

## Resolutions Will Set Timeline For ICC Merger

The memberships of Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), and Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc. (SBCCI) will be considering resolutions dealing with the timeline for merger of these organizations into the International Code Council (ICC) at their respective annual business meetings this fall. The resolutions considered by each membership will be identical in purpose and intent to remove any ambiguity about the intended result.

The purpose of the resolutions will be to authorize the development of a merger plan to be delivered to the members at the 2002 Joint Annual Conference in Ft. Worth, Texas. An affirmative vote on the plan by the BOCA, ICBO, and SBCCI members at the September 29-October 3, 2002, joint conference will authorize the implementation of the plan and the merger of the organizations. The final step will be the implementation of the merger plan, with a projected target date of January 2003 for the completed merger into the ICC.

Since last year's annual business meetings, when the memberships adopted resolutions "...to work toward an ultimate goal of creating a single Model Code Organization," the three chief executive officers, under the direction of their respective boards of directors, have been meeting to develop the organizational model, transition, and implementation plans for the single model code organization. To date, agreements have been reached on several key components. The first was the consolidation of the certification programs. Eleven of these jointly-sponsored certification examinations are already available and are offered by the model code organizations at facilities throughout the United States. An additional 15 examinations will be phased in over the next two years. The agreement provides for reciprocity of certifications, which are issued by the model code organizations, as well as national standardization of certification renewal requirements.

Jon S. Traw, CEO of ICBO, stated, "We are acting on the members' resolutions and are proceeding as promptly as possible. We understand that in consolidating each of the business functions there are many legal issues and outside interests that have to be considered. We have learned from the consolidation of certification services, and we are proceeding apace. Yet, at the same time, we can only proceed at a pace that will result in the strongest possible single organization. However, based on the progress apparent today and the leadership commitments of the three organizations, a projected implementation date in January 2003 is still realistic and our goal."

Some other issues that have been discussed include by-laws, internal structure of the future organization, regional locations, personnel, membership needs, and organizational services.

"I feel that we have come a long way in just one year, and with each meeting we have created a trust and working relationship that continues to grow stronger," said William J. Tangye, P.E., CEO of SBCCI. "SBCCI's membership made its support of the *International Codes*® and the consolidation of support services very clear. The signing of the historic agreement to consolidate certification services reflects the members' commitment to the public's life safety by extending the national consensus process of the *International Code* to the development of national certification examinations for those who regulate construction. This was only the first program, but be assured we will proceed with the same commitment and accountability through completion of the entire merger with all aspects of the business."

The founding members of the ICC have been active for many decades in forming partnerships with groups around the world that are dedicated to public safety in the build environment, but a longtime vision of the three model code organizations was to start a foundation that would allow the ICC to enhance its important services both nationally and around the world. This foundation, properly named "Building A Safer World Foundation," should become fully functional by the end of this year and will facilitate other organizations in becoming more directly involved and financially supportive of ICC goals.

Paul K. Heilstedt, P.E., CEO of BOCA, stated, "The national standardization of professional credentials was made possible and a natural result of the widespread adoption of the International Codes. This meets BOCA members' goal for certifications that have national recognition and acceptance, therefore implementing the reliability and transportability of code professionals within the United States and in other participating countries. We look forward to continued growth and recognition of credentials resulting from this significant opportunity for the code enforcement profession. Consolidation of the certification programs is just the first in a series of steps which will change the face of the model code organizations, which have ably served our state and local governments for decades. This is a very exciting time, and the dream of many of those associated with the building industry will soon become a reality. To those who feel that progress has been slow, I would remind them that there are three groups of members to which we must be sensitive. Accordingly, every decision must obtain approval from our respective boards, which are charged with safeguarding the rights, interests, and services our members expect and deserve. By doing so, we can transition seamlessly into the ICC and become fully functional as, in fact, a single organization."

## Code and Safety for the Americas Act Introduced

Senator Christopher J. Dodd (D-Connecticut) and Representative Rosa L. DeLauro (D-Connecticut) have introduced in Congress the Code and Safety for the Americas (CASA) Act to improve building practices in Latin America. The act, co-sponsored in the U. S. Senate by Senators Joe Lieberman (D-Connecticut) and Jeff Sessions (R-Alabama), would authorize \$3 million over two years from general foreign aid funds to translate into Spanish the *International Codes*® developed by the International Code Council (ICC). The bill also calls for pilot training programs for architects and engineers in Ecuador and El Salvador, with the intent of expanding the program through private partnerships to other countries.

The CASA Act is an assistance program to improve life safety and the quality of construction in Latin American countries. The act would mitigate the risk of natural disasters such as recent earthquakes in El Salvador, which measured 7.6 in magnitude and killed almost 2,000 people.

“This legislation will save lives, lessen the damage caused by future disasters, and illustrate our good will toward our Latin American allies while proving to be cost-effective for the United States through decreased aid following future disasters,” Senator Dodd said in his statement introducing the CASA Act.

“The devastation left behind in such countries (as El Salvador and Ecuador) is huge in comparison to our experience in Seattle, Washington,” wrote Representative DeLauro in a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Foreign Operations. “The earthquake that hit Seattle earlier this year was 6.8 in magnitude, but it

caused only minimal structural damage. There was no loss of life, and no homes or businesses were destroyed. The difference is proper implementation and enforcement of good building codes.”

The CASA Act evolved from the request of building officials and organizations of El Salvador and Ecuador. The act will provide a sustainable, state-of-the-art, train-the-trainers program based on the ICC family of international, comprehensive, and coordinated building and construction codes.

Architects, contractors, university faculty, and public officials both in the United States and Latin America have voiced their support for this measure.

“The U.S. and United Nations, motivated by compassion, foresight and simple economics, can help provide all of Latin America with the truly vital and life-protecting building codes the region urgently needs,” wrote Steve Forneris, an

architect who practices in New York and Ecuador, in a recent article.

“ICC is honored by the recognition bestowed on the *International Codes* by the U.S. Congress, by Latin American countries including Ecuador, El Salvador, Argentina, Peru, Nicaragua, Honduras, Chile, and Panama, and by humanitarian and relief assistance organizations such as the Kiwanis International of El Salvador, Airline Ambassadors, and many others,” said Sara Yerkes, government relations director at ICC. “The ICC is committed to the CASA Act and eager to begin assisting our colleagues in Ecuador and El Salvador, and other Latin American countries, to build safer housing for all people.”

---

“This legislation will save lives, lessen the damage caused by future disasters, and illustrate our good will toward our Latin American allies while proving to be cost-effective for the United States through decreased aid following future disasters.”

---

## ICC C.B.O. Exam Covered Under New VA Reimbursement Benefits

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs has approved the International Code Council’s (ICC) Certified Building Official (C.B.O.) exam for reimbursement under the Montgomery GI Bill. The bill was recently changed to cover reimbursement to veterans for certification and licensing exams.

Previously, GI Bill benefits could be used for certification training but not for examination fees. The Subcommittee on Benefits, Committee on Veterans Affairs, chaired by Congressman Jack Quinn (R-N.Y.), recognized the growing importance of certification in the civilian work force and labored to make certification more available to veterans through reimbursement of the assessment examinations.

“VA’s recognition is an accomplishment for two reasons,” said Michele Dunlap, certification coordinator at ICC. “It benefits those in the building industry who served their country in the U.S. military, and it demonstrates that the C.B.O. Certification Program is a valid measure of professional competency.”

VA approval is dependent on meeting stringent program standards developed by the Coalition for Professional Certification (CPC), a group of private sector certifying bodies that have come together to promote private sector certification at the federal level. The ICC C.B.O. program meets the CPC requirements due to the hard work and constant supervision of the C.B.O. Certification Committee and the Board for International Professional Standards (BIPS).

C.B.O. certification demonstrates that an individual has the requisite knowledge of administration and enforcement of construction regulatory codes for good professional practice. Described as the professional code enforcement credential, C.B.O. certification advances the profession, recognizes the professional, and serves the public by ensuring quality standards.

To apply for reimbursement for C.B.O. examinations, veterans may contact their state VA office. For more information, visit [www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov).

## New York Governor Pataki Proposes Energy Conservation Building Code

New York Governor George E. Pataki has announced the state's efforts to adopt one of the most progressive building energy codes in the nation. The 2002 Energy Conservation Construction Code will include updated technologies and provide enhanced energy conservation requirements for residential and commercial buildings to ensure energy-efficient construction practices. The code will ensure that energy-efficiency standards are incorporated into commercial and residential buildings. The New York State enhancements to the code include new technologies such as more efficient thermostats, transformers, and fireplaces.

The proposal would further protect New York's air quality by reducing carbon dioxide emissions by 517,000 tons per year—roughly the equivalent of removing 104,000 cars from the state's roadways. The plan would also reduce acid rain-causing sulphur dioxides by 493 tons per year—roughly the equivalent of sulfur emissions generated by 6,700 oil-heated homes.

"This smart, environmentally-sound, and energy-efficient new code will help us keep the air we breathe clean and will continue our fight to protect our lakes and forests from acid rain," Governor Pataki said. "The code also will help keep the lights on by reducing energy use, while saving New Yorkers money on their electric bills."

The New York Department of State and New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) developed a New York State-enhanced version of the ICC's *International Energy Conservation Code*® (IECC). The Department of State's Codes Division training staff are delivering advanced training on the IECC platform for building and fire officials throughout the state. The department also recently launched an energy web site to further explain the updates at [www.dos.state.ny.us](http://www.dos.state.ny.us). The proposed building revisions were recommended to Governor Pataki by the New York State Fire Prevention and Building Codes Council, a group including building and fire code officials, local governments, and individuals representing related fields. Funding for development of the code revisions comes from nearly \$1 million in federal grants from the U.S. Department of Energy.

"The New York State Builders Association (NYSBA) endorses the adoption of the *International Energy Conservation Code* with a few modifications that are unique to New York State," said NYSBA Executive Vice President Philip LaRocque. "NYSBA has been one

of the leading advocates for New York State moving to the entire international family of model codes, including the IECC. Adoption of the New York revisions of the IECC, along with the Energy Star Labeled Homes Program, demonstrates this administration's leadership role in executing a comprehensive state energy policy."

"With advances in technology in recent years, it's time to increase our expectations of what constitutes an energy-efficient and environmentally responsible building," said Timothy S. Carey, acting chairman of NYSERDA. "This funding will help to fulfill Governor Pataki's vision of promoting and encouraging the development of more energy-efficient buildings in the state, and updating the energy code will only enhance the governor's efforts."

The new energy code proposal follows Governor Pataki's decision in June to sign an executive order to encourage alternative energy production by mandating that state agencies purchase no less than ten percent of the overall state facility energy requirements from renewable "green" power sources such as wind, solar, biomass, geothermal, or fuel cells by 2005—increasing to 20 percent by 2010. The executive order, mandating state agencies to follow "green building" standards during new construction on substantial renovation projects, was signed in conjunction with Governor Pataki's creation of a State Greenhouse Task Force to develop policy recommendations for greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. Governor Pataki also called on the federal government to take action on emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, carbon dioxide, and mercury.

"The new building standards will ensure that new construction and major renovation projects support the needs of the future by using modern building science and technologies to achieve energy-efficient energy use," said New York Secretary of State Randy A. Daniels. "Governor Pataki's definitive action on energy conservation will further enhance New York's leadership role in terms of meeting changing energy needs."

The New York Department of State will provide focused training and education to the building community and local codes enforcement officials to assure that the new code is understandable and enforced. In addition, the department will fund projects at colleges since education of future designers and engineers offers the best opportunity to impact long-term changes in design practices.

### 2002 ICC Code Development Hearing

April 8-19, 2002

Radisson Hotel Green Tree  
101 Marriott Drive  
Pittsburgh, Pa15205



Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania

Reservations: 800-333-3333  
Deadline: March 16, 2002



# ICC Calendar of Events

## 2001

### October

- 10 World Standards Day, Washington, DC
- 10-11 ANSI Annual Conference, Washington, DC
- 21-24 NCSBCS 24th Annual Conference, Orlando, FL
- 21-25 APHA 129th Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA
- 28-Nov.1 SBCCI 56th Annual Research and Education Conference, Greensboro, NC

### November

- 1-4 ASPE 2001 Technical Symposium, St. Louis, MO
- 10 Certified Building Officials Examinations, Various Locations
- 12-14 Access Board Meeting, TBD
- 13-15 Computers for Construction 2001 Conference and Trade Show, Philadelphia, PA
- 15 Proposals Due to Submit Changes to the ICC Codes and Standards for the 2002 Code Development Cycle
- 19-20 Wood Truss Repair Design Course, Virginia Tech University, Blacksburg, VA

### December

- 10-14 2003 A117.1 Public Proposals Hearings, Washington, DC

## 2002

### January

- 7-9 Access Board Meeting, TBD

### February

- 8-11 NAHB International Builder's Show, Atlanta, GA

### March

- 11-13 Access Board Meeting, TBD

### April

- 7-13 International Building Safety Week
- 8-19 ICC Code Development Hearings, Pittsburgh, PA

### May

- 13-15 Access Board Meeting, TBD
- 13-17 2003 A117.1 Public Proposals Hearings, Washington, D.C.

### June

- 4-9 NAHB Spring Board of Directors Meeting, Washington, D.C.

*Codes Forum* is a publication of the International Code Council. *Codes Forum* appears bimonthly in the magazines published by the three members of ICC: BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI. The International Code Council, established in 1994, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national codes.

**International Code Council  
5203 Leesburg Pike, #600  
Falls Church, Virginia 22041**

**Telephone: 703-931-4533 • Fax: 703-379-1546 • Web Site: <http://www.intlcode.org>**

Building Officials and Code  
Administrators International, Inc.

4051 W. Flossmoor Road  
Country Club Hills, IL 60478-5795  
Telephone: (800) 214-4321  
FAX: (800) 214-7167  
E-mail: [magazine@bocai.org](mailto:magazine@bocai.org)  
Web Site: <http://www.bocai.org>

International Conference of  
Building Officials

5360 Workman Mill Road  
Whittier, CA 90601-2298  
Telephone: (800) 423-6587  
FAX: (562) 699-8031  
E-mail: [magazine@icbo.org](mailto:magazine@icbo.org)  
Web Site: <http://www.icbo.org>

Southern Building Code Congress  
International, Inc.

900 Montclair Road  
Birmingham, AL 35213-1206  
Telephone: (800) 877-2224  
FAX: (205) 599-9891  
E-mail: [magnews@sbcci.org](mailto:magnews@sbcci.org)  
Web Site: <http://www.sbcci.org>