



The second round

ICC's 2024 code development process continues

by Mark S. Graham

As development of the 2024 I-Codes continues, NRCA monitors progress and actively participates in developing the codes' roofing-related provisions. Following is a brief update about the status of the 2024 I-Codes.

Group A

The International Code Council® has split its development process for the 2024 I-Codes into two groups: Group A, which occurred in 2021, and Group B, which occurs this year. Although most of the roofing-related content in the International Building Code®'s Chapter 15-Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures and International Residential Code®'s Chapter 9-Roof Assemblies falls within Group B, several roofing-related topics were addressed in Group A, including attic ventilation, rooftop occupancy requirements, the plumbing code's roof drainage requirements and the fire code.

At ICC's Group A committee action hearings, which were held online April 11-May 5, 2021, more than 1,250 code change proposals were considered. Thirty-two proposals directly applied to roof assembly design and installation.

ICC held its Group A public comment hearings Sept. 21-25,



2021. The hearings offered proponents of code changes and other interested parties an opportunity to attempt to amend or overturn the committees' recommendations from the committee action hearings. The public comment hearings had 339 code change proposals on the agenda. Six proposals from NRCA's roofing-specific watchlist were on the agenda, and four were approved during the public comment hearings.

Code Change S10 provides IBC code requirements for raised deck paver walkways, such as pavers on raised pedestals. Previously,

the code did not specifically address these assemblies, which sometimes resulted in inconsistent interpretations of the code's requirements.

Code Change G20 establishes occupant load and exit and egress requirements for occupiable roofs, such as vegetative roofs with assembly areas and rooftop patios and terraces. Previously, IBC had limited requirements applicable to occupied roofs and, as a result, interpretations varied.

Code Change F15 differentiates between vegetative roofs and landscaped roofs in the IBC and International Fire Code.® With this code change, a landscaped roof is a localized area on a roof that includes landscape planters, vegetation and hardscape. A vegetative roof is a roof assembly with vegetation throughout. IBC and IFC previously used the two terms interchangeably, which

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sometimes resulted in confusion and inconsistent interpretations.

Code Change WUIC15 as it applies to the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code® requires vents, including attic intake and exhaust vents, to be tested for entry of burning embers and direct flame impingement or meet specific prescriptive criteria.

From Oct. 15-Nov. 1, 2021, ICC held its online governmental consensus vote to ratify the decisions resulting from the public comment hearings. The published results of the online governmental consensus vote show ICC's code official members ratified all but four of the decisions. None of the four code change proposals overturned by the online governmental consensus vote were on NRCA's roofing-specific watchlist.

Group B

ICC's Group B covers most of the requirements in IBC's Chapter 15, IRC's Chapter 9 and the International Existing Building Code.® Reroofing is addressed in IEBC's Chapter 7-Alterations-Level 1.

The deadline for submitting Group B code change proposals was Jan. 10. NRCA submitted 29 code change proposals to IBC, IRC and IEBC. Several manufacturers and other roofing associations also submitted Group B code change proposals.

ICC published its monograph of Group B code change proposal submissions on its website, iccsafe.org, Feb. 23.

ICC's Group B committee action hearings

will be held March 27-April 6. ICC's Group B public comment hearings will be held Sept. 14-21 in conjunction with ICC's annual conference. The Group B online governmental consensus vote will start about two weeks after the conclusion of the public comment hearings and be open for two weeks.

The code change proposals already approved during ICC's Group A and those that will be approved during the Group B process will be published as the 2024 I-Codes in mid-2023. The 2024 I-Codes are intended for first adoption by state and local jurisdictions no earlier than 2024.

Closing thoughts

NRCA has been an active participant in ICC's code development process since its inception in the late 1990s. NRCA also participated in the code development processes of the legacy model codes since they first included roofing-specific chapters in the mid-1980s. I have represented NRCA at the legacy codes' and ICC's code development processes since 1993.

NRCA members can direct code-related questions to NRCA's Technical Services Section at (847) 299-9070, option 4, or nrcatechnical@nrca.net. 📞✉️

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Tips for longer, safer power tool battery life

The Power Tool Institute Inc., Cleveland, has identified steps users can take to care for and maintain power tools and their batteries to keep them operating safely at peak performance for a longer life cycle.

Before operating a new power tool, read the manufacturer's instruction manual and only use the system components—tool, battery and charger—from the same manufacturer. Use a power tool's battery solely for the defined purpose as specified by the manufacturer.

During a power tool's life cycle, regularly inspect its battery for signs of damage such as crushing, cuts or punctures. Be mindful of abnormal battery behavior, such as failure to fully charge or hold a charge, longer-than-usual charging times, noticeable drop in performance, liquid leakage from the battery or melted plastic anywhere on the pack. These are indications of an internal problem. Discontinue use if a battery has received a sharp blow, been dropped or is damaged.

Never tamper with a power tool's battery. As a general practice, it is

best to unplug battery chargers and remove battery packs from them when not in use. Do not store batteries on their chargers. Always use and store a battery within the temperature limits stated by the manufacturer. Do not store in a closed location where sunlight may cause elevated temperatures, such as near a window or inside a vehicle.

Immediate action is required if a battery is exhibiting signs of overheating such as flames, smoke, smoldering or melting. If the battery is connected to a charger, unplug the charger first. Pour copious amounts of water on the battery and then submerge the battery in a sturdy container filled with water. When transferring the battery, avoid direct contact with the battery and use appropriate personal protective equipment to protect face, hands and body. Contact the manufacturer for guidance regarding proper battery disposal.

Additional information about power tool and battery maintenance and safety is available at powertoolinstitute.com.

Construction is the most-targeted industry for ransomware attacks

New desk research by NordLocker, Panama City, shows construction is the No. 1 industry hit by ransomware, according to forconstructionpros.com.

An analysis of 1,200 companies globally that were hit by cyber extortion between 2020 and 2021 revealed where ransomware is the most widespread. Of 35 identified industries, the highest number of ransomware attacks occurred in the construction sector.

The 93 companies affected in the construction industry range in size from small family-owned businesses to large businesses consulting on billion-dollar projects. Construction could be attractive to cybercriminals because of the industry's time-sensitive processes.

"The reputation of firms in this industry is largely built upon on-time service delivery, which is at risk during any delays caused by ransomware attacks," says Oliver Noble, a cybersecurity expert at NordLocker. "This factor, together with the industry's razor-thin profit margins, provides the ransomware groups with conditions that make a payout more likely."

Noble offers the following cybersecurity tactics to help protect your business.

- Ensure your employees use strong, unique passwords and encourage implementation of multifactor authentication.
- Secure your email by training staff to identify signs of phishing, especially when an email contains attachments and links.
- Implement and enforce periodic data backup and restoration processes.
- Adopt zero-trust network access—every access request to digital resources by a staff member should be granted only after his or her identity has been appropriately verified.

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