

STRUCTURAL BUILDING COMPONENTS MAGAZINE (FORMERLY WOODWORDS)

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"International Codes Update"

Code officials from across the United States met in St. Louis, Missouri, on September 12-17 to vote on the 1999 proposed code changes and standards updates for the final draft of the both the International Building Code™ (IBC) and the International Residential Code™ (IRC). With only a few exceptions, the assembly upheld the actions that resulted from the code meetings in Los Angeles last March. This means that the truss design requirements developed last March (See June/July issue of WOODWORDS) will be incorporated into the 2000 edition of the IBC and IRC. The 2000 edition of both the IBC and IRC will be available for adoption and enforcement by local code authorities by sometime next year.

The American Forest & Paper Association (AF&PA) was successful in convincing the assembly to disapprove the "Exception" to Section 710.3.2 Unusable Space. This provision, proposed by the Gypsum Association, would have required a one-hour ceiling membrane with roof trusses, whenever a one-hour fire resistance is required for the roof. Had this provision been approved, it effectively would have required a double layer of 5/8-inch Type X gypsum board to be used for the ceiling membrane of any roof truss assembly. Both AF&PA and WTCA submitted written challenges in June opposing this provision. We are appreciative of AF&PA's support in successfully defeating this provision.

For more information on the International Codes development process, please visit our web site at www.woodtruss.com.

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