



# **CALIFORNIA LOCAL CHAPTERS OF THE ICC**

## **RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODES**

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**PREPARED BY:**



**FIRE-LIFE SAFETY COMMITTEE  
STRUCTURAL CODE COMMITTEE**

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### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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## **PART I**

### **RECOMMENDED POSITION FOR PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE FIRE-LIFE SAFETY PROVISIONS OF THE 2015 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODES**

**RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015 I-CODES**

**SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED POSITION ON FIRE-LIFE SAFETY PROPOSALS**

ITEM	TITLE/DESCRIPTION	REASON	POSITION
E1	Redefine common path of egress travel	This proposal does not clarify the new definition. The tables show an A occupancy with a maximum occupant load of 49, except where there is fixed seating.	D
E3	Changes exit access "doorway" to "exit access point"	The proposed changes does not clarify or improve the code language and may cause confusion with code users who are familiar with "doorway".	D
E9	Adds the new term "capacity" in concert with "width"	The "required width" based on the occupant load is clear. Introducing the term "capacity" does not improve the code language and may cause confusion with code users.	D
E11	Floor level slip resistance requirement	This proposal introduces new standards for slip resistance floor surface that is both impractical and difficult to enforce and maintain.	D
E19	Occupant load increase	This proposal introduces an incomplete list for the code users to consider and will lead to inconsistent interpretations and applications of the requirement.	D
E30-32	Reduces means of egress illumination	The intent to save energy by reducing illumination may result in unintended consequences. There may be instances where the higher illumination is needed for life-safety purposes even though it may not be considered a fire related emergency.	D
E41-45	Platform lifts	The proposed changes does not clarify or improve the code language and may cause confusion with code users.	D
E48	Two way communication required at elevator landings	The proposed changes does not clarify or improve the code language and may cause confusion with code users.	D
E64	Locks and latches	The proposed change to classify certain buildings as unoccupied for the purpose of locking doors after business hours is reasonable since employees, security, and cleaning crew are familiar with the premise and its exiting systems.	AS
E66	Special locking arrangements in doors for I-1 and I-2 occupancies	The proposed change to permit allowances for the I-1 occupancies, similar that of the I-2 occupancies, is reasonable due to the similar nature of both occupancies.	AS
E76	Security locking arrangement for Groups A, B, and M occupancies	This proposal allows special locking systems that are currently installed in many financial institutions and similar occupancies that require added security. This is not currently addressed in the code and many jurisdictions are required to pursue such approval as an alternate method of construction. This proposed change addresses these types of uses.	AS

**RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015 I-CODES**

ITEM	TITLE/DESCRIPTION	REASON	POSITION
E109	Window openings fall prevention in R-2 and R-3	The proposal clarifies existing language including where the height is measured to the top of the sill of an operable window.	AS
E117	Increase in travel distance of F-1 and S-1	This proposal was adopted by the State of California and the supporting research report warrants the increase in travel distance.	AS
E129	Number of exits and exit configuration	This proposal clarifies the exit requirement and will make it easier for code users to enforce.	AS
E137	Interior exit stairways and ramps	This proposed change clarifies the requirement as intended.	AS
FS15	Fire separation distance for projections	This proposal would only be applicable in sprinklered buildings. Furthermore, it would require that sprinklers be added under the eaves. There is no background or any substantiating study on how the proponent arrived at this proposal. There does not seem to be a proper trade-off for getting the fire separation distance for projections 5 feet or greater reduced in Table 705.2	D
FS26	Vertical exposure for buildings with different heights	This proposal will require all buildings, when meeting the criteria set forth in this section, regardless of location (even when involving multi-lots with different owners), to meet the requirements. This will be difficult to enforce by local jurisdictions and would impact the viability and constructability of new buildings by owners on adjacent lots. Building officials will also have to require an extensive search to determine if this would apply every time a new building is submitted for plan check.	D
FS43	"S" labeling on smoke and draft control doors	This proposal helps to clarify that the use of the "S" letter is intended only to indicate conformance to UL 1784 and allows use of the marking on smoke partition doors that conform to that test standard.	AS
FS88	Corridor openings into unenclosed elevator lobbies	This proposal may have the unintended consequence of reducing the safety of occupants as a result of eliminating the smoke and draft control requirements on door assemblies when opening into unenclosed lobbies that could prevent or impede fire that occurs at adjacent levels.	D
G31	I-1 occupancy	This proposal, among other things, splits the group I-1 occupancies into two sub-groups called condition 1 and 2. It is recommended to change the occupancies designations of 'Group I-1, Condition 1' to 'Group I-1.1.' to be consistent with other designations.	AM
G69	Direct access to a corridor for I-2 occupancy	This proposal include suites in the exception based of it's application in the code. The justification provided by the	AS

**RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015 I-CODES**

ITEM	TITLE/DESCRIPTION	REASON	POSITION
		proponent is reasonable.	
G88	One hour separation for tire rebuilding operations	This proposal reflects existing IFC Section 3403.2 requirements and including it into the IBC will ensure that code users of both codes apply the requirements more consistently and uniformly.	AS
G112	Area calculations for basements	This proposal makes editorial changes from “basement” to “basements” provided the total area of such basements does not exceed the area permitted for a building with no more than one story above grade plane.	AS
G144	Wood floors	This proposal makes the requirement clear.	AS
G153	Equipment and systems	This proposal makes the requirement clear.	AS
G159	Minimum ceiling heights	This proposal makes the requirement clear.	AS
G254-255	Replicable buildings	The concept of replicable building has an inherent flaw in that it makes a general assumption that each state or local jurisdictions operates and enforces construction standards the same way. Depending on the type of use or occupancy, other agencies (i.e., Zoning, Public Works, Fire, Health, etc.) will dictate requirements that typically will result in changes to the standard or replicable building plan. Furthermore, local conditions (i.e., flood, wind, seismic, liquefaction, etc.) will result in further changes or analysis of the replicable building plan. Lastly, the creation of a qualified agency will result in confusion among other city staff and builders as to their role and this may result in an increase in construction cost.	D

FOOTNOTE:

1. AS = Approved as submitted. AM = Approved as modified. D = Deny.



## PART II

### RECOMMENDED POSITION FOR PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE STRUCTURAL PROVISIONS OF THE 2015 EDITION OF THE INTERNATIONAL CODES



RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015 I-CODES

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDED POSITION ON STRUCTURAL PROPOSALS

ITEM	TITLE/DESCRIPTION	REASON	POSITION
S82	Risk category	This proposal ensures that the correct table in the IBC is used instead of the table in the ASCE 7 standard.	AS
S93	Lifeline anchorages for facade access equipment	This proposal would require the authority having jurisdiction to enforce provisions intended to address a contractor's means and methods of construction. The authority to enforce occupational safety and hazard vary from state to state by agencies that do not use the IBC as a basis of ensuring worker's safety.	D
S179	Required geotechnical information for seismic design categories	This proposal adds criteria to be included in geotechnical reports that will assist in the design of structures subject to liquefaction and may reduce the potential hazard of failure.	AS
S181	Excavations near existing buildings	This proposal adds criteria to be included in the design when an existing building is undermined by a proposed excavation and may reduce the potential hazard of failure.	AS
S183	Design for capacity and settlement	This proposal provides clear direction on how to address differential and total settlement. However, it is recommended that the phrase <b>"harmful distortion or instability in the structure, nor cause"</b> to be omitted as it may be subject to different and inconsistent interpretation. Removing the subjective phrase will help to improve the intended change sought by the proponent.	AM
S184	Design for surcharge	This proposal adds language to address conditions of existing buildings that are surcharged by fill material being placed adjacent to the building. The proposal submitted by NCSEA is sound and reasonable.	AS
S192	Special inspection reports for deep foundations	This proposal clarifies the practice that should be followed by Special Inspectors for deep foundations. The proposal submitted by NCSEA is sound and reasonable.	AS
S193	Construction documents for structural concrete construction	This proposal adds to the list of documents that are to be included for the design of structural concrete structures. It is recommended that the added word <b>"embed"</b> in item number 3 be removed as it is not clear what this term means and may cause confusion with code users.	AM
S194	Construction documents for structural concrete construction	This proposal removes the list of documents that are to be included in the design of structural concrete structures. This list is useful to the code users and should be retained.	D

**RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015 I-CODES**

ITEM	TITLE/DESCRIPTION	REASON	POSITION
S260	Thickness of structural metal components	This proposal reduces the allowable thickness for sheet metal clamps, ties or clips for the continuous load path for wood frame construction. The proposed minimum thickness will not be adequate for many standard construction projects that do not have a design professional involved in the design.	D
S261	Addition to wood fastener table	This proposal addresses the lateral load path deficiency in the existing table. The proposal submitted by SEAOC is sound and reasonable.	AS
S263	Addition to wood fastener table	See S261	AS
S265	Replace existing wood fastener table	This proposal removes some of the existing fastener items in the table. The proponent does not provide a detailed or reasonable explanation for such change and how the table will be improved by such omission. There lack adequate information to support this change. It may result in reducing structural capacity of a connection.	D
S272	Conventional construction	This proposal deletes the entire section and refers the code users to the IRC. This may result in the unintended consequence of having non-residential buildings or structures being constructed to standards that apply to residential buildings or structures. Further study should be provided.	D
S279	Top plate connection for wood framed buildings	This proposal deletes the two inch air gap between the blocking and the roof sheathing. This will help to ensure that there is a complete load path for the lateral loads to reach the foundation.	AS
S283	Removal of the span tables	This proposal deletes span tables that are useful to the code users, particularly for projects that do not involve a design professional. Keeping the table will help both the builder and code officials ensure that the span of a member is not exceeded.	D
S285	Revisions to bearing and non-bearing wood framed walls	This proposal provides clarification for wood frame construction relating to bearing and non-bearing wall. The proposal submitted by NCSEA is sound and reasonable.	AS
S290	Adds single member headers	This proposal adds IRC single member headers to the IBC. This may result in the unintended consequence of having non-residential buildings or structures being constructed to standards that apply to residential buildings or structures. Further study should be provided.	D
S293	Openings in horizontal diaphragms	This proposal makes an editorial change to delete the word "Plywood" from the detail. The proponent indicates that the term has been replaced thru-out the code and this was inadvertently	AS

**RECOMMENDED POSITIONS FOR THE PROPOSED CODE AMENDMENTS TO THE 2015 I-CODES**

ITEM	TITLE/DESCRIPTION	REASON	POSITION
		missed. The change ensures consistency with the rest of the code.	
S298	Glazing adjacent to stairs	This proposal introduces code language that is unclear and may cause confusion with code users. Furthermore, it would be difficult for the code user to apply or enforce.	D
S312	Adds a new material called geofoam for building support	This proposal allows Geofoam to be used to support buildings. There are concerns that this product has not been tested for long term deformation, the effects of seismic rocking of the building being supported by the material, or detrimental exposure to the elements/environments. Further testing and study is warranted before it is permitted to be used as supporting material. The alternate methods of construction is an option that can be used by the authority having jurisdiction to approve the use of the Geofoam if appropriate.	D
S313	Adds a new Chapter 27 Light Straw-Clay Construction	This proposal introduces a new material for use in construction. Several area of concerns have not been addressed with this new material including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A lack of quality control and assurance requirements.</li> <li>• Vague language like “sufficiently strong” does not help to clarify or provide standard for acceptance.</li> <li>• Unenforceable language contained in the proposal makes it difficult to ensure safety of occupants.</li> </ul>	D
S314	Adds a new Appendix Chapter N Light Straw-Clay Construction	See S313	D
S315	Adds a new Appendix Chapter N Straw Bale Construction	This proposal introduces a new material for use in construction. Several area of concerns have not been addressed with this new material including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No clarity or justification was provided to support the gravity and shear load values for the bearing walls. Although there are several research and white papers by engineers, architects, and scholars with preliminary testing, no clear accepted standards was used as a basis for the testing.</li> <li>• No justification provided to adequately support the use of the material for structures in seismic design category F.</li> <li>• A lack of quality control and assurance requirements.</li> </ul>	D
S316	Adds a new Chapter 24 Straw Bale Construction	See S315	D

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