



**ICC Code Technology Committee  
Areas of Study and Investigation  
(As of September/2012)**

In accordance with Section 3.1 of CP #5, the ICC Board assigns the areas of study for the Code Technology Committee (CTC) to investigate. Based on the assigned areas of study, the CTC will establish an agenda and further define the effort.

**BALANCED FIRE PROTECTION.** The study of balanced fire protection includes an assessment of the appropriate amount of active (ie fire sprinkler) versus passive (ie rated compartments) requirements to be required by the code. In this regard, many proposals have been considered in past cycles to revise the height and area provisions as well as the level of fire sprinkler trade-offs. The scope of this activity would be an investigation of the requirements in the code and the establishment of a clearly defined scope of work for the CTC to consider. Depending on the scope of work, the effort may result in a long term activity. *Assigned May/2004; Specific code related areas under review:*

- *Methodology: Activity completed. No code change submittals*
- *Features (height and area): Activity completed with 07/08 Cycle*
- *Roof vents: On-going activity*
- *Vertical openings: On-going activity*

**CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS.** Code changes submitted on the subject of carbon monoxide detectors received considered debate in the 2003/2004 Code Development Cycle. Some of the changes were approved by the IRC B/E committee, with assembly motions subsequently passing to disapprove the changes. As a result, the IRC B/E committee passed a motion for a committee to be established to study this issue. *Assigned May/2004; Activity completed with 2009/2010 Cycle*

**CARE FACILITIES.** This area of study was assigned May/2004 as “Day Care/Adult Care/Assisted Living” with key issues have been debated in recent cycles, including: Identification of the appropriate occupancies (R-4, I-4, I-1, I-2); thresholds in terms of number of occupants versus supervision; coordination with state laws; the necessary types of fire protection; and small group homes for both ambulatory and non-ambulatory care in a residential environment. This is a significant societal issue that warrants investigation. In February/2007, the scope was expanded to all “care facilities”, including ambulatory health care. In May/2010 the ICC Board approved the creation of the Ad Hoc Committee on Healthcare to investigate hospitals and ambulatory healthcare (surgical centers). Portions of the CTC Area of Study dealing with hospitals and ambulatory healthcare will be transferred to this newly formed committee. *Assigned May/2004; Scope expanded February/2007; July/2011 – Area of Study limited to Care Facilities other than Hospitals and Ambulatory Surgical Centers which have been assigned to the ICC Ad Hoc Healthcare Committee*

CHILD WINDOW SAFETY. Recent media accounts of children falling from windows necessitates the investigation of this area of study. *Assigned May/2006; On-going activity*

CLIMBABLE GUARDS. Code changes submitted on the subject of climbable guards received considerable debate during recent cycles. In the 2003/2004 Code Development Cycle, the IRC B/E Code Committee passed a motion for a committee to be established to study this issue. This issue is also becoming an issue at local adoption levels as well. *Assigned May/2004; On-going activity*

ELEVATOR LOBBIES. During the 09/10 Cycle, the IBC Fire Safety Committee recommended to the ICC Board that the issue of elevator lobbies be studied due to the significant number of code changes that have been submitted over the years. *Assigned May/2010; On-going activity*

EMERGENCY EVACUATION WITH ELEVATORS. A symposium on elevator usage during emergencies was held in Atlanta from March 2 through 4, 2004, sponsored by ASME and co-sponsored by ICC, NIST, NFPA and IAFF (International Association of Fire Fighters). Papers were presented by international experts on two topics: 1) fire fighter use of elevators during emergencies for staging and assisted evacuation; and 2) evacuation of the general population of a high rise building during an emergency situation. As a result of this effort, recommendations were made for improvements on both topics. Concerns for the special evacuation needs in high rise buildings, especially in dealing with persons with disabilities, is quickly becoming an issue that the codes need to address. These recommendations would serve as a starting point to continue the investigation under the CTC. *Assigned May/2004; Activity transferred to the Review of the NIST WTC Recommendations for which CTC has been actively participating in the 06/07 – 09/10 Cycles*

IBC COORDINATION WITH THE NEW ADAAG. The new edition of ADAAG was released by the Access Board to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in February, 2004. OMB recently completed their review and the new ADAAG is scheduled to be released to the public in late July/2004. The Department of Justice (DOJ) will determine when these guidelines will become law. As this effort progresses, code changes will need to be proposed to the ICC documents to address coordination issues. Coordination with the ADAAG has been a priority with ICC since the inception of the IBC. This activity is similar to the efforts of BCMC in the early 1990's which coordinated the legacy codes with the first requirements of the ADA. *Assigned May/2004; Activity initiated in July/2011 with the DOJ adoption of the 2010 ADA Standard for Accessible Design*

LABELING OF FIRE RATED GLAZING. During the previous code development cycles, numerous code changes have been submitted relative to the appropriate marking standards for fire rated glazing. This issue has been debated by the industry and within the standards writing organizations without resolution. As a public safety issue, the I-Codes should establish the regulations. *Assigned July/2008; On-going activity*

NIST CHARLESTON SOFA STORE FIRE RECOMMENDATIONS. On March 15, 2011, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) released its final report on its study of the June 18, 2007, fire at the Sofa Super Store in Charleston, S.C., that trapped and killed nine firefighters, the highest number of firefighter deaths in a single event since 9/11. Based on its findings, the study team made 11 recommendations for enhancing building, occupant and firefighter safety nationwide. *Assigned November 3, 2011; On-going activity*

**RELOCATABLE MODULAR BUILDINGS.** Relocatable modular buildings present challenges to code enforcement due to the units be originally built to a specified code and then relocated to a new site which dictates that compliance for the new site be evaluated. Among the issues are: What are the applicable code requirements, noting that the IBC and IEBC cover these units differently; and how does the local authority evaluate code compliance and inspection parameters for the relocate unit. *Assigned May/2011; On-going activity*

**REVIEW OF NIST WTC RECOMMENDATIONS.** On June 23, 2005, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) issued a draft report entitled “Final Report of the National Construction Safety Team on the Collapses of the World Trade Center Towers (Draft)”. As noted in Chapter 9 of the report, “NIST strongly urges that immediate and serious consideration be given to these recommendations by the building and fire safety communities – especially designers, owners, developers, codes and standards development organizations, regulators, fire safety professionals, and emergency responders.” NIST has charged the National Institute of Building Science (NIBS) with the integration of the recommendations into the building process.

The CTC will work with the ICC Ad Hoc Committee on Terrorism Resistant Buildings (TRB) and NIBS in the review of the recommendations for consideration as possible code changes to the applicable I-Code(s). This review includes the prioritization of the recommendations to consider, with the investigation including a review of the supporting information documented in the report to determine the applicability of the recommendations to the building environment as regulated by the I-Codes. *Assigned September/2005; On-going activity – No new code change development; monitor code changes relative to previous CTC positions*

**UNENCLOSED EXIT STAIRS.** The current code allows limited use of unenclosed exit stairs. During the previous code development cycles, numerous code changes have been submitted to clarify the intent and application of the code provisions relative to issues such as: exit versus exit access; travel distance measurements; contribution to the minimum number of required exits; etc. Due to the inter-relationship of code provisions, this requires a comprehensive analysis in order to clarify the code requirements. *Assigned July/2008; On-going activity*

For specific information on each of these Areas of Study, please go to the CTC website:  
<http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/CTC/Pages/default.aspx>