



October 9, 2008

TO: PARTIES INTERESTED IN EVALUATION REPORTS ON STAY-IN-PLACE FOAM-PLASTIC (AND CEMENT BASED) INSULATING CONCRETE FORMS (ICFs) FOR CONSTRUCTING POST-AND-BEAM STRUCTURAL CONCRETE WALLS (a.k.a. STRUCTURAL-GRID CONCRETE WALLS)

SUBJECT: Follow-up Report on the August 1, 2008, Staff Letter Regarding the Status of AC361 and AC401

Dear Madam or Sir:

The subject staff letter was posted on the ICC-ES web site on August 1, 2008, under the alternative criteria process agenda (http://www.icc-es.org/Criteria_Development/0808-alt/index.shtml/). In response to the staff letter, one e-mail was received from The Dow Chemical Company, a copy of which is also posted in the same place on our web site.

Also in response to the staff letter, a recent meeting was held by some of the ICF manufacturers to discuss and provide input regarding AC361 and AC401. ICC-ES staff was invited to attend the industry-sponsored meeting. Two task groups were established by the industry attendees:

- (1) A task group was created to propose methods of determining equivalent solid wall thickness based on testing of ICF structural-grid concrete wall systems. The resulting methods would be incorporated into the new AC361. Since the task group will likely derive the equivalent solid thickness based on performance in the elastic range, the results may not necessarily extend to the tasks to be developed in item (2), where inelastic performance is the critical aspect.
- (2) A task group was created for the purpose of determining methods of testing proprietary and benchmark walls that could be used to determine seismic performance factors using the "equivalency" process described in Miscellaneous 1-0808-R1 (also posted on the August 2008 alternative criteria process agenda). The equivalent solid wall thickness issue (noted in item 1 in this letter), which should not be confused with the equivalency process noted in Miscellaneous 1-0808-R1, needs to be resolved before the seismic issues can be resolved.

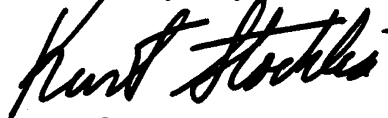
Parties interested in the industry initiatives should contact Carla Yland (YlandResearch@aol.com).

ICC-ES staff supports the work of both task groups. At this time ICC-ES is waiting for industry to submit proposals to complete the work for AC361 and AC401.

In the interim, affected reports can move forward and be reapproved as noted in the AC361 and AC401 staff letter posted August 1, 2008. An item related to this was discussed which concerns extending the recognition for seismic design categories (SDC) from A and B to include C. Staff pointed out that it might be difficult for the post-and-beam ICF to meet the special detailing required for SDC C. If consideration for SDC C is desired, additional information must be submitted.

If you have any questions, please contact Brian Gerber, S.E., Principal Structural Engineer or David Zhao, S.E., Staff Engineer at (800) 423-6587, extension 3721. You may also reach us by e-mail at es@icc-es.org.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kurt Stochlia". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kurt Stochlia, P.E.
Vice President

KS/raf