

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE (FORMERLY WOODWORDS)

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Engineering Review Committee Update

International Code Council & TPI Update" by Rachel Smith

The Engineering Review Committee met on June 7 in St. Louis, Missouri. Two of the key topics of discussion were the International Code Council and updates on TPI documents.

INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL

WTCA submitted several ICC code change proposals last November that were voted on in April 2000. The proposal requesting "and delivery" to be removed from third party inspection requirements in the International Building Code was disapproved. This item is one that we thought had a chance to be approved. The building departments are under the impression that ANSI/TPI 1 somehow provides quality control on the trusses beyond just the manufacturing process. The provision in the code is flawed, but they feel it provides some sort of assurance that the trusses are being delivered properly. Unfortunately this is not correct, yet they still want the provision to remain. The process of getting this amended in future versions is very difficult and could take a long time. The ERC decided to create an interpretation of this provision that harmonizes with both ANSI/TPI 1 and ANSI/WTCA/TPI 4.

Another disapproved code change proposal to the IBC was sealed truss design drawings only where required. This was combined with a separate proposal to clarify the definition of truss design drawings. The sealed truss design drawings provision is one on which the ICC is adamant about disapproving and is unlikely to be approved in subsequent hearings. The committee also discussed this item at length. It is very similar to a proposal that was submitted last year and was disapproved for the IBC and approved at the IRC. There were parts of this proposal the committee liked and others that they did not. The main item, which brought this proposal to a disapproval vote, was the provision that only required the truss designs to be prepared by a registered engineer "when required by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed." The committee still does not like this wording although we feel it really addresses their concerns. The definition clarification is not necessarily objectionable but since it was on the same ballot, it was disapproved as well. The ERC asked staff to submit a proposal to clean up the definitions for the next cycle of code hearings in November 2000.

The Gypsum Association proposed a change that would to add a layer of drywall to one-hour rated roof truss assemblies. This was one that all of us (WTCA, AF&PA and TPI) were watching closely. Fortunately, it was disapproved.

Proposals for the addition of truss alteration warnings in the International Mechanical, Plumbing and Fuel Gas Codes were successfully approved. Copies of all the code changes and the detailed explanations can be obtained by contacting WTCA staff.

Finally, we wish to give a special thank you to AF&PA and TPI staff for their work in assisting us with this code change process. The team approach on these issues helped us with our successes in this very challenging activity.

TPI UPDATE

ANSI/TPI 1-2000: Draft 2 recently finished a 60-day public review cycle of open sections. It is expected that there will be more substantive changes after this, followed by a draft 3 cycle for another 60 days.

ANSI/TPI/WTCA 4-2000: The revision cycle for this standard is about a month behind TPI 1. There is a definite emphasis on harmonizing the two documents.

ANSI/TPI 2-2001 Announcement: TPI made the announcement in February for applications for committee membership. The first public review and Draft 1 will be ready by October/November 2000.

ANSI/TPI 3-200x: This committee was started several years ago to revise the Design of Structural Bracing (DSB) into a consensus standard but fell into inactivity. The committee has been reactivated upon request of the TPI Board. This was originally planned as a temporary bracing standard but has been expanded to also include permanent bracing. Until there is a better timeline estimate for completion of this standard, it is being called ANSI/TPI 3-200x.

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