



Codes and Standards Update – 9/11/2019 (Revised 9/25/19)

ICC Group B Code Development Update

The International Code Council (ICC) has been busy this year reviewing Group B code change proposals for the 2021 edition of the International Codes (I-Codes). Group B codes include the International Residential Code (IRC), International Building Code (IBC), and International Energy Conservation Code (IECC).

The ICC's Committee Action Hearings were held in Albuquerque, NM this past spring. Committees to these respective codes reviewed hundreds of proposals and made determinations about whether to approve (as submitted or as modified) or disapprove each proposal that was heard.

The public comment period for determinations made during the hearings was held in June/July and those comments were made available September 4th. All public comments received will be discussed at the Public Comment Hearings the end of October in Las Vegas, NV. This will be the final round of ICC hearings and voting before online voting is held and final determinations are reached on all proposals submitted for the 2019 Group B cycle.

Some industry-related proposals worth noting:

- A proposal (S108-19) submitted by the American Architectural Manufacturer's Association (AAMA) to the IBC (International Building Code) that modifies the section of the code that relates to design pressure ratings for window and door assemblies was approved at the Committee Action Hearings (CAH). The proposal modifies the Exception in Section 1709.5 allowing for accepted engineering analysis to be used for smaller and larger units than the originally tested unit without having to test the smaller or larger size as long as a) the components of the assembly are the same as the originally tested unit and b) the analysis is conducted pursuant to AAMA 2502-19, a new referenced standard to the IBC.
- There were several proposals submitted to the IECC (International Energy Conservation Code) that addressed improving the U-factor (particularly) and SHGC performance requirements of windows and doors in certain climate zones.

- Of specific note was a joint proposal submitted by the Glazing Industry Code Committee, the Aluminum Extruders Council, AAMA, and WDMA, (CE84-19), which seeks to bring consistency between the fenestration thermal performance requirements of the IECC and the 2019 edition of the ASHRAE 90.1 standard. This proposal was approved during the CAH.
- There were two proposals submitted by the Metropolitan Kansas City Chapter of the ICC seeking to add a whole new section to the IRC (International Residential Code) (RB161-19) or in lieu of a whole new section, a new appendix (RB300-19) which would establish minimum physical security requirements for all exterior doors of residential dwelling units and attached garages, including doors that lead from the garage to the dwelling unit itself.
 - Neither of these proposals were approved during the CAH; however, the IRC Committee applauded the proponents time and effort. The committee indicated that the proposal should be an appendix chapter as it is outside the scope of the IRC. The language in the proposals are probably more suited to urban environments and may not be appropriate for all areas of the country.
 - The proponents of these proposals have brought forth public comments modifying the proposals based on the committee's action.

For additional information please contact **Jessica Ferris**, Director of Codes and Standards.

You can also visit the ICC website for code development at <https://www.iccsafe.org/products-and-services/i-codes/code-development-process/2019-group-b/>