

**International Code Council
Consensus Committee on Log Structures
(IS-LOG)**

Meeting Minutes

Conference Call, Friday, October 24th, 2003, 1:30 p.m. Central Standard Time

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

B. Introduction of Attendees

A roll call was conducted in which members and friends of the committee were acknowledged and recognized. The following people were in attendance for the telephone conference:

Members Present

Principal Representative:

Mr. Ed Burke (U)
Mr. Randy Kaatz (U)
Mr. Rob Pickett (P)
Mr. Buddy Showalter (P)
Mr. Craig Springe (G)
Mr. Mark Stimac (G)

Representing:

University of Montana
American Institute of Building Design
Log Homes Council, NAHB
American Forest & Paper Association
International Code Council
International Code Council

Alternates

Mr. Joseph Folker - Alternate
Mr. Jerry Wait - Alternate

Log Homes Council, NAHB
International Log Builders Association

Members Absent:

Mrs. Elyse Levy S.E. (U)
Ms. Anne Marie Long (G)
Mr. Robert Savignac (P)
Mr. David Tyree (Alternate P)

Herself
International Code Council
International Log Builders Association
American Forest and Paper Association

Staff

Mr. Marc Nard, Secretary

International Code Council

Guests

Mr. Mark Hope
Mr. Bob Warren

Timber Products Inspection, Inc.
LBI-Log Building Industry, BC

Rob Pickett asked about an update on Mark Hope's committee application. At the time of the meeting the status remained unknown. Rob asked Marc Nard to look into the status of the application and report back to the committee.

(Note: Immediately after the meeting Marc Nard contacted Larry Brown and found out that Mark Hope's application was received and will be considered by the Standards Council at their next meeting in 6-8 weeks.)

C. Review and Approval of the Agenda

There was a motion for approval of agenda by Mark Stimac which was then seconded by Ed Burke. The committee voted unanimously to approve the agenda.

D. Approval of August 14th Meeting Minutes

A motion for approval of the August 14th meeting minutes was made Mark Stimac and seconded by Joe Folker. The committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes as posted on the web site with no changes.

II. LOG/LOG WALL DEFINITION

Chairman Pickett started the discussion by asking how the definition might be broken down. He suggested that we start with a definition of **log wall** and then differentiate between the words log and sawn timber. Begin with the idea of defining what log construction is and then break it down into the various sub- categories. Mark Stimac voiced some concern that this might cause the committee to deviate from the charge given to it by the ICC Board. In checking the scope as presented to ANSI it reads,

“The Consensus Committee (CC) on Log Structures (IS-LOG) shall have primary responsibility for minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through design, construction, and installation requirements for log and heavy timber structures. The requirements contained in the International Codes pertaining to these situations shall be incorporated into the standards developed by the IS-LOG CC.”

Therefore, in considering heavy timber as it specifically applies to log structures it would not seem to deviate from the charge given to the ICC committee by the ICC.

Randy Katz asked about the applicability of a facade constructed with logs, log siding or perhaps a situation where the siding is not necessarily lapped. One might end up with a situation where log builders would be putting up log siding.

Craig Springe suggested that the committee define the term siding. Mark Stimac asked if the current code requirements might already address siding made up of stacked whole logs. Craig answered in saying that we should definitely include log in-fill walls. Rob Pickett added that our main focus should be on solid wood load bearing walls either internal or external. Another committee member offered that this could be broken down to horizontal, vertical or both types of applications. There was some discussion about perhaps renaming the standard from IS-LOG since we deal with far more than simply round timbers. The dove tail and milled log companies need to be included in the standard as well. Someone then voiced an opinion that the definition should still be limited to load bearing applications. Mark Hope said that today we have all of these systems working together and therefore we should not exclude heavy timber applications from consideration.

Mark Stimac voiced some concern here about perhaps writing some language that might conflict with the existing heavy timber manuals.

Jerry Waite suggested at this point that the definition of log needed to encompass handcrafters and other folks that are involved with it. Buddy Showalter added that he would be a little hesitant to wade into the heavy timber area and felt that current standards tended to cover heavy timber already. For example, the 2001 ASD manuals have span tables for heavy timber. Mark Stimac countered that it comes back to what was the charge of the committee.

Mark Hope indicated that the table Buddy Showalter referred to was for graded logs. He felt that most log home builders were currently using site-cut non-graded logs, citing that only the members of the two accredited grading agencies for logs are properly grading timbers for log structures. Randy Katz offered that in the northwest they have Timber Products Inspection. This deals with knot size and spirals and other facets of the grading process. Rob Pickett explained that the grading process that they use is similar to other grading processes (based on ASTM D3957 and procedures under the ALSC - American Lumber Standards Committee) in which log grading is certified by a 3rd party inspection system. Mark Stimac asked if the grading process applied to rectangular sections as well as round logs. Mark Hope answered that they apply to both.

There was significant discussion about design stress value and span table development for logs. It was proposed that if the two primary grading agencies (Timber Products Inspection and the Log Homes Council Grading Program) could be involved, the committee could then integrate a design stress table into the standard. Buddy asked about the possibility of codifying this into the NDS supplement. The committee felt that as long as the design stress values are derived by ASTM D3957, the values could go into the supplement. Mark Hope indicated that TPI would be willing to submit their design stress values to AF&PA for inclusion in the NDS. Rob Pickett committed to presenting this idea to the Log Homes Council.

(At the Log Homes Council meetings, Nov. 1-5, Hot Springs, Virginia, the request to release the Grading Program design stress values and grading criteria to AF&PA for inclusion in the NDS was approved.)

Rob Pickett volunteered to bring the subject back up at the next meeting.

After some more lengthy discussion on the various points of focus for definition of log it was decided that everyone should compose and then submit a draft definition to Rob Pickett prior to the end of October.

III. DEVELOPMENT OF STANDARD ON LOG STRUCTURES

There was discussion about what format the IS-LOG Standard would take. It had been suggested that the format used by AF&PA for the Wood Frame Construction Manual (WFCM) and the CSA (Canadian Standards) be followed. The WFCM provides a prescribed and performance/engineered approach while the CSA sets standards that will allow adoption of IS-LOG by the Canadian code bodies. Craig Springe felt that the CSA format might be a little too intricate which would then require a great deal more work to develop into this type of format. Another member voiced support for the WFCM format saying that it had some excellent detail. There was a motion to work with both formats by Mark Hope that was seconded by Mark Stimac. The committee agreed and voted unanimously to utilize both formats.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

A. Schedule Next Meeting

It was decided that the next meeting would be scheduled for November 20th at 1:00 pm Central Standard Time. The call would be given a two-hour timeframe, but the goal will be to limit it to one hour. The primary purpose of the meeting will be to finalize the initial discussion of definitions and move on to Task Group reports.

(After the meeting while trying to get the notice of meeting and agenda posted on the International Code Council web-site www.iccsafe.org I was informed by Larry Brown from ICC Headquarters that the meeting must be posted a minimum of 4 weeks prior to the meeting date. Therefore, the November 20th meeting would not have met the 4-week notice window. After contacting the committee chair Rob Pickett we picked two new dates for the next meetings. These dates are December 4th and December 18th.)

V. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned after a motion, second and unanimous vote at 3:37 pm CST.