

EXHIBIT 83

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Proposed amendment submitted by:

Name: Richard W. Wood, President Date: October 6, 2009

Company/ Jurisdiction : NH Fire Prevention Society

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Applicable code: IBC IRC IPC IMC IECC NEPA 70
(circle applicable code)

Current code language (including section numbers) :

NONE

Proposed code language:

Table 601, Fire Resistance Rating Requirements for Building Elements (hours)

ADD footnote "h" below to the "floor Construction and Secondary Members" row of the table for Type III B and Type V B construction.

h. framing members that are not of equivalent mass to sawn lumber shall be protected by a 1/2 hour fire barrier complying with section 704.4 unless the area is protected by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with section 903.3.1

Reason / Justification:

First, let me go on record stating that the NH Fire Prevention Society is dedicated to promoting fire and life safety in the built environment. We also recognize that there is no dispute regarding the impressive track record residential fire sprinklers have regarding saving lives. In fact we believe that it is our duty to work to ensure all buildings are constructed in such a manner as to provide the safest possible environment for people to work and live.

Light weight truss construction poses a significant risk to occupant and responder safety during fire events. Though these materials provide needed strength during normal conditions, they fail prematurely under certain conditions in contrast to nominal lumber.

This was the topic of recent analysis of Underwriters laboratories. In fact, According to UL wood "I" joist construction fails in as little as 6 minutes when exposed to a fire. As part of a live burn conducted at the Nashua Fire Rescue Training Facility, we were able to burn a mock up of an I joist floor system and created a failure in approximately 7 minutes from ignition.

The intent of the International Building Code outlined in 101.3 includes "safety to life and property from fire and other hazards attributed to the built environment and to provide **safety to firefighters and emergency responders during emergency operations**"

Given our predominant fire protection delivery model in New Hampshire utilizes volunteer responders with an average response time greater than 6 minutes from fire inception, it is imperative we address this issue. In addition, the data available tells us smoke detectors take anywhere from 1 to 30 minutes to activate depending on differing fire scenarios. In addition, the data tells us that although most residential properties have smoke detectors, roughly 1/2 are not operating at the time of a fire. Thus occupant notification through their arrival safely outside may exceed the built environments ability to provide for their escape. It is not only incumbent upon us to provide occupants time to escape, but also to meet the intent of this code as outlined for responders.

This is especially necessary given the likely difficulties that will be incurred with the wide spread implementation of Residential sprinklers in NH.

Code Board Action:

Date: _____

Approved: _____ Approved with modifications: _____ Not approved: _____

Modifications: