

IBC — Structural



## **2015 GROUP A PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE I-CODES MEMPHIS COMMITTEE ACTION HEARINGS**

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## **IBC Structural Code Change Proposals**

The following code change proposals are labeled as structural code change proposals because they are proposals for changes to sections in chapters of the International Building Code that are designated as the responsibility of the IBC-Structural Code Development Committee (see page xvi of the Introductory pages of this monograph), which meets in the Group B cycle in 2016. However the changes included in this Group A code development cycle are to sections of the code that have been prefaced with a [BF] or [BG], meaning that they are the responsibility of a different IBC Code Development Committee—either the IBC-Fire Safety Committee [BF] or the IBC-General Committee [BG].

The committee assigned for each code change proposal is indicated in a banner statement near the beginning of the proposal. Both the IBC-Fire Safety and the IBC-General hearing orders are include here for your reference.

# TENTATIVE ORDER OF DISCUSSION 2015 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (FIRE SAFETY)

The following is the tentative order in which the proposed changes to the code will be discussed at the public hearings. Proposed changes which impact the same subject have been grouped to permit consideration in consecutive changes.

Proposed change numbers that are indented are those which are being heard out of numerical order. Indentation does not necessarily indicate that one change is related to another. Proposed changes may be grouped for purposes of discussion at the hearing at the discretion of the chair. Note that some FS code change proposals may not be included on this list, as they are being heard by another committee.

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# TENTATIVE ORDER OF DISCUSSION 2015 PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (GENERAL)

The following is the tentative order in which the proposed changes to the code will be discussed at the public hearings. Proposed changes which impact the same subject have been grouped to permit consideration in consecutive changes.

Proposed change numbers that are indented are those which are being heard out of numerical order. Indentation does not necessarily indicate that one change is related to another. Proposed changes may be grouped for purposes of discussion at the hearing at the discretion of the chair. Note that some G code change proposals may not be included on this list, as they are being heard by another committee.

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## S 1-15

### [BF] 1505.10

**Proponent:** Jason Wilen, National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), representing National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) (jwilen@nrca.net)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

### 2015 International Building Code

#### Revise as follows:

**[BF] 1505.10 Roof gardens and landscaped roofs.** Roof gardens and landscaped roofs shall comply with Section 1505.1, Section 1507.16 and shall be installed in accordance with ANSI/SPRI VF-1.

**Reason:** The purpose of this code change is to clarify the intent of the code. As written, Section 1505.10 could be interpreted as an exception to the other parts of Section 1505. The proposed change clarifies the fire classification requirements in Section 1505 apply to roof gardens and landscaped roofs.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction

The proposed change is a clarification and does not change the stringency of existing code requirements so the cost of construction will be unchanged.

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S 1-15 : [BF] 1505.10-WILEN4791



## S 2-15

### [BF] 1505.9, Chapter 35

**Proponent:** Jonathan Roberts, UL LLC, representing UL LLC (jonathan.roberts@ul.com)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

### 2015 International Building Code

**Revise as follows:**

**[BF] 1505.9 ~~Photovoltaic panels and modules.~~ Rooftop mounted photovoltaic panel systems** Rooftop-mounted *photovoltaic panel systems* shall be tested, *listed* and identified with a fire classification in accordance with UL 1703 or UL 2703. The fire classification shall comply with Table 1505.1 based on the type of construction of the building.

**Add new standard(s) as follows:**

UL 2703-14, Mounting Systems, Mounting Devices, Clamping/Retention Devices, and Ground Lugs for Use with Flat-Plate Photovoltaic Modules and Panels

**Reason:** The position of the photovoltaic panels, as well as the slope of the roof, are critical factors in determining the fire classification of a photovoltaic panel system. The position of the photovoltaic panels is established by the racking system. Thus, the testing for photovoltaic panel systems are covered in both UL 1703 and UL 2703. The new UL 2703 standard, which is an ANSI consensus standard, provides the test method for testing multiple panels for each racking system. Either standard can be used to establish a fire classification of the photovoltaic panel system.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction

This will provide another method to test photovoltaic systems for fire classification.

**Analysis:** A review of the standard proposed for inclusion in the code, UL 2703, with regard to the ICC criteria for referenced standards (Section 3.6 of CP#28) will be posted on the ICC website on or before April 2, 2015.

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S 2-15 : [BF] 1505.9-ROBERTS4109

# S 3-15

## [BF] 1508.1.1, Table [BF] 1508.2

**Proponent:** Jason Wilen, National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), representing National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) (jwilen@nrca.net)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

### 2015 International Building Code

**Delete without substitution:**

~~[BF] 1508.1.1 Cellulosic fiberboard. Cellulosic fiberboard roof insulation shall conform to the material and installation requirements of Chapter 23.~~

**Revise as follows:**

**TABLE [BF] 1508.2  
MATERIAL STANDARDS FOR ROOF INSULATION**

Cellular glass board	ASTM C 552
Composite boards	ASTM C 1289, Type III, IV, V or VI
Expanded polystyrene	ASTM C 578
Extruded polystyrene	ASTM C 578
Fiber-reinforced gypsum board	ASTM C 1278
Glass-faced gypsum board	ASTM C 1177
Mineral fiber insulation board	ASTM C 726
Perlite board	ASTM C 728
Polyisocyanurate board	ASTM C 1289, Type I or II
Wood fiberboard	ASTM C 208, <u>Type II</u>

**Reason:** The purpose of this code change is to clarify the intent of the code and to remove redundancy. As written, Section 1508.1.1 is a pointer to Chapter 23. Information in Chapter 23 related to wood fiberboard roof insulation is redundant to information already in Chapter 15 so the pointer does not serve a useful purpose.

Further, the title of section 1508.1.1 is potentially confusing because the term "cellulosic fiberboard" is used while the term "wood fiberboard" is used in Table 1508.2. This change eliminates the lesser used of the two terms to describe the same material.

Lastly, "Type II" is added to the ASTM C208 reference for wood fiberboard in Table 1508.2. Of the six types of wood fiberboard addressed in ASTM C208, only Type II is used for roof insulation.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction

The proposed change is a clarification and does not change the stringency of existing code requirements so the cost of construction will be unchanged.

# S 4-15

## Table [BF] 1508.2

**Proponent:** Jason Wilen, National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), representing National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) (jwilen@nrca.net)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

### 2015 International Building Code

Revise as follows:

**TABLE [BF] 1508.2  
MATERIAL STANDARDS FOR ROOF INSULATION**

Cellular glass board	ASTM C 552
Composite boards	ASTM C 1289, Type III, IV, V or <del>VI</del> <u>VII</u>
Expanded polystyrene	ASTM C 578
Extruded polystyrene	ASTM C 578
Fiber-reinforced gypsum board	ASTM C 1278
Glass-faced gypsum board	ASTM C 1177
Mineral fiber insulation board	ASTM C 726
Perlite board	ASTM C 728
Polyisocyanurate board	ASTM C 1289, Type I or II
Wood fiberboard	ASTM C 208

**Reason:** The purpose of this change is to update the type designations listed for the ASTM standard currently referenced in the code for composite board roof insulation. ASTM C1289-13E1 is referenced. As part of the 13E1 edition, Type VI was removed and Type VII was added. The proposed change strikes the outdated "Type VI" and adds the new "Type VII".

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction

The proposed change is a clarification and does not change the stringency of existing code requirements so the cost of construction will be unchanged.

S 4-15 : TABLE [BF] 1508.2-  
WILEN4793

# S 5-15

## Table [BF] 1508.2

**Proponent:** Jason Wilen, National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), representing National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) (jwilen@nrca.net)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

### 2015 International Building Code

Revise as follows:

**TABLE [BF] 1508.2  
MATERIAL STANDARDS FOR ROOF INSULATION**

Cellular glass board	ASTM C 552
Composite boards	ASTM C 1289, Type III, IV, V or VI
Expanded polystyrene	ASTM C 578
Extruded polystyrene	ASTM C 578
Fiber-reinforced gypsum board	ASTM C 1278
Glass-faced gypsum board	ASTM C 1177
Mineral fiber insulation board	ASTM C 726
Perlite board	ASTM C 728
Polyisocyanurate board	ASTM C 1289, Type I or II
Wood fiberboard	ASTM C 208

**Reason:** The purpose of this change is to update the type designations listed for the ASTM standard currently referenced in the code for polyisocyanurate board roof insulation. ASTM C1289 is referenced and Types I and II are currently listed in Table 1508.2. The proposal removes the Type I (aluminum foil-faced) reference from Table 1508.2 because Type I is not used for roofing applications.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction

The proposed change is a clarification and does not change the stringency of existing code requirements so the cost of construction will be unchanged.

S 5-15 : TABLE [BF] 1508.2-  
WILEN4870

# S 6-15

## Table [BF] 1508.2

**Proponent:** Jason Wilen, National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA), representing National Roofing Contractors Association (NRCA) (jwilen@nrca.net)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

## 2015 International Building Code

Revise as follows:

**TABLE [BF] 1508.2  
MATERIAL STANDARDS FOR ROOF INSULATION**

Cellular glass board	ASTM C 552
Composite boards	ASTM C 1289, Type III, IV, V or VI
Expanded polystyrene	ASTM C 578
Extruded polystyrene	ASTM C 578
Fiber-reinforced gypsum board	ASTM C 1278
Glass-faced gypsum board	ASTM C 1177
<u>High-density polyisocyanurate board</u>	<u>ASTM C1289, Type II, Class 4</u>
Mineral fiber insulation board	ASTM C 726
Perlite board	ASTM C 728
Polyisocyanurate board	ASTM C 1289, Type I or II
Wood fiberboard	ASTM C 208

**Reason:** The purpose of this change is to add a listing for high-density polyisocyanurate board roof insulation in Table 1508.2. As part of the 13E1 edition of ASTM C1289 (already included in IBC), Type II, Class 4 was added to the standard to address high-density polyisocyanurate board roof insulation.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction

The proposed change is a clarification and does not change the stringency of existing code requirements so the cost of construction will be unchanged.

S 6-15 : TABLE [BF] 1508.2-  
WILEN4874

## S 7-15

### 1510.1.1 (New), [BG] 1510.2.1, [BG] 1510.2.2, [BG] 1510.2.3

**Proponent:** Maureen Traxler, representing Washington Association of Building Officials Technical Code Development Committee (maureen.traxler@seattle.gov)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-GENERAL COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

### 2015 International Building Code

#### Add new text as follows:

**1510.1.1 Area limitation.** The aggregate area of penthouses and other enclosed rooftop structures shall not exceed one-third the area of the supporting roof deck. Such penthouses and other enclosed rooftop structures shall not be required to be included in determining the building area or number of stories as regulated by Section 503.1. The area of such penthouses shall not be included in determining the fire area specified in Section 901.7.

#### Revise as follows:

**[BG] 1510.2.1 Height above roof deck.** Penthouses constructed on buildings of other than Type I construction shall not exceed 18 feet (5486 mm) in height above the roof deck as measured to the average height of the roof of the penthouse. Penthouses located on the roof of buildings of Type I construction shall not be limited in height.

#### ~~Exceptions~~**Exception:**

1. Where used to enclose tanks or elevators that travel to the roof level, penthouses shall be permitted to have a maximum height of 28 feet (8534 mm) above the roof deck.
- ~~2. Penthouses located on the roof of buildings of Type I construction shall not be limited in height.~~

#### Delete without substitution:

~~**[BG] 1510.2.2 Area limitation.** The aggregate area of penthouses and other enclosed rooftop structures shall not exceed one-third the area of the supporting roof deck. Such penthouses and other enclosed rooftop structures shall not be required to be included in determining the building area or number of stories as regulated by Section 503.1. The area of such penthouses shall not be included in determining the fire area specified in Section 901.7.~~

#### Revise as follows:

**[BG] 1510.2.3 Use limitations.** Penthouses shall not be used for purposes other than the shelter of mechanical or electrical equipment, tanks, elevators and related machinery, or vertical shaft openings in the roof assembly.

**Reason:** This proposal reorganizes the provisions for penthouses. Section 1510.2.2 is relocated to 1510.1 because it applies to all enclosed rooftop structures, and shouldn't be located in the subsection that applies only to penthouses. In Section 1510.2.1, exception 2 is relocated to the charging paragraph because it is actually a separate technical requirement and not an exception to the charging paragraph. The phrase "elevators and related machinery" is added in Section 1510.2.3 because it is part of the definition of "penthouse." Penthouses are commonly used to shelter rooftop elevator equipment and shouldn't be prohibited by Section 1510.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction  
This proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

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S 7-15 : [BG] 1510.1-TRAXLER4259

# S 8-15

## [BG] 1510.6.2

**Proponent:** Christopher Born, Clark Nexsen, Inc., representing Self (cborn@clarknexsen.com)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-GENERAL COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

### 2015 International Building Code

Revise as follows:

**[BG] 1510.6.2 Type I, II, III and IV construction.** Regardless of the requirements in Section 1510.6, *mechanical equipment screens* that are located on the roof decks of buildings of Type I, II, III or IV construction shall be permitted to be constructed of combustible materials in accordance with any one of the following limitations:

1. The fire separation distance shall be not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) and the height of the *mechanical equipment screen* above the roof deck shall not exceed 4 feet (1219 mm) as measured to the highest point on the *mechanical equipment screen*.
2. The fire separation distance shall be not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) and the *mechanical equipment screen* is used for concealment of telecommunications equipment above the building roofline.
3. The fire separation distance shall be not less than 20 feet (6096 mm) and the *mechanical equipment screen* shall be constructed of fire-retardant-treated wood complying with Section 2303.2 for exterior installation.
4. Where exterior wall covering panels are used, the panels shall have a flame spread index of 25 or less when tested in the minimum and maximum thicknesses intended for use, with each face tested independently in accordance with ASTM E 84 or UL 723. The panels shall be tested in the minimum and maximum thicknesses intended for use in accordance with, and shall comply with the acceptance criteria of, NFPA 285 and shall be installed as tested. Where the panels are tested as part of an exterior wall assembly in accordance with NFPA 285, the panels shall be installed on the face of the *mechanical equipment screen* supporting structure in the same manner as they were installed on the tested exterior wall assembly.

**Reason:** Screen walls have been used in numerous instances in recent years to conceal telecommunications equipment such as antennas. In order to allow transmission of the appropriate frequencies, currently available concealments or screens are of combustible material. Typically these screens consist of a foam plastic core such as polystyrene with a hard plastic skin surrounding the core. These are also often of a custom graphic design to mimic the appearance of the building they are installed on, e.g., replicate brick patterns, colors, etc. No known noncombustible material exists that provides sufficient transmissibility of an acceptable signal strength. Although some manufacturers offer a "fire resistive" product, these materials have not been tested to NFPA 285 as indicated by the current item 3 under this section. Additionally these products do not meet the "letter" of the requirements of Chapter 26 for installation of plastic materials, even if considered to be light transmitting plastics (these panels are specifically designed to transmission a portion of the electromagnetic spectrum) because they have not been tested as an assembly.

The author is aware of no documented loss history from these products. As these products are above the roof of the building, even if they do ignite they pose minimal risk to the structure or occupants. Additionally, by requiring a minimum fire separation distance identical to that called for under several related provisions, protection from radiant fire exposure is afforded to adjacent properties.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction

Installation of these products is generally of a voluntary nature, although some zoning boards or similar bodies may not allow telecommunications installations without some means of visually screening the equipment. Note that this provision is not intended to mandate the installation of these screens, but rather to create a code option that allows their use.

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S 8-15 : [BG] 1510.6.2-BORN4795

## S 9-15

### [BG] 1510.7.3

**Proponent:** Maureen Traxler, City of Seattle, representing Seattle Dept of Planning & Development  
(maureen.traxler@seattle.gov)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-GENERAL COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

### 2015 International Building Code

#### Delete without substitution:

~~**[BG] 1510.7.3 Installation.** Rooftop-mounted *photovoltaic panels* and *modules* shall be installed in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.~~

**Reason:** Section 1510.7.3 is redundant with Section 1510.7.4.

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction  
Deleting redundant text will have no impact on the cost of construction.

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S 9-15 : [BG] 1510.7.3-TRAXLER3414



## S 10-15

### [BF] 1705.17

**Proponent:** Anthony Apfelbeck, City of Altamonte Springs, representing City of Altamonte Springs (ACApfelbeck@altamonte.org)

THIS CODE CHANGE WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-FIRE SAFETY COMMITTEE. SEE THE TENTATIVE HEARING ORDER FOR THIS COMMITTEE.

### 2015 International Building Code

#### Revise as follows:

**[BF] 1705.17 Fire-resistant penetrations and joints.** In *high-rise buildings, buildings greater than 2 stories that are not protected by an automatic sprinkler system* or in buildings assigned to *Risk Category III or IV, special inspections for through-penetrations, membrane penetration firestops, fire-resistant joint systems* and perimeter fire barrier systems that are tested and *listed* in accordance with Sections 714.3.1.2, 714.4.2, 715.3\_ and 715.4 shall be in accordance with Section 1705.17.1 or 1705.17.2.

**Reason:** In buildings that are not protected by an automatic fire sprinkler system, there is 100% reliance on the passive fire protection elements to contain a fire to the compartment of origin and to ensure it does not impede the means of egress. Penetration and joint systems are critical elements in order to maintain the fire resistive integrity of a building. They take on an even greater importance when balanced fire protection is not provided and sole reliance is placed on the passive systems. The code already recognizes high-rise buildings as high risk which mandates this level of special inspection. On a risk basis, a low rise (3-7 story) non-fire sprinkler protected building poses a much greater risk to the occupants, firefighters and contents than a high-rise building which is mandated to be protected with fire sprinklers.

**Cost Impact:** Will increase the cost of construction

This proposal will increase the cost of construction for low-rise non-fire sprinkler protected buildings due to the application 1705.16 requiring special inspections of penetrations and joints.

S 10-15 : [BF] 1705.17-  
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