

GEW138-14

610.2.3 (New)

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Add new text as follows:

610.2.3 Roof mounted and elevated solar photovoltaic systems. The installation of roof mounted and elevated solar photovoltaic system components shall comply with Section 1013.6 of the *International Building Code*, Section 1013.7 of the *International Fire Code* and Section 304.11 of the *International Mechanical Code*.

Reason: To coordinate with the recent changes in the IBC, IFC and IMC which passed in code group A as E108-12.

There is an expanding list of equipment, assemblies, systems, devices and items that are now commonly being placed on rooftops and elevated walking surfaces that require routine maintenance. The current provisions of these sections require guards to be constructed as a method of fall protection provided for service and installation workers. This code change proposal is needed so there is correlation between IgCC, IBC, IFC and the IMC. This expands the fall protection, life safety provisions to a growing number of trades and service workers that are working on elevated walking surfaces. The proposal also provides an alternate method of compliance with the inclusion of exceptions which allow for the installation of fall arrest/restraint anchorage connector devices meeting ANSI Z359.1 which is the nationally recognized consensus general industry standard used nationally. The proposed exception is a choice made by the designer and building owner that provides design flexibility and the opportunity to lower construction cost associated with building guards. The proposal will increase the uniform application of this section of the code. The Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Department of Labor reports the fatalities due to falls for the years from 1998 to 2010 are second only to highway incidents, with an average of 743 fatalities each year over this 12 year period. Of the 635 fatal falls in 2010 one third are from falls from ladders or roofs. In 2010 the construction industry had the highest number of fatal occupational injuries. In 2010 for non fatal falls the median number of days away from work due to falls to a lower level was 14 days. Clearly the code needs to be improved to provide fall protection where mechanical equipment, appliances, fans, roof hatch openings, solar arrays, solar water heaters, photovoltaic panels, skylights, chimneys, gutters, attic vents, and ventilators, satellites dishes, antennas, television/radio/internet and other communication equipment and all other machinery and other components that require service are located on elevated surfaces more than 30 inches above lower level.

Cost Impact: Will not increase the cost of construction. The code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction because, the inclusion of exception into the IBC, IFC, and IMC provide a choice to lower the cost of construction.

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