



ICC Evaluation Service, Inc.
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April 30, 2009

TO: PARTIES INTERESTED IN EVALUATION REPORTS RELATING TO REINFORCED CONCRETE

SUBJECT: Proposed Acceptance Criteria for Securing of Steel Bar Reinforcement with Plastic Clips Prior to Placing of Concrete – MISC-1-0609-R1 (BNH/KS)

Hearing Information:

Tuesday, June 2, 2009
8:00 a.m.

DoubleTree Hotel
808 South 20th Street
Birmingham, Alabama 35205
(800) 222-8733

Dear Madam or Sir:

This item has been placed on the Evaluation Committee agenda to seek input on whether an evaluation report can be issued on plastic clips used to secure bar reinforcement. The current practice is to use steel wire to secure bar reinforcement. In the past, in response to the use of plastic clips, ICC-ES took the position that plastic clips (as well as wire ties) constituted a construction method. Since ICC-ES does not evaluate construction methods, the plastic clips would not be evaluated in an ICC-ES evaluation report.

A potential applicant requested that ICC-ES reconsider its position based on the fact that ACI 318-05, referenced in the 2006 *International Building Code*, has the following requirement in Section 7.5.1: "Reinforcement, including tendons, and post-tensioning ducts shall be accurately placed and adequately supported before concrete is placed, and shall be secured against displacement within tolerances permitted in 7.5.2."

This code requirement, that steel reinforcement be supported and secured against displacement, is not specific as to how this is to be accomplished.

A number of building departments and transportation agencies across the country have approved the use of plastic clips for securing bar reinforcement.

If the Evaluation Committee decides that evaluation reports can be issued on plastic clips, an acceptance criteria will need to be developed to address the documentation necessary for

issuance of evaluation reports. These items to be included in the criteria that will need to be discussed:

1. Weathering: Clips could be exposed to long-term ultraviolet degradation in the case of construction stoppage for extended periods of time.
2. Strength: The strength capacity of plastic clips needs to be established (before and after weathering). The typical construction loads (workmen and equipment) prior to and during placing of concrete need to be taken into consideration.
3. Effect on bonding of reinforcing bars: Since plastic clips rely on immediate contact with reinforcing bars, they will prevent concrete contact with the bar at plastic clip locations. Depending on spacing of clips, this could affect the design bond capacity of bars.
4. Effect of plastic clips on fire-resistive capacity of structural members: This could be of concern on thin slabs with high concentration of plastic clip ties.

There may be other considerations that need to be addressed subsequent to discussions at the Evaluation Committee hearings.

The applicant will be attending the committee hearing to provide additional information and participate in discussions.

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 19, 2009**, 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 29, 2009**.
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 29, 2009**.
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 question, please contact the undersigned at (800) 423-6587, extension 3289, or Kurt Stochlia, at extension 3721. You may also reach us by e-mail at es@icc-es.org.

Yours very truly,



Bohdan N. Horeczko, P.E.
Director of Professional Services

BNH/md

Enclosures

cc: Evaluation Committee