



December 1, 2008

TO: PARTIES INTERESTED IN ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR TEST REPORTS

SUBJECT: Proposed Revision to the Acceptance Criteria for Test Reports. Subject AC85-1208-R1 (SR/MB)

Dear Madam or Sir:

A revision proposed to the subject acceptance criteria, as presented in the enclosed criteria draft, is being posted on the ICC-ES web site to allow for public comment. The revision is:

Substitution of the words "signed and dated declaration" for "affidavit" in Section 3.2.

You are cordially invited to submit written comments, within 30 days of the date of this letter. Please use the comment form on the web site attaching any letters to the form. An explanation of the alternate criteria process can be found on our web site at http://www.icc-es.org/Criteria_Development/alternative_criteria_process.shtml.

All comments received in the 30-day comment period will be considered. During this same 30-day period, however, the draft criteria will be balloted to the Evaluation Committee. If the public comments raise major issues, generate controversy, or require the criteria to be substantially rewritten, then ICC-ES staff may decide to reballot the criteria; or place a revised draft on the web site for further public comment; or put the criteria on the agenda for a future Evaluation Committee meeting.

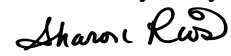
Correspondence received and a memo outlining staff's resolution of the comments in the correspondence will be posted on the web site shortly after the close of the comment period.

Your cooperation is requested in forwarding to the Los Angeles business/regional office all material directed to the Evaluation Committee. Parties interested in the deliberations of the committee should refrain from communicating, whether in writing or verbally, with committee members. The committee reserves the right to refuse communications that do not comply with this request.

Please submit all comments using the form on the web site. Attach any letters to the comment form. If you have any questions (not comments), please contact the undersigned at (800) 423-6587, extension 3706, or Michael Beaton, P.E., Vice President -

Whittier Operations, at extension 3289. You may also reach us by e-mail at es@icc-es.org.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Rios". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S' and 'R'.

Sharon Rios
Quality Documentation Administrator

SR/raf

Enclosure

cc: Evaluation Committee



PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR TEST REPORTS

AC85

Proposed December 2008

Previously approved July 2003, September 1998, January 1997 and April 1993

PREFACE

Evaluation reports issued by ICC Evaluation Service, Inc. (ICC-ES), are based upon performance features of the International family of codes and other widely adopted code families, including the Uniform Codes, the BOCA National Codes, and the SBCCI Standard Codes. Section 104.11 of the *International Building Code*[®] reads as follows:

The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any materials or to prohibit any design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved. An alternative material, design or method of construction shall be approved where the building official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

Similar provisions are contained in the Uniform Codes, the National Codes, and the Standard Codes.

ICC-ES may consider alternate criteria, provided the report applicant submits valid data demonstrating that the alternate criteria are at least equivalent to the criteria proposed in this document, and otherwise meet the applicable performance requirements of the codes. Notwithstanding that a product, material, or type or method of construction meets the requirements of the criteria proposed in this document, or that it can be demonstrated that valid alternate criteria are equivalent to the criteria in this document and otherwise meet the applicable performance requirements of the codes, ICC-ES retains the right to refuse to issue or renew an evaluation report, if the product, material, or type or method of construction is such that either unusual care with its installation or use must be exercised for satisfactory performance, or malfunctioning is apt to cause unreasonable property damage or personal injury or sickness relative to the benefits to be achieved by the use of the product, material, or type or method of construction.

Acceptance criteria are developed for use solely for purposes of issuing ICC-ES evaluation reports.

PROPOSED REVISIONS TO THE ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR TEST REPORTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose: The purpose of this acceptance criteria is to establish general requirements for laboratory test reports submitted to ICC-ES in support of applications for ICC-ES evaluation reports.

1.2 Scope: This criteria includes requirements for test reports and testing laboratories, and for sampling of specimens used in tests to qualify products for recognition in evaluation reports.

1.3 Reference Standards:

1.3.1 ISO/IEC Standard 17025, *General Requirements for the Competence of Testing and Calibration Laboratories*.

2.0 SOURCE OF TEST REPORTS

2.1 Accredited Laboratories: ICC-ES can consider test reports from laboratories that are accredited as complying with ISO/IEC Standard 17025 by the International Accreditation Service (IAS) or by any other accreditation body that is a signatory to the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA). The scope of the laboratory's accreditation shall include the specific type of testing covered in the test report. The laboratory's accreditation certificate shall be provided to show that the laboratory is accredited for the testing reported.

2.2 Nonaccredited Laboratories: ICC-ES can consider test reports from nonaccredited laboratories, but only if the report applicant has submitted data on the nonaccredited laboratory, and the laboratory has undergone an on-site assessment by IAS, indicating to the satisfaction of ICC-ES that the laboratory meets ICC-ES requirements for laboratories, as stated in the ICC-ES Rules of Procedure for Evaluation Reports, and is competent to perform the testing in question. Fees apply for the review of the nonaccredited laboratory's quality documentation, and the report applicant is responsible for expenses incurred for on-site assessments of the nonaccredited laboratory.

2.3 Manufacturer's Testing Facility: Occasionally, a manufacturer seeking an evaluation report will want to submit data resulting from tests conducted at the manufacturer's testing facility. In this case, the testing shall be done under the supervision of an accredited laboratory (as described in Section 2.1), and the accredited laboratory shall issue the test report. The accredited laboratory shall take necessary steps to ensure that the integrity and condition of the test specimens is maintained and that the test specimens have not been altered during periods when a laboratory representative is not present. Also, the manufacturer's testing facility shall show to the satisfaction of the accredited laboratory that it meets ICC-ES requirements for laboratories.

3.0 TESTING OF REPRESENTATIVE PRODUCTS

3.1 Test specimens of products subject to third-party quality control inspections as a requirement of the code or ICC-ES acceptance criteria or evaluation guidelines, shall be sampled at the manufacturing site by the accredited testing laboratory or by an IAS-accredited inspection agency. The sampled product shall be truly representative of the standard manufactured product for which recognition is being sought. In lieu of sampling at the manufacturing site, sampling at a warehouse or distribution center is permitted, provided the

testing laboratory or accredited inspection agency samples the materials and correlates the sampled materials with the product specifications.

3.2 Test specimens of products that do not require third-party quality control inspections are not required to be independently sampled. However, along with the test report, the applicant shall submit a affidavit signed and dated declaration certifying that the product tested is representative of the standard manufactured product to be covered in the evaluation report. As an alternative, the testing laboratory may independently draw samples from the manufacturing site.

3.3 If the test specimen is an assembly, laboratory personnel shall witness or verify the proper construction of the assembly.

3.4 Identical products that are manufactured at multiple facilities shall be correlated to the samples on which the initial qualifying tests were conducted.

4.0 CONTENT OF TEST REPORTS

Test reports shall be submitted in their entirety and shall include at least the following:

4.1 Name, address, and telephone number of the laboratory.

4.2 Unique identification number of the test report. Each page of the report should include the identifier to ensure that each page is part of the same test report.

4.3 The report shall be paginated and the total number of pages indicated.

4.4 Date of testing and date of the report.

4.5 The test standard with date of issue, and an explanation of any deviation from the standard.

4.6 Signatures (dated) and titles (or equivalent identification) of persons authorizing the test report.

4.7 Description of the product tested, and the source of the test samples.

4.8 If assemblies are tested (structural assemblies, fire-rated assemblies, etc.), there shall be a description of the assemblies, preferably with illustrations. The report shall identify the parties constructing the assemblies and shall also address witnessing and/or verifying the construction.

4.9 Description of the test procedure, if necessary for interpretation of the test results.

4.10 Any specifics required by the test standard or applicable acceptance criteria or evaluation guideline, such as ambient conditions, graphs, calculations, drawings, photographs, and interpretation of results, if required.

4.11 Location where the testing was conducted, if different from the address of the testing laboratory.

4.12 Failure mode, with a description of the failure.

4.13 Conclusions or summary statements, including, when applicable, a statement indicating whether the product passed or failed the test. ■