

1309 Residential Code Committee Meeting

December 14, 2011

Call to Order

Richard Lockrem, the Committee Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 A.M. He opened the meeting by welcoming all guests who were in attendance at this meeting. Mr. Lockrem proceeded with the roll call of the committee members and asked that each committee member introduce themselves to the guests in the audience and identify which affiliation they were representing.

Mr. Lockrem explained to the audience the protocol that is followed at these advisory committee meetings and asked that if someone would like to contribute to the discussion on any of the topics, to raise their hand and he will give them the opportunity to speak. He also reminded all committee members and guests that professional courtesy must be maintained and not to interrupt anyone who is speaking, as they would be given the opportunity for questions or comments after the speaker had completed their thoughts.

Mr. Lockrem then explained to the audience that he will introduce each of the proposed changes and give a brief description of the proposal before turning it over to the author for further explanation. Because this meeting is only dealing with the residential sprinkler issues, committee members will be hearing all the proposals and discussions prior to being asked to reach a consensus in support or in denial of support for these changes. Mr. Lockrem wanted to make sure that the audience understood that this committee does not have the authority to make the final decisions on any of the proposed code changes being heard in these meetings. This committee is an advisory committee only. Once they have reached a consensus in support or denial of support, that information will go forward to the Commissioner for consideration.

Richard Lockrem asked the committee members if they had received the electronic notes from the November 30, 2011 meeting and if anybody had any questions, comments or corrections. No comments, questions or corrections were required.

Committee Members in Attendance

Richard Lockrem, Committee Chair – Representing the Department of Labor and industry

Herman Hauglid, Co-Chair – Representing the Department of Labor and Industry

Jack Rossbach, Air Tamarack

Kevin Lee, Minnesota Concrete and Masonry Association

Scott Dornfeld, Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO)

Rick Davidson, Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO)

Karen Linner, Builders Association of Minnesota (BAM)

Joe Ranweiler, Builders Association of Minnesota (BAM)

Mike Paradise, Builders Association of Minnesota (BAM)

Dave Neisen, League of Minnesota Cities

Kathi Osmonson, Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO)

Steve Pedracine, Minnesota Lath & Plaster Bureau

Luke Stemmer, Minnesota State Fire Chiefs Association

Alternates in Attendance

Marlene Bach, Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO)
Russell Thornberg, Association of Minnesota Building Officials (AMBO)
Kip Lamotte, MN State Fire Chiefs Association, Alternate
Mike Wallen, League of Minnesota Cities
Trace Mills, Builders Association of the Twin Cities (BATC), Alternate
Pam Perri, Builders Association of Minnesota

Committee Members not in Attendance

Mike Swanson, Builders Association of the Twin Cities (BATC)

Guests in Attendance

Several distinguished guests were in attendance at this meeting because of the nature of the subject matter. There was representation from several areas of the residential construction industry, including home builders, plumbers, truss manufacturers, sprinkler (fire suppression) industry, as well as fire services. The following guests signed in at this meeting:

Jon Nisja, State Fire Marshalls Office
Sean Flaherty, National Fire Sprinkler Association & Viking Sprinkler Systems
Bob Mochinski, Minnesota Truss Manufacturers Association & Litfin Truss
Jenae Palewicz, Builders Association of Minnesota
Katherine Nielson, Builders Association of Minnesota
Patrick Hynes, League of Minnesota Cities
Brian Halloran, Builders Association of Minnesota
James Vagle, Builders Association of the Twin Cities
Nyle Zikmund, Minnesota Fire Chiefs Association
Sherry Munyon, Capitol Access
Dennis Quittschreibe, Dynamic Homes
Steve Hedman, Dynamic Homes
Scott McLellan, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, CCLD
Steve Hernick, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, CCLD
Lawrence Redmond, Redmond Associates, Inc.

This meeting was unique in the fact that there was a large audience which was extremely interactive with the committee. Excellent discussion took place and several points of view were provided.

Introduction of Code Changes, Committee Discussion and Consensus Results

The topics covered in the December 14, 2011 meeting were as follows;

IRC-7, MR 1309.0301 - Automatic Sprinkler Systems

This Proposal is to remove the language currently found in Minnesota Rule 1309 regarding sprinklers in two family dwellings and townhomes, in addition to single family, two family and townhomes containing facilities licensed by the State of Minnesota, since these provisions have now been added to the language in the body of the code. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After the introduction of this proposal, the author suggested that the committee move forward to IRC#87 since the author believes it would be more appropriate at this time. The Committee Chair agreed to the change in order and informed the author that the proposal will be reintroduced later in the meeting.

IRC-87, R313.2 - One and Two Family Dwellings - Automatic Fire Systems

This proposal is to remove single family dwellings from the requirements for automatic fire sprinkling systems. Submitted by Karen Linner (BAM)

After extensive discussion between the committee and members of the audience, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-30, R313.1 – Townhouse Automatic Fire Systems

Proposal to make automatic fire sprinklers systems optional but provides incentives to offset the installation expenses. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After extensive discussion between the committee and members of the audience, the committee reached a consensus **not** in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-24, R309.5 - Fire Sprinklers in Garages

This proposal would remove all the language as it would relate to fire sprinklers in private garages. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After extensive discussion between the committee and members of the audience, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-26, R313.1 & R313.2 Townhome and One and Two family dwellings Automatic Fire Sprinkling Systems

This proposal would add exceptions to the requirements for the installation of automatic fire sprinkling systems, if fire resistive construction techniques are followed. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

The author has withdrawn this proposal.

Reintroduction of IRC-7, MR1309.0301 - Automatic Sprinkler Systems

This Proposal is to remove the language currently found in Minnesota Rule 1309 regarding sprinklers in two family dwellings and Townhomes, in addition to single family, two family and townhomes containing facilities licensed by the State of Minnesota, since these provisions have now been added to the language in the body of the code. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After extensive discussion between the committee and members of the audience, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-60, R501.3 - Fire Protection of Floors

This proposal is to remove the language which would require floor assemblies to be either fire resistance rated or protected by ½ inch gypsum, 5/8 inch wood structural panel, or equivalent on the underside of the floor. Submitted by Rick Davidson (AMBO)

After extensive discussion between the committee and members of the audience, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal.

IRC-72, R313 – State Licensed Facilities

This proposal requests the inclusion of a new Section R313.3 – State Licensed Facilities. The proposed language pertains to Minnesota State licensed facilities and fire sprinkler requirements. The proposal identifies that IRC-1, IRC-2, and IRC-3 buildings that contain licensed facilities by the State of Minnesota shall comply with the provisions of this code and the applicable licensing provisions. Submitted by Rich Lockrem (DLI)

After extensive discussion between the committee and members of the audience, the committee reached a consensus in favor of supporting this proposal.

Richard Lockrem Closing Comments

Mr. Lockrem thanked everyone for attending and their enlightening dialog and asked if anyone wanted to contribute to the closing comments. Luke Stemmer informed those in attendance, that Fire Services is willing to work together to find solutions to the sprinkler issues. Mr. Lockrem asked the committee membership for volunteers to work with Fire Service members in drafting an IRC Section R313 proposal.

Volunteers include: Luke Stemmer, Kip Lamotte, Karen Linner, Rick Davidson, Kathi Osmonson and other possible committee members. Their goal is to draft proposal language which would be agreeable to all.

Meeting Adjourned. 1:10 P.M.