



MEETING LOG

MEETING TITLE/SUBJECT: International Code Council (ICC) Code Hearings, including International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)

OP PLAN ENTRY: Building Codes

DATE OF MEETING: 4/10/2024

LOCATION OF MEETING: Orlando, FL

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: Scott Ayers (ESEF)

CPSC STAFF FILING MEETING LOG: 4/15/2024

CPSC STAFF ATTENDEE(S): Scott Ayers

NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S): Contact ICC for a complete list of participants.

Summary of Meeting:

The ICC conducted public hearings (formally called Committee Action Hearings #1) on proposed reviews to many of their model codes in April 2024. Staff participated on the IFGC Code Development Committee (CDC) and observed some of the International Residential Code (IRC) and International Fire Code (IFC) hearings. During the hearings, proponents and opponents of proposed changes were given time to advocate for or against changes. The ICC will conduct a second round of hearings (formally called Committee Action Hearings #2) in October and will then publish their findings late this year.

The IFGC CDC heard proponent and opponent comments on 12 proposed changes. Staff then discussed with the other CDC members each proposed change. Below are the details of each proposed change:

- FG1-24: the proposed change replaced the term “sleeping room” with “bedroom.” The proposed change failed, the general sentiment of the CDC, which staff agreed with was that sleeping room should remain and bedroom should also be added. Sleeping room should also be defined.
- FG2-24: the proposed change added allowable locations that combustion air could be taken from. The proposed change passed as submitted. Staff pointed out that the phrasing of “outside of a bedroom, bathroom...” could be confusing and would be better replaced by “other than a bedroom, bathroom...”.
- FG3-24: the proposed change clarified that when an appliance is installed in a pit, that there should be sufficient clearance for maintenance. The proposed change passed as submitted.
- FG4-24: the proposed change removed the definition of “noncombustible” and changed the requirements of noncombustible materials to align with the noncombustible performance test in ASTM E136. The proposal also exempted “inherently noncombustible” materials. The proposed change proponent submitted a modification to remove the ambiguous “inherently noncombustible” term and use specific materials such as stone and concrete. The proposal failed and the modification failed. Staff supported the proposal with the modification but cautioned the removal of the noncombustible definition



and pointed out that ASTM E136 (through ASTM E176) defines noncombustible. Other CDC members also expressed reservations about the current phrasing of the proposal.

- FG5-24: the proposal added a requirement for encasement systems for underground installations. The proposal passed as submitted.
- FG6-24: the proposal added the term “metal” in front of several means of pipe attachments. Staff asked the proponent to clarify that “metal pipe hook” and “metal pipe strap” meant a hook and a strap made of metal and not a hook and strap intended for metal pipes. The proponent confirmed that intent and the proposal passed as submitted.
- FG7-24: the proposal altered the acceptable pressure ports for medium pressure regulators. The proposal passed as submitted.
- FG8-24: the proposal updated requirements for acceptable vents. There were no proponents present who testified for this proposal, but several opponents voiced concerns that the proposed changes would limit vents that could be used. The proposal failed.
- FG10-24: the proposal added press-connect fittings as acceptable for joints. The proposal passed as submitted.
- FG11-24 Part 1: the proposal added provisions for hydrogen fuel gas blends in the requirements section. Multiple modifications were submitted to the proposal. Staff was concerned that the wording of the proposal changes was ambiguous as the proponent intended to create a new term for fuel gases between 5% and 95% hydrogen blends. Other CDC panel members were concerned that the industry is currently only looking at hydrogen blends up to 20%. The proposed change and all modifications failed.
- FG11-24 Part 2: the proposal made various small editorial changes. The proposal passed as submitted.
- ADM1-24: the proposal added provisions for hydrogen fuel gas blends in the scope section. Multiple modifications were submitted to the proposal. Staff was again concerned that the wording of the proposal changes was ambiguous as the proponent intended to create a new term for fuel gases between 5% and 95% hydrogen blends. CDC panel members expressed concerns about this proposed change in line with the discussions on FG11-24 Part 1. The proposed change and all modifications failed.

Staff expects many of the failed proposals to be resubmitted for the Committee Action Hearings #2, including the changes to noncombustible requirements and provisions for hydrogen blended fuel gases.

Staff observed most of the IRC CDC hearing. Of note, the IRC passed a proposal to include a reference to ASHRAE 15.2. Industry is taking a deliberate approach with flammable refrigerant requirements, with UL/CSA 60335-2-40 covering the HVAC appliance requirements, ASHRAE 15.2 covering the HVAC installation requirements, and the IRC covering the code requirements for residential HVAC systems now that these systems will include flammable refrigerants. Staff did not note any other proposals of interest to CPSC.

Staff observed some of the IFC CDC hearing. The IFC hearing lasted several days. Staff did observe discussion on requirements for CO alarms, however the original proposal was modified, and staff was not able to see the modifications. The IFC CDC did pass the proposal with modifications. Staff did not note any other



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proposals of interest to CPSC.

Next Steps:

Staff will participate in the October IFGC CDC.

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