

State Codes and Standards Committee
Codes Amendment Subcommittee
Minutes

January 7, 2015

1. Call to Order: The Chairman called to order the regular meeting of the Codes Amendment Subcommittee of the State Codes and Standards Committee. The meeting was held in Room 532 at 165 Capital Avenue, Hartford, Connecticut.

2. In Attendance: Louis Free, Chair

John Butkus

Paul Costello

Keith Flood

Robert Hanbury

Henry Miga

Michael Musco

Michael Sinsigalli

Carlton Smith

Fredrick Wajcs, Jr.

Also present:

William Abbott, State Fire Marshal

Joseph Cassidy, State Building Inspector

Dan Veronick, Office of State Building Inspector

Charles Appleby, Sr., Chairman DCP Plumbing Piping Board

Timothy Baldwin, Department of Developmental Services

Mary Ann Basile, Connecticut Building Officials Association

Robert Bolasevich, Windsor Fire Marshal

James DiPace, Avon Fire Marshal

Donn Dobson, Old Saybrook Fire Marshal

Joseph W. Drexler, Department of Developmental Services

Terrence Dunn, Westport Fire Marshal's Office

Robert Duval, National Fire Protection Association

Karen Facey, New Milford Fire Marshal

Gregory Grew, AIA, East Hartford Building Official

Dianne Harp Jones, Coalition for the Adoption of a Unified Code

Ignatius Kapalczynski, CMFA & Simbury Office of Fire Marshal

Kevin Kowacski, CFMA & Simsbury Fire Marshal

David LaFond, National Fire Sprinkler Association

Alan S. Lagocki, AIA Connecticut

Brian Lampart, Stratford Fire Marshal

Christopher Laux, AIA

Roger Martin, Hartford Fire Marshal

Shawn J. McDonnell, Greenwich Fire Marshal

William Nash, International Code Council

Roger Nelson, Bloomfield Fire Marshal

James O'Brien, West Haven Fire Chief

Carmen A. Rao, Wallingford Fire Marshal

Joanne Rees, AIA Connecticut

Jeff Sargent, National Fire Protection Association
Gregory Sargis, Hartford Fire Marshal's Office
Chris Schroeder, Newington Fire Marshal
Bruce Spiewak, Self & AIA Connecticut
Walter Summers, South Windsor Fire Marshal
Sheila Taridona, Office of Education and Data Management
Donald J. Vigneau, Northeast Energy Efficiency Partnerships
David Woods, Newington Fire Marshal's Office
James York, Ellington Fire Marshal's Office
Edward Zygmant, Westport Fire Marshal

3. Minutes:

Minutes of the December 10, 2014 meeting were approved.

4. Communications:

A motion was made and second to add to the agenda under 4. Communications, Items h. and i. Motion was approved.

The following correspondence has been acknowledged by the CAS as being received since the last CAS meeting. Copies of the correspondence will be forwarded to CAS members before the next CAS meeting.

- a. Correspondence received on December 23, 2014 from Eric Nelson, Vice President Catastrophe Strategy and Analysis, Travelers Insurance in support of incorporating IIBHS sealed roof deck specifications into the 2012 IRC (Code Change Proposal 5-IRC). Correspondence for information only.
- b. Correspondence received on January 5, 2015 from the Coalition for the Adoption of a Unified Code supporting the current unified code approach and opposing any proposal to study or revert to NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, as the basis for the Connecticut Fire Safety Code for new construction, alterations or additions.
- c. Correspondence received on January 5, 2015 from Alan S. Lagocki, AIA, American Institute of Architects of Connecticut, urging continued adoption of codes for new construction, additions and alterations from the ICC family of codes only.
- d. Correspondence received on January 5, 2015 from William H. Ethier, CAE, Chief Executive Officer, Home Builders & Remodelers Association of Connecticut, Inc. urging rejection of the CMFA proposal and maintain a single, unified and coordinated family of codes for use in Connecticut.

- e. Correspondence received on January 2, 2015 from Paul W. Brady, Executive Director, Connecticut Society of Professional Engineers, opposing the CMPA proposal to replace the structure of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code with the 2012 NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, for new construction and support the state's current practice of adopting the ICC Codes for Connecticut.
- f. Correspondence received on January 5, 2015 from Christopher R. Laux, AIA, opposing Code Change Proposal 001-FSC.
- g. Correspondence received on January 5, 2015 from Milton Gregory Grew, AIA, Director of Inspections and Permit / Building Official, Town of East Hartford, opposing the CMFA proposal to replace the current structure of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code with NFPA 101-2012 Life Safety Code for both new construction and existing buildings.
- h. Correspondence received on January 6, 2015 from Gima Scumaci, Executive Director, Connecticut Association of Plumbing, Heating and Cooling Contractors, opposing Code Change Proposal 001-FSC.
- i. Correspondence received on January 6, 2015 from Raymond S. Steadward, Jr., Secretary, Connecticut Building Officials Association, opposing Code Change Proposal 001-FSC.

5. Old Business

- a. Proposed Code Change 001-FSC – 2012 NFPA Standard 101 (Life Safety Code). An oral presentation was made by Michael Sinsigalli presenting the Connecticut Fire Marshal's Association (CFMA) related to the proposal to delete the current structure of the Connecticut Fire Safety Code and replace it with the 2012 NFPA Standard 101 for both new and existing construction with Connecticut Amendments as adopted prior to 2005. The CMFA 541 Committee over several months conducted a Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats (SWOT) analysis for each use type and chapter in NFPA 101 compared to the code requirements outlined in the IBC. The SWOT analysis takes into account monetary implications, efficiency, human impact/life safety and industry consensus/benchmarking. The CMFA contends that the SWOT analysis overwhelmingly demonstrates that adopting NFPA 101 for fire code review and enforcement will increase efficiency by Fire Marshals; allow for future enforcement during routine inspections without triggering requirements that conflict with buildings designed and constructed under the IBC; provide for equal, or in some instances better, life safety; and remains an industry consensus document utilized throughout the United States. Problems

encountered with enforcement using the current unified codes includes Part III Chapter 7 (Fire-Resistance-Rated Construction) pointing back to the IBC and being told that the Fire Marshal cannot cite it during inspections; the current Part III does not blend well with Part IV; lack of requirements for mezzanines; not being able to cite specific fire code section violations after issuance of Certificate of Occupancy; and the effectiveness in enforcement related to general administrative issues. The CMFA voted in favor to support Proposed Code Change 001-FSC.

Kevin Kowacski, CMFA Chairman Board of Directors, stated that CMFA prefers the occupancy based chapters of NFPA 101 for both the ease of code review and existing building enforcement compared to the way ICC outlines the code requirements within their documents. NFPA 101 has been adopted statewide by 43 states and is used as the state fire code in four New England states. The CMFA contends that they are able to get immediate support from NFPA on code related questions and are not able to get that same level of support from ICC.

Karen Facey, New Milford Fire Marshal and CMFA Committee Member performing the SWOT analysis, reviewed the analytical methodology of the analysis. The analysis identified conflicting data between the IFC and NFPA 101 including means of egress requirements, fire sprinkler protection, vertical openings and the administration of the codes when a building transfers from a new building to an existing building. NFPA 101 is a complete document for Fire Marshal code enforcement working out of one book and not multiple books.

Joseph W. Drexler, Deputy Commissioner Department of Developmental Services (DDS) discussed the difficulties the DDS has for their Residential Board and Care Facilities when trying to apply the requirements of the IBC (i.e. Institutional Group I-2) and how NFPA 101 better addresses their specific conditions. The DDS supports using NFPA Standard 101 for both new and existing construction.

CAS expressed concern that the CMFA perceives they do have the ability to cite specific fire code section violations because they are located in the IBC and other general administrative enforcement issues. CAS Chair requested the presenters to submit as soon as possible to CAS additional information on the administrative issues effecting their enforcement of the codes, the 2012 IBC / 2012 NFPA 101 SWOT Analysis and their presentations made today.

A motion was made and second to allow the public in attendance to provide technical input on Proposed Code Change 001-FSC. Motion was approved.

Robert Duval, NFPA Northeast Regional Director, clarified comments made during the question and answer period of the presentation that Authorities Having Jurisdiction (AHJ) does not need to be a member of NFPA to obtain support from NFPA, they only need to identify themselves as a AHJ.

Donn Dobson, CFMA and Member of the 541 Committee, spoke in favor of Proposed Code Change 001-FSC. Fire Marshal Dobson stated that there are 230 original conflicts between the NFPA and ICC codes, the age of the current 2005 code Connecticut is using is problematic, many of the existing Connecticut Amendments are now in current versions of the codes and that NFPA does a better job classifying interior finishes.

Gregory Grew, AIA, Director of Inspections and Permit / Building Official, Town of East Hartford, spoke in opposition of Proposed Code Change 001-FSC. (Correspondence previously submitted, see Item 4.g.)

Christopher R. Laux, AIA spoke in opposition of Proposed Code Change 001-FSC. (Correspondence previously submitted, see Item 4.f.)

Bruce Spiewak, AIA spoke in opposition of Proposed Code Change 001-FSC. Mr. Spiewak requested that a unified code be adopted as soon as possible, that cohesive administrative application of the codes be applied from the top state level down to the local level and that the AHJ's and public be provided education on the proper application of the code.

- b. The following is a status update of the OSBI and CAS reviews for the 2012 Family of Codes:
 - 1. 2012 International Building Code: OSBI will be scheduling another meeting with Office of Protection and Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities (OPA) to start the coordination of 2012 IBC Chapter 11, Chapter 34 and ICC/ANSI A117.1-2009. The preparation of the Connecticut amendments associated with the above reviews by the OSBI and OPA, and the related reviews/actions by the CAS/OSBI is pending.

The second DRAFT CT SUPPLEMENT incorporating pervious actions is still in IBC Chapter 3.

2. 2012 International Fire Code and Connecticut State Fire Safety Code: OSBI and OSFM coordination on the 2012 International Fire Code and Connecticut State Fire Safety Code is continuing. State Fire Marshal Abbott reported that he will have additional information on the status of the Connecticut State Fire Safety Code Part III and Part IV at the next CAS meeting.
3. ICC/ANSI A117.1-2009 Standard on Accessible & Usable Buildings and Facilities: See item 5.b.1. above.

6. New Business

No New Business.

7. Adjournment

The next meeting of the CAS will be held on Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at 165 Capital Avenue, Room 532, Hartford, Connecticut starting at 1:30 PM or immediately following the monthly meeting of the Codes and Standards Committee.

Louis Free, Chair
Codes Amendment Subcommittee

KEY: ICC International Code Council
 IBC International Building Code
 IEBC International Existing Building Code
 IECC International Energy Conservation Code
 IRC International Residential Code
 NEC National Electrical Code
 NFPA National Fire Protection Association

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