



Inter-jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee

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MINUTES IRCC 9 - OSLO, NORWAY

20 - 21 JUNE 2000.

Olav Berge, Chairman of IRCC 9, welcomed everyone to Oslo and acknowledged an apology from Jon Traw. The Chairman extended a special welcome to:

- Mr Kenji Okazaki as the new representative from Ministry of Construction, Japan,
- Mr David Smith as an observer representing the Consortium of European Building Control (CEBC),
- Greg Foliente as an observer representing CIB Proactive Performance Approach.

The Chairman then reflected on the agenda, as presented, and received issues that were to be included and discussed under Other Business.

1. The minutes of IRCC 8, November 1999 - San Diego, were agreed and accepted as an accurate record of that meeting. The Chairman provided an overview of the “quality assurance” regulatory control processes that are employed in Norway. Norway has 19 provinces (2nd tier of Govt) and 434 Local Government Authorities. This proliferation and limited resources that were available led to Local Government Officers spending approximately 15% of their time dealing with building issues and the rest of their time spent on other Local Government business. This, time relationship, also reflected the amount of time that could be dedicated to continuous education and training in the building control process. Statics indicated that building defects accounted for 25% of the turnover of the construction industry. This was broken down as:

- Contract specifications 20%
- Insufficient design detail 20%
- Design faults 20%
- Faults in execution 30%
- Products and materials 10%

To overcome this problem of construction defects the Norwegian Government introduced the requirement for control plans, to be lodged and approved, for all development. The control plans require the identification of approved firms that will be involved in the design, construction and project management functions. Firms wishing to be approved needed to demonstrate:

- The quality system to be used;

- Professional qualifications, and;
- Experience (relative to the type of building)

To date some 7,000 firms have been approved, and a proportion of these being single person operations.

2. The Committee agreed on three levels of membership and a redrafting of the membership charter to refocus on the objective of the IRCC and to integrate the proposed IRCC Agreement and the existing Membership Charter. Mike Balch will redraft the charter with initial input from Bob Bowen and Brian Meacham.

The redrafting will be completed by end July, forwarded to members for comment by end August and final document finalised by end September.

The three levels of membership will be:

- Founding members –
 - Canadian National Research Council (Bob Bowen)
 - International Conference of Building Officials, USA (Jon Traw/Beth Tubbs)
 - Ministry of Construction, Japan (Tomiyoshi Ogawa/Kenji Okazaki)
 - Building Industry Authority, NZ (Brian Cashin)
 - NIST Building and Fire Research Laboratory USA (Dick Bukowski)
 - National Fire Protection Association USA (Doug Beller)
 - Building Research Institute, Japan (Wataru Gojo)
 - Australian Building Codes Board (Mike Balch)
 - Dr Russell Thomas, Dr Brian Meacham.
- Members –
 - Dept of the Environment, Transport and the Regions, UK (Paul Overall)
 - British Board of Agreement (Tony Rackcliffe)
 - National Office of Building Technology and Admin, Norway (Olav Berge)
 - Ministry of Development, Spain (Javier Serra)
- Associate Member

3. Work progress on the IRCC papers was summarised as follows:

- The Committee considered advice from Bob Bowen that the further development of the IRCC document would not be the best use of our limited resources. It was considered that it may be appropriate that the chapters in the existing document and occasional papers could be published as stand alone soft cover documents that could be stored in a two ring binder. Discussion and advice from Jon is needed to determine what is possible and appropriate.
- The paper on existing buildings had been finalised and was delivered at the SFPE Lund Conference and Beth would identify what process IRCC would need to now place the paper on the IRCC home page.
- Brian Meacham will finalise drafting of the papers relating to multiple levels of performance and risk/criteria linkages for consideration at IRCC 10.
- Olav Berge and Mike Balch will review the paper on quality systems and present paper at IRCC 10 for consideration.

- Mike Balch and Tony Rackliffe to draft paper on related legislation and also present it at IRCC 10 for consideration.
 - All members to provide advice and diagrams to Bob Bowen, by September 1, on country relevant mandatory systems and trade issues. Mike Balch to provide trade paper from Stephen Kip.
4. Mike Balch demonstrated the new IRCC public website but due to ongoing development work was unable to demonstrate the functions of the members site. Advice of its operation will be e-mailed when ready and demonstrated at IRCC 10.
 5. The Committee consider the time available for the meeting in Japan (IRCC 10) and agreed that the IRCC meeting would be scheduled as a two-day meeting and precede the CIB TG37 meeting. The meeting will be held on 16-18 November 2000, in Tsukuba and hosted by MOC/BRI. BRI will, if possible, arrange a visit of the BRI facilities on the afternoon of Wednesday 15 November for the IRCC/CIB TG37 members. Yossi Hirano will advise members if this can be arranged.

Papers for presentation at the CIB World Congress will be finalised at the Japan November meeting. Due to time constraints, during the World Congress, the CIB TG37 meeting will be held in Wellington while the IRCC 11 meeting will be held in Australia.

ABCB will be hosting an International Conference following on from the CIB World Congress and Mike Balch will invite all IRCC members to attend and request some to either present or chair conference sessions.

Mike Balch also offered a space allocation, within sponsors display areas, at both CIB/ABCB functions to promote the work and identity of the IRCC, details and resourcing will be discussed at IRCC 10.

6. Mike Balch discussed the issues of research funding by the regulatory community and the limited outcomes, in relation to regulatory development, that are being delivered. The issue appears to be one of the regulatory communities not adequately communicating its outcome needs nor remaining actively involved throughout the research process. On the other hand researchers have a tendency to follow the paths that might be thrown up by initial research outcomes to the detriment of the research brief. Mike asked if others were experiencing the same problem and how this issue could be addressed.

Members agreed to review their individual research agendas forward them to Mike and discuss the possibility of the IRCC progressing a collective research program. Brian Meacham, Bob Bowen and Mike Balch will develop a methodology that can be considered for progressing this collective approach.

7. Bob Bowen suggested that there were opportunities for all members to learn from current performance applications in respective countries. Bob noted that most of the applications of performance-based design are captured under existing processes and that national databases to collect and make available to other members would provide a great learning possibility. Members to consider and provide feedback at IRCC 10.
8. The members were made aware, by Russ Thomas, of a Fire Research Conference that is being held in San Diego in early 2001 and invited members to attend to provide researchers with the direction that regulatory research should focus.

Some members had attended a similar forum hosted by SFPE and indicated the value in attendance, although showed frustration at the lack of leadership by code developers in the area of research.

Members, following the discussion regarding research deliverables and the proposal for the San Diego Conference, agreed that we should investigate the possibility of IRCC hosting an International Code Developers and Regulators Conference/Forum. This proposal will be further discussed at IRCC 10.

Bob Bowen made members aware of the problems that had been experienced in Canada regarding moisture penetration and the position taken to lay blame at the feet of the federal government (NRC) for what was a design/construction fault. A report is accessible and Bob will provide advice on how to find.

Mike Balch made members aware of the legionaries outbreaks that had occurred in Australia and in the case of the worst, 3 deaths/85 affected, was in a building that was only 12 weeks after commissioning. Investigations were still being undertaken and the final report will be forwarded to members when available. ABCB had also commissioned a report into the effectiveness of the Australian reform agenda, of the last 5 years, including the benefits to industry and the community from the introduction of a performance-based code. This report is available for any members who would like a copy.

9. IRCC 10 will be hosted by MOC/BRI and is scheduled for 16-18 November 2000.