYS deletion of exception 1, were discussed. Talk centered around whether or not the NYS deletion should be continued. A motion was made to accept the language of Section R302.1 exception 1 of the 2006 IRC as written, and the subcommittee vote to accept the motion was unanimous.

Item 3.12, regarding the requirements for, and the NYS modification of, Section R305.1 for ceiling height, were discussed at length. At issue was whether maintaining the historical NYS requirement for a minimum habitable space ceiling height of 7 feet 6 inches, rather than the 2006 IRC minimum of 7 feet, could continue to be justified. A motion was made to accept the language of Section R305.1 of the 2006 IRC as written, allowing a minimum ceiling height of 7 feet. The motion passed with one subcommittee member dissenting.

Item 3.13, regarding the NYS modification of Section R309.2 for fire-resistant separations between attached garages and residences, was discussed at length. The discussion centered on if maintaining the historical NYS modification could be justified - statistically or through other data. A motion was made to accept the language of Section R309.2 of the 2006 IRC as written. The motion failed, with three members voting for the motion and four voting against.

Item 3.14, regarding Section R310.1 of the 2006 IRC which now requires all basements now required to have emergency escape and rescue openings, was discussed at length. A motion was made to amend/modify the language of Section R310.1 so that emergency escape rescue opening windows are only required in basements with habitable space. The motion passed, with five members voting for the motion and two voting against.

Item 3.16, regarding the NYS modification Section R311.4.3 of the 2006 IRC for landings at doors, was discussed. The applicability of the section was also discussed. A subcommittee member volunteered to re-review the section's requirements, applicability, and to draft new language if necessary.

5. OPEN BUSINESS:

There were no public visitors, nor any written or submitted documents to consider.

The subcommittee adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting will be via teleconference call on October 25, 2007, at 10:00 a.m. with the phone set up at the 11th floor conference room at 41 State Street, Albany. The public and those subcommittee members located nearby are invited to attend. Those members that cannot attend in person will phone in to participate