

International Code Council Government Relations Update April 2014

Memphis Committee Action Hearings This Month!

The Memphis hearings are an excellent way for code officials and sustainable building professionals to learn more about the IgCC and experience ICC's new cdpACCESS in action.

Hearings will start at 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 27th. Prior to the hearings the Building Official, Fire Service, PMG Official and Sustainability Membership Councils will be holding meetings during the day Saturday/Sunday morning time period. Be sure to consult the Membership Councils webpage for details as they become available.

There will only be a single track. The IgCC – General hearing will start at 1:00 pm on Sunday, April 27th. The IgCC – Energy/Water hearing will start no earlier than 1:00 pm on Wednesday, April 30th, as indicated on the schedule. The schedule anticipates that the hearings will finish by 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 3rd. View the full schedule here: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes/Documents/2012-2014Cycle/2014%20CAH%20hearing%20schedule.pdf>

Proposed IgCC Code Changes Available for Review

ICC has released a monograph of International Green Construction Code proposed code changes that will be considered during the Group C Committee Action Hearings April 27–May 3 at the Cook Convention Center in Memphis, Tenn. For the first time ever, proposed code changes were submitted using the new cdpACCESS system. Click here for more information: <http://www.iccsafe.org/newsroom/Pages/NR031414-Monograph.aspx>. To review the monograph, log into the cdpACCESS page: <https://cdpaccess.com>

Building Safety Month Promotional Materials Available

ICC's annual safety campaign held each May includes educational and informational resources to help ICC Members and others increase public awareness of building safety. This year's theme is Building Safety: Maximizing Resilience; Minimizing Risks. Promotional materials include a proclamation, news release, activities and stickers for youngsters, posters and brochures. Printed campaign materials are available for purchase at the ICC Store and many items are free and downloadable. Click here for details: <http://www.buildingsafetymonth.org>

ICC Recertification Program Changes to Strengthen the Credibility of the Program

The Code Council is strengthening the credibility of its Certification program by improving the quality and the flexibility of its recertification requirements (recertification is also sometimes referred to as renewal). The recertification program changes, which will require a portion of continuing education units (CEUs) to be earned through ICC or its Preferred Provider Network training, will be gradually phased in through a smooth transition from April 2014 through July 2016.

No changes related to the Preferred Provider Network will take place in 2014. Beginning in 2015,

recertification candidates will be required to earn 20 percent of the total required CEUs from ICC or ICC's Preferred Provider Network training. This percentage will incrementally increase to 50 percent after July 1, 2016.

Participation in code hearings through cdpACCESS as well as participation in courses offered by ICC Preferred Providers are new options for accruing CEUs. ICC will partner with other entities to provide quality training on topics outside of ICC's core areas. The new Preferred Provider Program is currently under development and is planned to be implemented later this year. The Preferred Provider Network will increase the availability of training providers and training subjects to further support the training needs of the building construction and safety professionals. The final table of number of CEUs required and the table of various methods of obtaining CEUs will be announced later this month.

New "Inspector Skills" Book Now Available!

Inspector Skills is the first text to focus on the "other" skills that are essential for success as a construction inspector. These "soft skills" are the non-technical traits and behaviors that enhance an inspector's ability to interact with others and to successfully carry out his or her job duties. *Inspector Skills* aims to raise awareness of the importance of soft skills and to provide guidance toward recognizing and improving those skills. *Inspector Skills* was written for construction inspectors in all disciplines and will also benefit students, permit technicians, plan reviewers and building officials. Click here to find out more: <http://shop.iccsafe.org/inspector-skills.html>

Update 2009, 2012 IPC, IRC to Comply with New Federal Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act

The International Code Council encourages jurisdictions that have adopted the 2009 and 2012 *International Plumbing Code* (IPC) and/or *International Residential Code* (IRC) to update the codes to meet the new requirements of the Federal Reduction of Lead in Drinking Water Act that went into effect on January 4, 2014. The measure amends the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and revises the definition of the term "lead-free" to require no more than 0.25% lead when calculated as a weighted average of the content of the wetted surfaces for plumbing pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings and fixtures conveying water for human consumption Read more here:

<http://www.iccsafe.org/newsroom/Pages/NR031314-LeadUpdates.aspx> .

Positions on Code Development Committees Still Open!

The International Code Council is seeking volunteers to serve on Code Development Committees, the Code Correlation Committee and Code Interpretation Committees for the 2015-2017 Code Development Cycle. Both new and veteran committee members must complete an application. **Applications for committee service are due by June 2.** Click here to apply for a committee:

<http://www.iccsafe.org/CC/Pages/calls.aspx>

ICC-ES Earns Prestigious WSSPC Award in Excellence

The award bestowed by the Western States Seismic Policy Council recognizes ICC-ES Evaluation Reports for identifying safe, effective materials and designs that provide public safety to combat seismic activity, as well as the dedication of ICC-ES staff to maintain the highest level of integrity and service to clients. Click here: <http://www.icc-es.org/News/NR/2014/NR032614-WSSPC.pdf> for more information.

FEMA Funding Available to Build Storm Shelters

As of January 2014, FEMA grant programs have provided approximately \$928 million in federal funds towards the design and construction of nearly 25,000 residential and 2,300 community safe rooms in 25 states and territories.

For safe room funding and project eligibility and financial assistance questions, residents and business owners should contact their State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO). SHMO's can advise on what information must be provided for a project to be considered for funding, as well as any applicable federal, state, and local design requirements. SHMO's will also be able to provide information on funding sources. Two FEMA funding options are:

- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program Funds
- Pre-Disaster Mitigation Program Funds

Mitigation is the most effective way to lessen the impacts of disasters. In fact, according to the study by the Multi-hazard Mitigation Council, each dollar spent on mitigation saves society an average of four dollars on recovery. Effective mitigation requires that we all understand our risk, act proactively, invest in our long-term well-being, and build disaster-resilient communities. All property, business owners, and communities are urged to take the appropriate steps to ensure building safety and mitigate their risks.

For more information on mitigation, please visit <http://www.fema.gov/safer-stronger-protected-homes-communities>. For more information on FEMA's Building Science Branch mitigation guidance, visit <http://www.fema.gov/building-science>.