

## Technical Codes and Advisory Committee

February 20th, 2018

8181 Independence Blvd

Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70806

Meeting Minutes

The Chair welcomed all present and **called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The Chair requested a roll call of the members which reflected the following:

Members Present: Mr. Bobby Byrd (Ex Officio); Mr. Christopher Brown; Mr. David Thibodeaux; Mr. Jake Causey (9:40 am); Mr. Al Courouleau; Mr. Bhola Dhume; Mr. Jerry Hebert; Mr. Jeremy Harris; Mr. Bren Kramer

Members Absent: Mr. Chester Cabirac, Mr. Ben Gootee

Excused absence: Mr. Chester Cabirac, Mr. Ben Gootee

9 members present and 2 members absent constitute a Quorum.

The Chair addressed those present to open the meeting. Comments need to brief so that as much as possible can be covered.

### OLD BUSINESS:

1. Review and Adoption of the Minutes from the November 14, 2017 meeting.

**A motion was made by Mr. Thibodeaux to adopt the minutes from the November 14<sup>th</sup> 2017 meeting. The motion received a second from Mr. Causey. The Chair asked if there were any objections to the motion. There were no objections and the motion was approved.**

### NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion on proposed amendment for blower door test when spray foam insulation is utilized. (Jerry Hebert)

The Chair opened the floor for discussion. The motion was brought forth for a vote on whether a blower door test should be performed if spray foam is utilized in the thermal design of a building. Should this be for all construction or just for homes that utilized spray foam?

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Jay Saldana and Randy Nicholas, representatives from Icynene presented documentation and spoke to the committee concerning the issues and concerns they had concerning the motion being proposed for approval. They provided documentation on two proposals and presented that to the committee members. Jay Saldana noted that R303.4 states if the home has 5 air changes you have to have mechanical ventilation and that was changed to 3 air changes if it is at 5 then there could be a good air bearer wall system, if it is at 3 you cannot tell if the home has a good wall bearer system. Mr. Saldana also noted that the language was adopted as of February 1<sup>st</sup> "Shall be determined by the contractor, design professional or home owner." Ms. Reichel also spoke to the committee and noted that during the spray foam committee they could only address issues concerning spray foam. Ms. Reichel noted the differences between each process of air sealing of a home and there is a difference between regular sheeting and a sheeting system that is taped and sealed to create an air bearer system. There is a difference between each one and the way it is constructed. Keeping the prior compliance method and who can determine it from the amendment can have an exception. The point that was made is that a spray foam system creates a very tight home and the blower door test requirements were due to that. It is more of a health and safety issue. When something is very tight there needs to be mechanical ventilation brought in to provide that protection according to building science industry and their research. Ms. Diane Baum spoke to the committee. She noted that blower doors did not need to be third parties and the HAVAC contractors can do these test. This is more about safety for the homeowners. Mr. Ken Greene spoke to the committee concerning exhaust system and concerns with 5 air changes per hour. Mr. Byrd noted that the cost was a big issue as well. Mr. Byrd noted that he would like to hear from a homebuilder about the cost. There were many concerns with this issue and the charge of the committee is to be concerned with – 1. The committee needs to be technically accurate, 2. Take into consideration the health and safety of the public in the state, 3 economic impact – cost to the homeowner and to the industry. Mr. Byrd and the Chairman both noted that there were some wording concerns and changes that may need to be made. With the issue continuing to be discussed the Chairman asked that the issue be tabled upon further discussion and brought forth at the next meeting to address those changes in the wording that needed to be made to clear up concerns. Mr. Joiner noted that the other 6 items concerning spray foam would be held up until the matter of the blower door testing was resolved. Mr. Bill Hoffman spoke to the committee. Many companies are doing the duct testing and blower door testing at a reasonable cost depending of travel distance. The concern is who can do the testing and the wording in the code as it is being stated. That was discussed between several individuals. The Chairman again requested for a motion to table the motion until a further meeting and the committee to work on the rewording of the amendment.

**A motion was made** by Mr. Causey to table the proposed amendment for blower door testing when spray foam insulation is utilized until the next meeting. **The motion was seconded** by Mr. Byrd. There were **no objections to the motion and the matter was tabled.**

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2. Discussion on plumbing concerns and proposed plumbing amendments to 2015 IPC, 2015 IRC, and existing Louisiana amendments addressing plumbing. (Bobby Byrd/Jerry Hebert)

1. City of Lafayette

**Section P3008 Back water Valves:** All finished floor elevations shall be at least 12 inches above the elevation of the manhole cover of the next upstream manhole in the public sewer.  
In existing buildings where the finished floor elevation is below or less than 12 inches above the elevation of the manhole cover of the next upstream manhole in the public sewer, the plumbing fixtures shall be protected by a backwater valve installed in the building drain, branch of the building drain, or horizontal branch serving such fixtures.

The Chairman opened the floor up for discussion. There is a major concern in the Lafayette area concerning this amendment due to the recent flash floods in the area. Mr. Joiner questioned if it was possible to turn this concern over to the local jurisdiction due to the fact that each area was different. Legal noted that the local jurisdiction could have this ability as long as it did not come in conflict with the codes established by the LSUCCC. This could just be noted as an elevation concern and addressed as such and would not require a local ordinance. With a requirement already in place that addresses this then a local ordinance would not be needed.

A motion was made and seconded to table Section P3008 Back Water Valves and to bring it back with an exception. There were no objections to the motion and the motion passed.

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2. Hose Bibb

**2015 IPC Section 606.2 Location of shutoff valves.**

Shutoff valves shall be installed in the following locations:

1. On the fixture supply to each plumbing fixture other than bathtubs and showers in one- and two-family residential *occupancies*, and other than in individual sleeping units that are provided with unit shutoff valves in hotels, motels, boarding houses and similar *occupancies*.
2. On the water supply pipe to each sillcock.
3. On the water supply pipe to each appliance or mechanical equipment.

A motion was made by Mr. Causey to accept IPC 606.2 with no changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Thibodeaux. There were no objections to the motion and the motion passed.

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~~2015 IRC Section P2903.10 Hose bibb. DELETE~~

~~Hose bibbs subject to freezing, including the “frostproof” type, shall be equipped with an accessible stop and waste type valve inside the building so that they can be controlled and drained during cold periods. Exception: Frostproof hose bibbs installed such that the stem extends through the building insulation into an open heated or semiconditioned space need not be separately valved. ( Figure P2903.10)~~

~~FIGURE P2903.10- DELETE~~

TYPICAL FROSTPROOF HOSE BIBB INSTALLATION NOT REQUIRING SEPARATE VALUE

A motion was made by Mr. Thibodeaux to delete IRC Section P2903.10 Table Section P3008 Back Water Valves. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dhume. There were no objections to the motion and the motion passed.

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3. Condensate drains in attics

**2015 IPC Section 802.3 Waste receptors.**

For other than hub drains that receive only clear-water waste and standpipes, a removable strainer or basket shall cover the outlet of waste receptors. Waste receptors shall not be installed in concealed spaces. Waste receptors shall not be installed in plenums, ~~crawl spaces, attics,~~ interstitial spaces above ceilings and below floors. ~~Ready~~ access shall be provided to waste receptors.

**2015 IRC Section P2706.1 General.**

For other than hub drains that receive only clear-water waste and standpipes, a removable strainer or basket shall cover the waste outlet of waste receptors. Waste receptors shall not be installed in concealed spaces. Waste receptors shall not be installed in plenums, ~~attics, crawl spaces~~ or interstitial spaces above ceilings and below floors. Waste receptors shall be ~~readily~~ accessible

The Chairman opened the floor for discussion. After a lengthy discussion the Chair requested a motion to accept the amendment with the changes of omitting the wording “attics” “crawl spaces” “ready” and “readily”

A motion was made by Mr. Dhume to accept IPC Section 802.3 Waste Receptors and IRC Section P2706.1 General - with the removal of “crawl spaces and attics” and removal of the word “ready” IPC Section 802.3 as well as “attics, crawl spaces” and “readily” IRC Section P2706.1 The motion was seconded by Mr. Byrd. There were no objections to the motion and the motion passed.

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**Mr. Joiner requested the committee move to Item #8 for it to be addressed next because there is no action that needs to be taken on that concern.**

8. 2012 amendments Section 412.5 require water source for trap primers Section 1002.4.1 IPC would allow trap seal protection devices (Barrier type) This is required in:

**RS 40:1730.28.2** State Uniform Construction Code; requirements and prohibitions

A. The State Uniform Construction Code shall:

(1) Require methods of back flow prevention to prevent contaminated water from flowing back into the public water system.

(2) Prohibit plumbing vent systems using air admittance valves.

(3) Require that a trap seal primer valve be installed where a trap seal is subject to loss by evaporation. ADD TO AMENDMENTS- VOTED TO ACCEPT

B. The council shall adopt rules and regulations in accordance with R.S. 40:1730.26(2) (a) to implement the provisions of this Section. Any modifications to the rules and regulations adopted pursuant to this Section shall be adopted in accordance with the provisions of R.S. 40:1730.26(2) (b). Acts 2014, No. 836, §1, eff. June 23, 2014.

12. Confusion on whether PEX is considered a plastic and must be tested the same as a plastic as written.

**Amend Section 312.5, Water Supply System Test. VOTED NO CHANGES 2/9/18—NEW PROPOSAL IS TO ADD TO IRC SECTION P2503.7**

a. Upon completion of a section of or the entire water supply system, the system, or portion completed, shall be tested and proved tight under a water pressure not less than 1.5 times the working pressure of the system, but not less than 140 psi; or, for piping systems other than plastic, by an air test of not less than 50 psi (344 kPa). This pressure shall be held for not less than 15 minutes. The water utilized for tests shall be obtained from a potable source of supply. The required tests shall be performed in accordance with this section and Section 107.

Mr. Joiner noted that PEX is plastic and will hold air pressure up to 160 at 73 degrees. Mr. Joiner questioned if the wording should be “for piping systems other than PVC” instead of plastic. The water test is a more thorough of a test than air test however it takes up to 24 hours to get the results of the air test. With all the new products on the market over the last 5-10 years it is very important that the testing method be the best it can be before the walls are closed up. Code requirements are 15 minutes. The committee chose not to make any changes.

**A motion was made by Mr. Causey to accept the amendment as stated above with no changes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Dhume. There were no objections to the motion and the motion was approved.**

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11. Review of paragraph 607.2 in the 2015 IPC, and see that the developed length of hot or tempered water shall not exceed 50 feet.

*This provision will be very difficult to comply with on the numerous small commercial projects designed by this firm! Any item such as this unnecessary reduction in the length of hot water piping, and that increases the cost of the plumbing installation in these small commercial projects will be very difficult to justify to our clients! I respectfully request that this be **amended to 100 feet**, which will be practical in most small commercial projects. VOTED TO ACCEPT*

**607.2 Hot or tempered water supply to fixtures. AMEND** The developed length of hot or tempered water piping, from the source of hot water to the fixtures that require *hot or tempered water*, shall not exceed ~~50~~100 feet (15 240 mm). Recirculating system piping and heat-traced piping shall be considered to be sources of *hot or tempered water*.

**A motion was made** by Mr. Dhume to change the piping for hot and tempered water from the source of hot water to fixtures shall not exceed 100 feet. **The motion was seconded** by Mr. Courouleau. There were no objections to the motion and the **motion passed**.

All other plumbing items and other matters not addressed are moved to the next meeting.

3. Discussion on requirements for Tiny Houses in Louisiana. (Jerry Hebert)

The Chair requested a motion to adjourn. The motion was made by Mr. Bobby Byrd to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Courouleau. The meeting ended at. The meeting ended at 11:15 am

END OF MINUTES