

2010 National Building Code – Progress Report

The public consultation on the first set of proposed changes to the 2010 National Building Code ended November 23, 2007. Comments received will be considered at the next meeting of the Standing Committee on Houses and Small Buildings in April 2008. The next and final set of proposed changes will be reviewed at that meeting and those adopted will be subject to public review in late 2008 along with those adopted at its last meeting in October 2007. Issues of interest to builders that are still under consideration include:

Spatial Separation

Proposals from the City of Calgary would extend to distance from the property line in which non-combustible cladding is required. Other proposed measures would close soffits and disperse window locations near property lines for houses as well as buildings (both Part 3 and Part 9).

Lateral Loads

Proposals prepared by Code Centre staff in response to a request from the Provinces would introduce requirements for racking resistance against wind and seismic forces. This would affect houses and small buildings in BC and a few isolated locations elsewhere in Canada. In most cases this would require a minimum area of solid panels near corners and in certain internal locations to avoid large open spaces and the strengthening of connectors.

New Window, Door and Skylight Standards

CSA has proposed that the new harmonized window and door standards be referenced in the Code replacing previous versions. This would change the classification system for windows. There are also significant changes in the new insulation standard.

Accessory Apartments

The addition of a new category of occupancy is being considered which would set out minimum requirements for secondary units in houses.

Radon

Health Canada has asked that its new, more stringent guideline on radon be referenced in the Code. CHBA and others have proposed changes to the current requirements to clarify when requirements apply and to create alternative compliance routes.

For further information, please contact CHBA at johnston@chba.ca