



IAC seeks SDO feedback on proposed revisions to ICC's referenced standards policy

VERSION 2

October 4, 2016

Background: On March 2, 2016, ICC sent an email to the Standards Developing Organizations (SDO's) who have currently referenced standards in the International Codes. The purpose of the email was to solicit feedback on behalf of the ICC Board on a proposed revision (VERSION 1) by ICC's Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) to ICC's policy on Code Development (CP 28) relative to the process for updating referenced standards in the International Codes (see page 4).

The IAC revised the proposed revision (VERSION 2) in response to the feedback received from the SDO's. VERSION 2 is shown below and the reason for the recommended change to the policy is on page 2. A copy of CP 28 is attached for reference.

The role of the IAC is explained in the attached CP 6 Industry Advisory Committee.

Action requested: Review and comment by the SDO's on VERSION 2. If you have any questions, please contact Mike Pfeiffer, PE, SVP Technical Services @ mpfeiffer@iccsafe.org.

[Click here](#) to submit feedback. The deadline for feedback is November 7th.

The following is VERSION 2 proposed revisions to CP28

3.6.3 Standard Promulgation:

3.6.3.1 Code change proposals with corresponding changes to the code text which include a reference to a proposed new standard or a proposed update of an existing referenced standard shall comply with this section. The standard shall be completed and readily available prior to the Public Comment Hearing based on the cycle of code development which includes the code change proposal. In order for a new standard to be considered for reference by the Code, such standard shall be submitted in at least a consensus draft form in accordance with Section 3.4. If a new standard is not submitted in at least draft form, the code change proposal shall be considered incomplete and

shall not be processed. ~~Updating of standards without corresponding code text changes shall be accomplished administratively in accordance with Section 4.6.~~

3.6.3.2 The standard shall be developed and maintained through a consensus process such as ASTM or ANSI.

3.6.3.3 Updating of standards without corresponding code text changes shall be accomplished administratively in accordance with Section 4.6.

4.6 Updating Standards Referenced in the Codes: The updating of standards referenced by the Codes shall be accomplished administratively by proposals directed to the Administrative Code Development Committee. Multiple standards may be included in a single proposal. Standards to be updated shall follow one of the two processing options described in Sections 4.6.1 and 4.6.2 and shall otherwise be in accordance with these full procedures except that t:

4.6.1 Completed Standards: For standards that are completed and are readily available prior to January 1 of the second year of a code cycle, a reference to the updated edition of the standard shall be included in an administrative standards update proposal for completed standards in the second year of the code cycle. If the update proposal is approved, the published version of the new edition of the Code which references the standard will refer to the updated edition of the standard.

4.6.2 In-process Standards: For standards that are not completed and readily available prior to January 1 of the second year of a code cycle, a reference to an updated edition of the standard shall be included in an administrative standards update proposal for in-process standards in the second year of the code cycle, and the development process for the standard shall comply with the following:

1. The process shall allow anyone to submit a proposal or public comment without cost.
2. The process shall provide a means for interested parties to view proposed modifications to the standard and recommended actions on such modifications under consideration for the updated standard without cost.
3. The deadline for availability of the updated standard and receipt by the Secretariat shall be December 1 of the third year of each the code cycle. If the proposed update is approved, tThe published version of the new edition of the Code which references the standard will refer to the updated edition of the standard.

4.6.3 Standards Not Completed. ~~if the standard is not available by the deadline, t~~The edition of the standard as referenced by the newly published Code shall revert back to the reference contained in the previous edition and an errata to the Code issued for any standard that is not available by December 1 of the third year of the code cycle. Multiple standards to be updated may be included in a single proposal.

Reason for recommended change: The ICC code development process is rooted in the principles of openness and transparency. Anyone is permitted to submit proposed changes to ICC codes, and ICC makes such proposals available for viewing and commenting by anyone, at no cost, during the development process. Because third-party standards adopted by ICC codes as reference standards become an enforceable part of a code, it is appropriate that such standards embrace and follow ICC's principles of openness and transparency.

In originally establishing the update process for 3rd party standards adopted by ICC codes, there was an underlying assumption that the ICC process did not need to provide an option for ICC members to review updates to in-process 3rd party standards because interested parties could directly participate in the standards' development processes.

It has since been learned that this is not always the case. The ICC Industry Advisory Committee has learned that some consensus standards developers do not allow public access to their development processes or may require a fee to participate. For code officials in particular, this is obviously problematic, and it is likewise a concern for others who participate in the ICC process but may not have a full-time interest in a particular reference standard. The changes proposed by this amendment to CP28 are intended to address this concern by ensuring that:

1. An updated standard has been completed before the update is considered by the ICC membership in the Group B cycle, or
2. For standards that are not complete before the Group B cycle, interested parties can view and participate in the standards update process, given that changes could be made to an updated standard after ICC's members have accepted the update.

It is important to point out that this proposed revision to CP28 does not impose a mandate on any standards developer to do anything. Standards developers can continue using a process that doesn't comply with these rules, but in doing so, they would risk having proposed updates disapproved by the ICC membership.

This proposed revision to CP28 does not add an additional administrative burden to ICC staff, and it does not impose an enforcement mechanism for standards developers who do not comply with the proposed policy. However, having this policy included in CP28 will provide a policy-based option for parties who may oppose adoption of a Group B "in-process" update to raise concerns with the ICC membership. Likewise, the standards developer would be given an opportunity to defend their position in testimony, and ultimately, approval or denial of an update to the standard in question would be determined by the ICC membership when the final vote on the administrative update proposal is taken.

FOR REFERENCE ONLY

ICC Board seeks SDO feedback on proposed revision to referenced standards policy

VERSION 1

March 2, 2016

ICC's Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) has been studying the requirements for updating referenced standards in the International Codes. The IAC is advocating for Standards Developing Organization's (SDO's) to be transparent in terms of their process and the availability of standards as they are being updated. Absent the ability to review and comment on the standard could result in standards being updated in the International Codes without having undergone review by anyone outside of the update process.

At this time, the ICC Board is considering the following IAC recommendation to revise ICC's policy on Code Development (CP28) relative to the updating of referenced standards.

3.6.3.2 The standard shall be developed and maintained through a consensus process such as ASTM or ANSI.

3.6.3.2.1 Updated standards to be referenced in the 2021 Edition and following Editions of the I-Codes. For standards to be updated in accordance with Section 4.6, the consensus process shall provide an option for anyone to submit or comment on a proposed revision without cost, and proposed revisions shall be published in a manner that is available to the public without cost.

[Section 4.6 provided below for reference]

4.6 Updating Standards Referenced in the Codes: The updating of standards referenced by the Codes shall be accomplished administratively by the Administrative Code Development Committee in accordance with these full procedures except that the deadline for availability of the updated standard and receipt by the Secretariat shall be December 1 of the third year of each code cycle. The published version of the new edition of the Code which references the standard will refer to the updated edition of the standard. If the standard is not available by the deadline, the edition of the standard as referenced by the newly published Code shall revert back to the reference contained in the previous edition and an errata to the Code issued. Multiple standards to be updated may be included in a single proposal.

It was noted that the enforcement mechanism for this requirement would be the hearings themselves. If a currently referenced standard is being considered for update in the International Codes, participants in the process could raise an objection to updating the standard if they were not afforded the opportunity to participate in the update process. Ultimately it would be up to the hearing process and the eligible voters

to decide if the lack of ability to participate in the SDO update process should be the basis to not update the currently referenced standard.

The ICC Board is encouraging feedback from the SDO's who are responsible for updating standards that are referenced in the International Codes.

[Click here](#) to submit feedback. The deadline for feedback is March 30th.