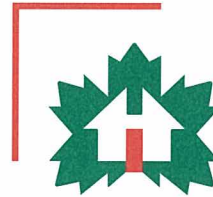


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**Canadian
Home Builders'
Association**



**Association canadienne
des constructeurs
d'habitations**

August 6, 2009

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

Re: Issues of concern to the CHBA pending the next CCBFC Executive Committee meeting

Dear Bruce:

It is the CHBA's understanding that, at the August meeting of the CCBFC Executive Committee, the report of the Joint Task Group – Energy Efficiency in Houses (JTG-EEH) will be reviewed and discussed. Also, the Executive Committee may be reviewing its own work in relation to the protocol for new objectives in the model National Building Code (NBC) and the proposal for the new objective of energy efficiency.

We assume that you may take the further step of establishing a new task group to undertake development of energy efficiency requirements for Part 9 of the Code. In this event, the CHBA wishes to raise a number of pertinent issues and questions, as follows:

1) Task Group Mandate

In order for the new task group to carry out its work, it will require a very clear mandate. At the core of this mandate should be precise policy direction, from the Executive Committee, as to the context for new energy efficiency requirements in the Code. This directive should also set out clearly what these requirements should achieve. It is only with such clarity that the new task group can be expected to carry out its work effectively.

As we have noted previously, the JTG-EEH seemed to suggest that the relevant policy framework was simply to provide Code provisions that were consistent with current or pending provincial requirements, in order to facilitate provincial adoption of the NBC requirements.

While the CHBA recognizes that provincial policies are relevant to the CCBFC, we do not accept that they are sufficient as a policy foundation for the technical content of the NBC.

The protocol for addressing new objectives in model national codes clearly charges the Executive Committee with establishing an appropriate policy framework for any new objective. This would provide

very clear direction to the task group, as well as specific targets or goals for the new Code requirements. The task group would then be able to apply the principles of good science to the development of the requirements. Such goals would also provide the basis upon which to measure the effectiveness of the requirements. The policy framework, the energy efficiency goals and the specific code provisions should be determined with due consideration for the purpose and overall integrity of the NBC, supported by the CCBFC's impartial, transparent, consensus decision-making process.

2) Task Group Composition

Even with clear and appropriate policy direction from the Executive Committee, those charged with developing technical requirements for energy efficiency for Part 9 buildings will face a challenging task. If this work is to be carried out effectively and in a timely manner, the composition of the task group will be crucial.

For this reason, we would urge strongly that the Executive Committee seek out individuals who have the experience, knowledge and expertise to achieve the task at hand. Task group members must be clearly focused on the mandate given to them by the CCBFC, not on representing interests external to the discipline of the Code Development Process.

Such people can be found amongst the membership of the Standing Committee on Houses and Small Buildings (SCHSB). By drawing mainly on this resource, the future approval by the SCHSB could be expedited.

We would further suggest that this task group needs to be as compact as possible, provided that the previous conditions are met.

3) Task Group Support and Resources

The final matter we wish to raise has to do with resources. As noted, the tasks to be undertaken are significant. Task group members, as volunteers, are asked to contribute their expertise and knowledge, and can only do this if the task group's work is properly supported and resourced. Clearly, research will need to be carried out to support the task group's deliberations, and this must be done in a timely manner. Further, such work cannot be done by the volunteer members, nor should it be. Staff and external resources will be required. We would urge the Executive Committee to give this matter careful consideration at the outset, and make appropriate provisions.

Yours truly,



John Kenward
Chief Operating Officer

cc: CHBA Executive Board