

ITEM 17 of Sept 22 Conference Call

From: Kimberly Paarlberg
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2005 4:38 PM
To: Tom Frost
Subject: lobbies and hardened elevators

Code changes -

There were multiple proposals for elevator lobbies submitted to Chapter 7, specifically Section 707.14 (FS37-04/05 through FS52-04/05). Of these, the most significant was **FS 52-04/05, Code Sections 707.14.1 and 707.14.2**. This code change proposal adds a pressurization alternative to elevator lobbies. The pressurization requirements are given in specific detail, with additional requirements for standby power and activation of the system.

There is however a potential conflict/concern between lobby requirements in Section 707.14 and with what was approved as **E22-04/05, Section 1007, Accessible Means of Egress**. Members voted in Detroit to delete the exceptions for areas of refuge in sprinklered buildings. Areas of refuge are now required in all building at enclosed exit stairways and elevators that serve as part of the accessible means of egress. Areas of refuge will not be required at open exit stairways or within open parking garages. The refuge areas provided by horizontal exits, most typically used in hospitals or jails, is an option instead of the small area of refuge. If this option is chosen, the horizontal exit must be provided on all floors of a building in accordance with Section 1021. A concern will be how this provision will work with the elevator lobby provisions in Chapter 7.

Elevator meetings -

From March 2 through 4, 2004 the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) sponsored a symposium on emergency use of elevators in Atlanta, Georgia. Fellow sponsors of the event were the International Code Council (ICC), the National Institute of Standards and Technologies (NIST), the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), the U.S. Access Board, and the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF). Authors who presented papers were from all over the world, including the United States, Canada, Japan, Europe and Australia. The 120 participants included fire fighters, elevator manufacturers, and representatives from the design and construction industries.

The workshop focused on two general topics:

- 1) Use of Elevators by Fire Fighters
- 2) Use of Elevators by Occupants During Emergencies

The three day symposium was broken into two parts. For the first part, papers were presented that dealt with the utilization of elevators by fire fighters or other emergency personnel. The participants then broke up into discussion groups. Each group discussed issues, goals and possible objectives to achieve those goals. The facilitator for each group then presented the teams conclusions to the meeting as a whole. The second part

was basically a repeat of the first part, except that the papers focused on the use of elevators by the general building occupants during emergencies. To review the papers or the power points created for each group discussion, go to ASME's website at www.asme.org/cns/elevators.

There have been four follow up meetings in Boston, MA, on October 12-14, 2004, February 23-25, 2005, May 24-26, 2005 and Sept. 7-9, 2005. Staff participation for ICC included Beth Tubbs, Mel Cosgrove and Kimberly Paarlberg. At the first meeting, there was discussion and finalization of the recommendations that came from the original task groups. Each task group discussed priority levels for each recommendation.

In the subsequent meeting the task groups worked on development of hazard assessment for the recommendations. A power point presentation was given to explain a hazard analysis to the committee and included the following: A hazard is a potential source or harm. A hazard assessment is a systematic process for identifying and reducing potential causes of harm. The assessment is a tool to develop essential safety requirements and prescriptive code requirements. The assessment identifies hazards, cause/trigger and incident/effect. Part of the process is for the team to decide, based on experience, whether a particular hazard should be further mitigated and when it has been sufficiently mitigated. If the hazard has not been sufficiently mitigated, any corrective actions and residual hazards are determined. This process is ongoing. A completion date is not know at this time.

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Hazard Abatement of Existing Buildings Code Drafting Committee (HAEB) Scope and Objectives (tentative)

Committee Scope:

The scope of this committee activity is to create a single source of code requirements for all disciplines, through a compilation of current provisions in the I-Codes which address hazards such as those from fire as well as the development of new requirements relative to issues such as hazardous conditions due to structural, means of egress, fire safety components & systems, plumbing, electrical, environmental, and mechanical issues. These code requirements are to be used by building owners and registered design professionals to bring their existing building and premises up to minimum standards and by enforcing agencies when performing inspections of existing buildings and premises and processing orders for repair, vacation or demolition of existing buildings and premises in order to abate the hazard that exists.

Committee Objective:

The purpose of this committee is to review the technical provisions in the International Codes and other related documents, such as from individual states or cities, or federal governments in order to create a comprehensive set of code requirements to address hazard abatement of existing premises and buildings. This includes the identification of provisions which may be viewed as technically unjustifiable or an obstacle to adoption. The review also includes the relationship between these newly developed code requirements and the other I-Codes.

Product:

The timeline for this activity is to develop the draft code requirements and a comprehensive package of coordinating code changes for the 2006/2007 Cycle (code change deadline tentatively set for March 24, 2006).

Committee structure:

4 General Interest (regulators)
2 Users/Producers