



## **Subcommittee for Codes & Standards Liaison (SCCSL)**

### **ICC Working Group**

#### **Meeting Report – February 2, 2017**

**Present:** Don Havener (Chair), Jeff Halpert, Jeff Grove, Brian Kuhn, Gary Lewis, Beth Tubbs (SFPE Board of Directors) and Chris Jelenewicz (Staff).

**Apologies:** Ray Grill

**The following was discussed:**

**1. Reports from Working Groups** – Each working group gave a brief update:

a. Structural – (Brian Kuhn & Don Havener)

Nothing new to report

b. Smoke control – (Ray Grill, Jeff Grove, Brian Kuhn and Don Havener)

It was noted that Section 909 will now be classified as Group A. As such, codes changes for Section 909 for the 2021 edition are due January 8, 2018.

Beth compiled the following list (triggers and requirements) of smoke control issues for the working group to consider:

- I-3 windowless buildings
- Underground buildings - see how the provisions really work with 909
- Atrium trigger -- often folks want to use a 2 hour separation on the 3rd floor and call it a two story atrium
- More comprehensive reference to NFPA 92?
- Fire curtain recognition
- Overhaul of smokeproof enclosure requirements - some may not work
- Pressurized hoistway concept - does it work?
- Special inspection and how it applies to stair pressurizations etc.
- Control wiring and protection 909.20.6.1 - does it include the fire alarm. Don't think it was the intent but get the question somewhat frequently
- Tenability analysis with FDS that is often necessary code only has a smoke layer height

The working group agreed that these issues should be considered for possible code change proposals. For the next meeting, the working group will review this list and provide additional issues to the list if needed.

There was a discussion on the best way to move these smoke control issues forward. One possibility would be to petition IAC and ask for a complete re-write of Section 909. Another possibility could be to submit individual code changes that focus on improving the engineering methodologies/performance-based approaches in Section 909.

Moving forward it was basically agreed that the best approach would be to surgically submit code change proposals. It was suggested that the working group discuss these code changes with the FCAC when submitted. The working group will outline a strategy on how to accomplish this at the next meeting.

c. Mass Notification – (Ray Grill and Michael Nightingale)

Beth will forward the new section on mass notification. It will be discussed at the next meeting.

d. PBD – (Gary Lewis, Ray Grill and Brain Kuhn)

It was noted that the Performance Code is often used by jurisdictions as a way to reject performance-based solutions to the requirements in the Fire and Building Codes is a basis of ICC's resistance to adding PBD to IBC/IFC/etc. It was also noted that code officials are reluctant to consider performance-based solutions because of a lack of education and promotional opportunities.

There was a discussion about how the "alternative means/methods" section can be used to promote engineering approaches. The working group also discussed how to get the appropriate tools that are needed for a performance-based solution referenced into the codes.

It was suggested that the smoke control and PBD working groups combine to focus on promoting performance-based methodologies in Section 909

It was suggested that surveying FPEs and AHJs to see if engineering solutions are being used in smoke control design may be helpful in making a case. As part of a research project, Brian Meacham is collecting similar data related to PBD. CJ will check with Brian to see if there may be any useful data.

**2. ICC Commentaries** – Beth will send to the working group at a later date to review and provide suggested comments.

**3. Call for Committee Members** – ICC is currently accepting applications for Code Committees and Code Interpretation Committees. Applications are due June 1, 2017. More information is available on the ICC website.

It was not that the Code Interpretation Committees (Fire and Building) should not be overlooked.

Working group members were encouraged to apply. Additionally, CJ will make a note in the SFPE newsletter and will forward this information to the other members of the Subcommittee on Codes & Standards Liaison.

- 4. Next Meeting** – The next Working Group meeting will be in April. CJ will schedule via a Doodle Poll.

**End of Report**