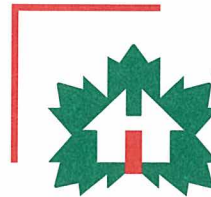


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**Canadian  
Home Builders'  
Association**



**Association canadienne  
des constructeurs  
d'habitations**

May 14, 2009

Bruce Clemmensen, Chair  
Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes  
c/o Anne Gribbon, Acting Secretary  
Canadian Codes Centre / National Research Council  
Building M-23A  
1200 Montreal Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R6

**Re: Further concerns about work on the protocol for new Code objectives**

Dear Bruce,

In the two letters I sent to you yesterday, the CHBA raised concerns about the manner in which the protocol for consideration of new Code objectives is being applied in relation to energy efficiency. Since then, additional information has come to our attention that reinforces these concerns. I wish to draw this matter to your attention.

As noted in my previous letters, it is our understanding, based upon a review of the protocol itself, and the Terms of References set out for the Joint Task Group on Energy Efficiency in Houses (JTGEEF) by the Executive Committee of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC):

- a) That this group was asked to “recommend a course of action” to the Executive Committee in relation to how best to carry out Step Three of the protocol in relation to the proposed new energy efficiency Code objective, and
- b) That the Executive Committee, not the JTGEEH, is responsible for carrying out Step Three of the protocol.

As noted in these letters, the CHBA is concerned that the JTGEEH appears to be carrying out the work required to address Step Three, rather than preparing a “course of action” or plan for the consideration of the Executive Committee.

We are in receipt of the attached draft document, representing work to address protocol step 3.1, under development by the JTGEEH. As this document shows clearly, our concerns have foundation (see attached).

This development increases the CHBA’s concerns about how the protocol process is proceeding. The matters which are before the JTGEEH require focused deliberation for the purpose of developing a “course of action” for the Executive Committee. This would include the identification of the resources

required to address complex issues. Without this "course of action", actual work on Step Three is premature and will result in considerable confusion both in applying the protocol to energy efficiency, and in the work to be carried out by the Executive Committee.

In short, for work to proceed without first having a clearly articulated "course of action" approved by the Executive Committee is cause for considerable concern.

Yours truly,



John Kenward  
Chief Operating Officer

cc: CHBA Executive Board

## CCBFC Joint Task Group on Energy Efficiency in Houses

Response to #1 of Step #3 of the Protocol for Addressing New Objectives in National Codes:

“Develop policy goals and measurable outcomes which should include societal benefit, uniformity of approach, leadership, etc.”

Note: For this application, energy efficiency is the ratio of the annual usage of energy (independent of the energy source, fuel type and fuel cost) for specified purposes in housing to the building area of the housing.

Policy Goal	Measurable Outcome
1. To establish appropriate minimum requirements for energy efficiency in new residential construction.	1. National and provincial agreement on a minimum level of energy efficiency in new residential construction.
2. To support development of national code requirements that meet the needs of provincial and territorial government policies for energy efficient residential construction.	2. a. National code requirements for energy efficiency are developed.  b. New residential construction requires less energy to operate.
3. To promote harmonization of building codes so that energy efficiency requirements are consistent across Canada and industry and consumers have equal opportunities to access the benefits of energy efficient construction.	3. National code requirements adopted by the provinces without significant changes.
4. To have model code requirements for energy efficiency in new construction that are responsive to Canadian code users.	4. Code requirements for energy efficiency in construction are developed by and responsive to Canadian code users.

### Changes:

Deleted “model” – can’t remember if this was actually what we decided!

Changed “housing” to “residential construction” throughout.

Deleted the “why” part of #2 – so we don’t spell out what their needs may be – that’s not our job.

Changed “stakeholder” to “code users” (#4).

Deleted #5, changed order so #3 becomes #1.

Specified “energy efficiency” in Outcomes for #1 & #4

Ted Ross response

May 13, 2009

"To establish minimum requirements for energy efficiency in ~~new~~ for residential construction in the Model National Building Code of Canada."

With 3 measurable outcomes:

1. P/T agreement on a minimum level of energy efficiency in ~~new~~ for residential construction.
2. National model code requirements for energy efficiency in residential construction be ~~developed and~~ accepted by Canadian code users.
3. ~~New Residential construction uses energy more efficiently resulting in reduced GHG emissions.~~

3. There is a reduction in GHG emissions attributed to residential occupancies.