IBC update

by **Mark S. Graham**

In March 2000, a new model building code, the *International Building Code, 2000 Edition* (IBC), was published. Now, some individual building code jurisdictions, such as states, counties and municipal governments, have begun adopting IBC as the technical basis for their building codes. As a result, you should be aware whether your local building code jurisdiction has adopted or intends to adopt IBC.

IBC

IBC is published by the International Code Council (ICC), which is composed of the three previous U.S. model building code groups: Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA) Inc., International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI) Inc.

IBC is intended to replace BOCA's *The BOCA National Building Code*, ICBO's *Uniform Building Code* and SBCCI's *Standard Building Code* and provide one model building code that applies throughout the United States and possibly internationally.

As it applies to roofing, IBC likely is the most stringent of the current model building codes. IBC contains specific requirements for the design, materials, construction and quality of roof assemblies and rooftop structures. (Additional information regarding IBC's roofing-related provisions can be found in "New building code offers unified standards," March 2000 issue, page 44.)

Code adoption

Code jurisdictions typically adopt model building codes by enacting ordinances though some jurisdictions develop and maintain their own building codes. The code adoption process usually involves a drafting or development process, public hearings, rulemaking and an implementation period.

Adoption status	States
Currently effective	Alaska, Massachusetts, Michigan, Rhode Island, South Carolina and South Dakota
Effective January 2002	Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio and Utah
Effective after January 2002	Idaho, West Virginia and Wisconsin
Adoption being considered	Arkansas, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Missouri, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Oklahoma, Oregon, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia

IBC's adoption status.

NRCA is aware of several states that have adopted IBC and a number of other states that are in the adoption process. A summary of states adopting IBC is provided in the figure.

Several counties and municipalities in states without mandated statewide building codes also have adopted IBC. These include specific individual counties or cities in Alabama, Arizona, Colorado, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Missouri, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Texas.

Consolidation

BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI have begun discussing consolidating their individual organizations and merging into ICC. Specific merger resolutions were considered at each of the three groups' annual business meetings in October.

At press time, it is anticipated a merger plan will be delivered to the groups' members for a vote at their Joint Annual Conference in Fort Worth, Texas, Sept. 29-Oct. 3, 2002. January 2003 has been set as the projected target date for completing the merger into ICC.

Merging BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI into ICC is expected to significantly broaden IBC's adoption.

Closing thoughts

I encourage roofing professionals to be knowledgeable of specific codes that apply in the areas they work and whether their code jurisdictions intend to revise their codes or adopt new codes. The information should be available from specific code jurisdictions.

Also, NRCA recently released *The NRCA Building Codes Manual*, which provides detailed information regarding individual code jurisdictions' adoption of building codes and specific information regarding code compliance for various roof system types. The manual is available from NRCA InfoExpress by calling (866) ASK-NRCA (275-6722); faxing (847) 299-1183; or accessing NRCA's Web site, www.nrca.net.

Mark S. Graham is NRCA's associate executive director of technical services.

