



Working toward the future

NRCA advocates for the roofing industry during the 2021 I-Codes hearings

by Mark S. Graham

From Oct. 23 to 30, NRCA participated in the International Code Council®'s 2019 Group B Public Comment Hearings in Clark County, Nev., to develop the 2021 I-Codes. Following is a brief explanation of ICC's code development process and some of the roofing-related code changes being considered.

The process

ICC develops and publishes its 15 model codes on a three-year cycle. The 2018 editions of the I-Codes were published in 2017. The next editions, which are being developed, will be published as the 2021 I-Codes.

ICC divides the process for updating its model codes into two groups: Group A and Group B. Group A code changes were considered in 2018, and Group B changes are being considered this year. Development of some I-Codes falls within a specific group while development of others—such as the International Building Code®—occurs in both groups.

The roofing-related requirements in the IBC, those specifically in Chapter 15-Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures, are assigned



to Groups A and B. IBC's Structural Code Development Committee, which is part of Group B, primarily is responsible for Chapter 15's content. However, IBC's fire safety, general and plumbing committees are responsible for specific portions of Chapter 15, which are in Group A.

Similarly, portions of the International Residential Code® for One- and Two-family Dwellings also are assigned to both groups. IRC's Chapter 9-Roof Assemblies is assigned to Group B.

The International Energy Conservation Code® is assigned to Group B.

Code change proposals for consideration in Group B were

due Jan. 7. Initial ICC committee recommendations regarding 1,325 of Group B's code proposals took place during ICC's 2019 Group B Committee Action Hearings held April 28-May 8 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Public comments

Items brought forth at the Group B Public Comment Hearings were open to public comments. Public comments were received for 415 of the Group B code change proposals. The remaining 910 proposals not receiving public comments were placed on a consent agenda and voted on by ICC's governmental voting members (code officials) en masse.

NRCA submitted one Group B public

comment, which attempted to overturn the committee's recommendation for disapproval on Code Change CE256-19. NRCA had submitted this code change proposal to add clarifying

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language to the IECC addressing situations in roof system replacement projects where adding additional above-deck roof insulation may not be feasible because of rooftop conditions (flashing heights, rooftop equipment, door openings, wall conditions, etc.). NRCA had submitted a similar code change proposal, Code Change RE217-19 to IRC, which the committee had recommended for approval as modified. NRCA's public comment on Code Change CE256-19 attempted to correlate with RE217-19 for consistency between IECC and IRC.

ICC's governmental voting members disapproved NRCA's public comment on Code Change CE256-19, sustaining the committee's recommendation for disapproval.

During the public comment hearings,

NRCA also provided testimony on a number of roofing-related public comments submitted by others. For example, the

Polyisocyanurate Insulation Manufacturers Association requested the committee's recommendation on NRCA's Code Change RE217-19

be overturned. PIMA's public comment was successful despite NRCA's opposition; ICC's governmental voting members disapproved RE217-19.

Also, SPRI submitted a public comment requesting the committee's recommendation to disapprove Code Change S17-19 be overturned. This code change proposal originally was submitted by SPRI to add ANSI/SPRI GT-1, "Test Standard for Gutter Systems," to the IBC. Despite NRCA's opposition, SPRI's public comment was successful; ICC's governmental voting members overturned the committee's action and approved S17-19.

What's next

Final action on Group B code change proposals takes place through ICC's online governmental consensus vote, which was held Nov. 18-Dec. 5. Code change proposals approved during this final action vote—along with those approved during 2018's Group A—will be published in the 2021 I-Codes.

ICC intends to publish the 2021 I-Codes in mid- to late-2020 with an intention that initial adoptions will begin in 2021.

Once the 2021 I-Codes are published, NRCA will provide a complete overview of all the roofing-related changes. 🌱🌱🌱

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For more about this topic, see "Planning ahead," July 2019 issue, page 20.

ASTM International to hold symposium in Houston

ASTM International will hold its Ninth Symposium on Roofing Research and Standards Development Dec. 8 in Houston. Sponsored by ASTM Committee D08 on Roofing and Waterproofing, the symposium will be held in conjunction with the committee's December standards development meetings.

The symposium provides a forum for contributing to the fundamental understanding of



acceptable roof performance with an emphasis on current research and development work. The influence of laboratory and field

investigations in the development of standards for roofing and waterproofing systems and materials will be highlighted.

The symposium also will address topics describing research and standards development for low- and steep-slope roof systems, including roof system durability and service life prediction; roofing in an era of sustainability and resiliency; synthetic single-ply roof systems; metal roof systems; advances in waterproofing; and air and moisture movement in roof systems, among other topics.

Additional information about the symposium is available at www.astm.org/symposia/future_dates.html.

Contractors struggle to implement technology

As technology use increases in the construction industry, contractors are struggling with how to implement innovations to ensure productivity and profitability.

JBKnowledge's 2019 Technology in Preconstruction Report says contractors not only have to find and justify an IT budget but also must research, test and implement new technology to try to stay current.

The report received insights from about 3,000 construction professionals. Nearly half (42.5%) identify as subcontractors; 36.7% identify as general contractors/construction managers; and 28.3% work in an estimating or preconstruction management role. Most of the firms represented have been in business more than 50 years, have 201-500 employees on average and primarily are focused on commercial building projects.

The report found job titles growing in popularity and importance include chief innovation officers, chief data officers, preconstruction technology managers, building

information modeling-virtual design and construction coordinators and managers, and data analysts.

Key findings from the report include:

- Most contractors report using custom forms that can be built out and integrated with bid management, accounting and enterprise resource planning solutions to qualify and select subcontractors.
- Only 38.7% of respondents report using dedicated takeoff software as an alternative to spreadsheets.
- Nearly two-thirds of respondents report still using spreadsheets in their estimating processes.
- No single estimating tool was found to be used by more than 18% of respondents.
- Nearly 50% of respondents report using DropBox, with most relying on separate document management solutions, which are integrated into company-wide workflows.



To read how technology is reshaping the construction industry, go to www.professionalroofing.net.

The report also found contractors need mobile and accurate tech tools to remain competitive. In addition, construction firms must add new roles to support data optimization or be willing to educate current staff.

MCA releases new metal flashings test standard

On Oct. 3, the Metal Construction Association released ANSI/MCA FTS-1-2019, "Test Method for Wind Load Resistance of Flashings Used with Metal Roof Systems," a new standard for testing the performance of metal flashings used with metal roof systems.

Properly designed and installed metal roof systems can withstand high winds, but when metal roof system failure does occur, flashing failure commonly is a contributing factor. MCA launched an initiative to investigate flashing failures on metal roof systems and create a standard to help prevent future occurrences.

"The locations of these flashings are where the highest wind uplift pressures occur, so it's critical they're designed, manufactured and installed to resist those higher wind pressures," says Bob LeClare, director of perimeter edge metal business for ATAS International Inc., Allentown, Pa.

ANSI/MCA FTS-1-2019 has four sections: test apparatus, test specimen, loading procedure and test report. The standard is available to specifiers and manufacturers of metal roof systems to help assure proper performance of edge flashings used with metal roof systems. ANSI/MCA FTS-1-2019 is available on MCA's website, www.metalconstruction.org.

