Ad Hoc Committee – Tall Wood Buildings
Standards/Definitions Work Group
Draft Code Change Proposal
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Developed: 8/23/2017
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File name: Section 202 – Wall, Load-Bearing

The following is a draft code change proposal that has been developed by the Standards/Definitions Work Group (WG) of the Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings (TWB). This draft proposal has been reviewed by the TWB Committee and is posted for information and comments. Please direct comments to the Chair of the WG: Jonathan Humble at jhumble@steel.org. **This is a draft only and is subject to change prior to submittal to cdpACCESS by the January 8, 2018 deadline.**

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IBC Chapter 2 - Definitions

[BS] WALL, LOAD-BEARING. Any wall meeting either of the following classifications:

1. Any metal or wood stud wall that supports more than 100 pounds per linear foot (1459 N/m) of vertical load in addition to its own weight.
2. Any masonry**, ~~or~~** concrete**, or *mass timber*** wall that supports more than 200 pounds per linear foot (2919 N/m) of vertical load in addition to its own weight.

Reason: The modification to the term "load-bearing wall" has been updated to include "mass timber" as a category equivalent to that of masonry or concrete. Based on the research done by the wood trade associations, mass timber walls (e.g. sawn, glued-laminated, cross-laminated timbers) have the ability to support the minimum 200 pounds per linear foot vertical load requirement.

The Code Council Board of Directors approved the establishment of an ad hoc committee for tall wood buildings in December/2015. The purpose of the ad hoc committee is to explore the science of tall wood buildings and to investigate the feasibility and take action on developing code changes for tall wood buildings. The committee is comprised of a balance of stakeholders with additional opportunities for interested parties to participate in the four Work Groups established by the TWB, namely: Code; Fire; Standards/Definitions; and Structural. For more information, be sure to visit the TWB website.

Cost impact: No impact.

Informational Note: As a final submission to the ICC, this proposal is intended to be combined with another code change proposal whose subject is related to this definition. (e.g. Chapter 6 Types of Construction)