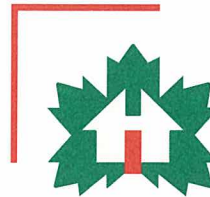


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**Canadian
Home Builders'
Association**



**Association canadienne
des constructeurs
d'habitations**

July 21, 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: British Government's approach to energy performance regulations

Dear Bruce:

As the Executive Committee of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes proceeds with its work on energy efficiency as a new Code objective, and, pending this, the question of how such an objective would best be addressed within the Code, I thought the attached material would be informative.

The British Department of Communities and Local Government has released these consultation documents on proposed amendments to the U.K. Building Regulations. The object of these amendments is to alter existing regulations on the minimum energy efficiency of buildings in Britain. As such, these documents provide useful insight into how regulators in the U.K. are approaching a process that is similar in intent to that underway within the CCBFC.

These documents lay out a clear, thorough and disciplined process for considering such regulatory changes. The approach is comprehensive and well-focused. It addresses issues related to "House as a System" by considering the need to revisit ventilation requirements. It also recognizes and addresses critical information on compliance, performance approaches, enforcement and training needs.

Significantly, the British have addressed, directly and through detailed analysis, the cost impacts of the regulatory changes being proposed. As well, they have recognized the importance of research and development in supporting the building industry's adaptation to the proposed new requirements.

While the CCBFC, and more particularly the Executive Committee, must determine the appropriate Canadian approach to addressing energy efficiency regulations for buildings and houses, I believe this British material may be of use to you in this effort.

Yours truly,


John Kenward
Chief Operating Officer

Enclosure

cc: CHBA Executive Board