



Seeing Eye-to-Eye on I-Codes

By Dana Peterson and Sam Waymire

September saw the formation of APPA's I-Codes Work Group which will monitor, assess, and ultimately influence the relevant activities of the International Codes Council (ICC). This is an exciting development and marks the first time that APPA members will have the opportunity to collaborate and propose changes to codes and standards promulgated by the ICC. International codes (often shortened to I-Codes) are model codes published by the ICC that are suitable for easy adoption by states or municipalities.

Organized under the leadership of the APPA Standards and Codes Council

(ASCC), the Work Group seeks to propose changes and formally recommend new language for the International Building Code and other "Group A Codes" that are now up for public review.

It is the goal of the Work Group to offer recommendations reflecting broad consensus among APPA members, and that directly support the activities of the higher education sector. The Work Group will also promote I-Code awareness among APPA's member institutions, serving as a venue wherein members can learn more about the impact of both pending and existing ICC standards and codes.

The I-Codes Work Group held its Inaugural Convener's meeting on September 30 and got off to a productive start. Conducted via Web-conference, this meeting attracted attendance from a wide range of highly qualified professionals that were eager to share their hard-earned industry knowledge. The primary purpose of this initial gathering was to encourage participants to consider the compliance challenges that educational institutions might encounter through the implementation of the I-Codes that are slated for review in 2015. From there, the Work Group will seek to determine how to allocate its

time and resources to ensure that the needs of APPA members are best addressed. Preliminary ideas for proposed I-Codes changes were solicited from meeting participants and will act as a foundation upon which the Group will further develop its plans.

Though the Work Group is presently charged with addressing codes under the 2015 group of revisions, its scope may easily be expanded to address ICC code issues on a more continuous basis, especially given the cyclical nature of the ICC review schedule. During the inaugural meeting there was a clear interest in developing the Work Group to function in this direction. Participants seemed eager to offer their expertise on an ongoing basis as the Work Group's first foray into the ICC standards and codes space for 2015 becomes successful. In short, we could see the ASCC expand the scope of the I-Codes Work Group, or create separate Work Groups to address member comments and recommendations pertaining to ICC's Group B Codes, as well as the International Green Construction Code (IgCC).

The Group A Codes that are up for review in 2015, and are within the scope and framework of the APPA I-Codes Work Group's activities, are as follows.

- International Building Code® (IBC®)
- International Existing Building Code® (IEBC®)
- International Fuel Gas Code® (IFGC®)
- International Mechanical Code® (IMC®)
- International Plumbing Code® (IPC®)
- International Property Maintenance Code® (IPMC®)
- International Private Sewage Disposal Code® (IPSDC®)
- International Residential Code® (IRC®)

- International Swimming Pool and Spa Code® (ISPSC®)
- International Zoning Code® (IZC®)

The I-Codes Work Group is now developing a list of active members from a diverse array of institutions, including professionals with backgrounds in four-year and two-year higher education institutions and K-12 schools. APPA Emeritus members and business partners with expertise in the Group A I-Codes may also express their interest to participate in the Work Group. In doing so, APPA can be sure that the full voice of its membership rings through clearly, and that each code or standard issue can be considered from a healthy range of perspectives.

With momentum building, the I-Codes Work Group is poised to affect meaningful change in the codes under

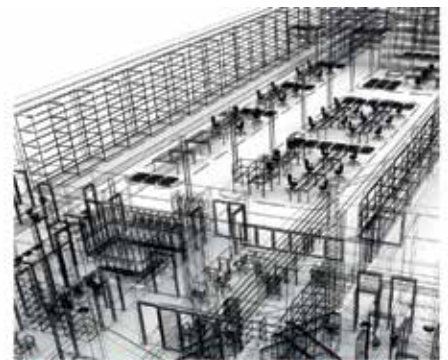
its purview. The formation of this work group represents a major step towards guaranteeing that *all* APPA members will have a seat at the table wherever and whenever standards and codes impacting the education sector are developed and discussed. ☛

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To learn more about the I-Code Work Group's activities and to participate in the Work Group, contact Dana Peterson at dana.peterson@unh.edu or Sam Waymire at swaymire@appa.org.



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