



April 28, 2008

TO: PARTIES INTERESTED IN ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR CYCLIC RACKING SHEAR TESTS FOR METAL-SHEATHED SHEAR WALLS WITH WOOD FRAMING

SUBJECT: Proposed Revisions to the Acceptance Criteria for Cyclic Racking Shear Tests for Metal-sheathed Shear Walls with Wood Framing, Subject AC388-0508-R2 (BG/RG)

Hearing Information:

Friday, May 30, 2008

8:00 a.m.

Sheraton Gateway Suites Chicago O'Hare Airport

6501 North Mannheim Road

Rosemont, Illinois 60018

(847) 699-6300

Dear Madam or Sir:

The proposed new acceptance criteria is on the agenda for consideration at the ICC-ES Evaluation Committee hearing noted above.

The proposed criteria was posted with the alternative agenda, on the ICC-ES website under a February 4, 2008, staff letter. Along with staff's comments, several interested parties submitted comments expressing concern with the proposal.

Contrary to the scope in both AC130 and AC322, wall systems complying with AC388 are generally expected to comprise the entire vertical portion of the structural system and not to replace a code-complying system at selected locations. Forcing elements under AC388 to mimic a code-complying system may not be the best approach. An approach not linked to AC130 or AC322 may be more appropriate since there are expressed disagreements with modifying the criteria in AC130 and AC322 to allow wood-framed shear walls with steel sheathing to achieve parity, e.g., $R = 6.5$, $\Omega_o = 3$ and $C_d = 4$.

Based on the acknowledgement that the coefficients and factors in Table 12.2-1 of ASCE 7-05 are largely based on judgment, one approach might be that such values are assigned to alternate systems based on judgment using experimental and analytical data.

As expressed in Section 11.1.4 of ASCE 7, this may need to be done on a case by case basis for each building project using a system. The cyclic test data can be considered as a portion of the experimental data. Such a program should be subjected to a design review by experts as set forth in Section 16.2.5 of ASCE 7 and submitted to the code official for final approval.

A related item, on seismic issues relating to lateral force-resisting products covered in ICC-ES evaluation reports, will also be discussed at this hearing.

You are cordially invited to submit written comments on agenda items, or to attend the Evaluation Committee hearing and present verbal comments. If you wish to contribute to the hearing, please note the following:

1. Written comments that are received by the Los Angeles business/regional office by **May 14, 2008**, will be forwarded to the committee prior to the hearing, and will be posted on the ICC-ES web site shortly after the comment deadline.
2. Written comments received up to ten days before the meeting, and staff memos responding to comments, will be posted to the web site on **May 23, 2008**.
3. ICC-ES is no longer providing printed copies at the meeting of proposed acceptance criteria, staff memos or public comments. These documents will be available on a limited number of CDs at the meeting, for uploading to computers; and ICC-ES will make arrangements with the hotel business center to have hard copies available for photocopying.
4. Written comments that miss the deadline noted in item (1), above, will only be available at the meeting if you provide 35 copies, collated, stapled, and three-hole punched, either at the meeting itself or to the Los Angeles business/regional office by **May 23, 2008**.
5. If you plan to speak for more than 15 minutes, or offer a visual presentation lasting longer, you should notify ICC-ES staff as far as possible in advance. There will be a computer, projector, and screen available at the meeting for anyone wishing to make a visual presentation, and presentations in most cases will need to be in PowerPoint format. Also, ICC-ES will need to be provided with your presentation at least a half-hour before the start of the relevant meeting session (morning or afternoon) on either a CD or a flash card.
6. If you have any special needs related to a presentation, you should contact ICC-ES staff well in advance of the meeting.
7. Any visual aids for viewing at committee meetings (charts, overhead transparencies, slides, videos, electronic presentations, etc.) will be permitted only if a copy is provided to ICC-ES, before the presentation, in a medium that can be retained with other records of the meeting.

8. Any materials submitted for committee consideration are considered nonconfidential and available for public discussion, as noted in Section 2.7 of the ICC-ES Rules of Procedure for the Evaluation Committee.
9. Prior to the meeting, you should refrain from trying to communicate directly with committee members about agenda items, either verbally or in writing. Committee members reserve the right to refuse such communications.

Your cooperation with these guidelines is much appreciated, as is your interest in the deliberations of the Evaluation Committee. If you have any questions, please contact the undersigned at (800) 423-6587, extension 3260, or Ram Gnanasekaran, at extension 3275. You may also reach us by e-mail at es@icc-es.org.

Yours very truly,



Brian Gerber, S.E.
Principal Structural Engineer

BG/gh

Enclosures

cc: Evaluation Committee