

2018 Editions of Group A I-Codes: Ready for Release

By Dana Peterson, AIA

By the time you read this, the 2018 editions of the Group A I-codes (including the International Building Code (IBC), International Fire Code (IFC), International Mechanical Code (IMC), and International Plumbing Code (IPC), just to name a few of the more widely adopted and used), will have received their final approvals by the voting members of the International Code Council (ICC), and the editions will have been released to the various states and municipalities for their review and adoption into law as your city or state code.

As has been the case for each of the last three review cycles, the ICC Work Group, working

under the APPA Standards and Codes Council (ASCC), met through successive conference calls this spring to review and discuss the changes that will affect educational facilities. With the help and guidance of a professional code consultant, the Work Group, comprising facilities representatives from nine universities, two community colleges, one public school district, and two business partners, reviewed and debated the relative merits and drawbacks of 63 different change proposals. In the end, the group recommended that APPA members support 37 of the proposed changes and oppose 24, and took a neutral “no-comment” position on the remaining 2. After reviewing the Work Group’s effort, the ASCC Council voted to change the vote on one proposal (F91), a proposal to establish a requirement that fireproofing must be maintained, from “oppose” to “support,” due to the fact that only one vote was received on that proposal. These positions were taken to the Committee Action Hearings in Columbus, Ohio.

One proposal that was amended (F263, making owners responsible to institute and enforce a fire safety plan for areas under construction) was opposed, and while the amendment made noncompliance fines to owners optional and not mandatory, this did not overcome the many other objections the Work Group and the Council had to this proposal.

The changes to the IFC suggested in proposals F263 and F264 could cause additional costs. If the IFC is not an enforced code in your area, these changes will not affect you. However, if it is, you can expect a substantial increase in your construction costs, and most likely a need for larger schools and districts to create an entirely new, staffed department for round-the-clock fire



inspectors and plan writers when the IFC's 2018 edition is adopted in your jurisdiction. The Council drafted and approved a public comment in an attempt to lessen the impact of these changes by requiring the fire-safety plans only on projects of Type III or Type V construction, and not requiring a fire watch so long as an active alarm system is in operation. (For detailed proposal tracking, visit <https://www.appa.org/standards/standardsenergycode.cfm>.)

APPA's public comment was read aloud during the ICC Annual Conference in Richmond, Virginia (October 21-29) where the ICC membership took a final vote (in person at the conference, or online via ICC's cdpAccess system) on all of these measures. The outcome of the vote is currently unknown as of this writing, but will be known when this article is published. Any APPA member institution who has any staff involved in code enforcement, advocacy, or development is eligible to join ICC as a voting "Governmental Member" at \$25.00 per year. If your school has been delegated authority to enforce code on your campus, issue minor electrical and plumbing permits, conduct fire safety inspections, or if you have sent representatives to your state capital to argue for or against particular code provisions, or have representatives that sit on state or national code development committees, you are eligible to be a voting member of ICC. Depending on the size of your institution, you would be allowed to designate from 1 to as many as 7 individuals to vote.

The ICC Work Group will begin reviewing the Group B codes at about the time this article will appear. The principal

code in that group is the International Energy Code. The APPA Work Group is always looking for new schools to join in; please contact Billie Zidek at billie@appa.org if you would like to join us. ☺

.....
Dana Peterson is retired from the University of New Hampshire in Durham, NH, and a member of the ASCC. He can be reached at danaspeterson@unh.edu.

Temperatures So Accurate, You'll Be Steamed You Didn't Install One Sooner



Cobrex[®] steam water heaters deliver safe domestic hot water with precise temperature control to $\pm 4^{\circ}\text{F}$ and without the need for a steam control valve. Available in instantaneous, semi-instantaneous and storage, the factory-packaged, skid-mounted water heaters feature an ASME double-wall, copper-tube heat exchanger with single or dual options. With its durable construction and easy, clean-in-place maintenance, Cobrex provides a reliable, long-lasting remedy for all your domestic hot water needs.

AquaPLEX[®]
Engineered Duplex Alloy


A WATTS Brand

Engineered Water Heating Solutions[®]

800.784.8326 | pvi.com