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To: ICC-ES Evaluation Committee
From: Michael O'Reardon
Date: January 28, 2010
Subject: Proposed Revisions to the Acceptance Criteria for Fire-retardant-treated Wood, Subject AC66-0210-R1 (MO/SF)

MEMO

Public comments have been received regarding the subject criteria. The comments, posted on our website, were received from the following organizations:

- Hoover Treated Wood Products, Inc. (Steven Hill).
- FlameDXX, LLC (Patrick Thompson, CEO, dated January 19, 2010).
- Arch Chemicals, Inc. (Steve Shields, dated January 20, 2010).

The Hoover Treated Wood Products comments noted that retesting to comply with the reference standards in the 2009 I-Codes should not be required and that Section 3.1.3 of the criteria needs to be revised to reference the appropriate weathering procedure from ASTM D 2898. Staff requests input from FRTW (fire-retardant-treated wood) report holders concerning the applicable weathering test procedure in ASTM D 2898.

Hoover Treated Wood Products also provided a response to staff's request for input from interested parties to revise Section 5.0, on Quality Control. Hoover agreed that the section needs revision and offered some proposed modifications. Staff will take these under consideration and requests additional comments from other FRTW report holders and interested parties concerning Section 5.0.

The Arch Chemicals comment concerned the testing procedure for hygroscopicity, ASTM D 3201. They expressed a need to clarify the specimen size and exposure period. They provided sample wording for Sections 3.1.2 and 3.2.2 to provide a specific specimen size and a minimum ten-day duration for humidity exposure of the test specimens. Staff requests input from FRTW report holders and other interested parties concerning the proposed wording and how it would affect existing reports.

Arch Chemicals also noted the need to clarify Section 3.3.1 of the criteria to state that corrosion testing of proprietary fasteners is only required when there is a recommendation made to use proprietary fasteners with FRTW. Staff agrees with this revision to Section 3.3.1.

The FlameDXX, LLC, comment recommends that FRT plywood be subjected to the ASTM E 84 test procedure after it has been subjected to the extended high-humidity and high-temperature conditioning in accordance with ASTM D 5516. The recommendation is based on AC405. The proposed wording in AC405 is for a fire-retardant-coating product that is considered to need

documentation for maintenance of protection, which would consist of testing for surface burning characteristics after high-humidity and high-temperature exposure similar to that experienced in attic installations.

The IBC and IRC do not currently require that FRT plywood be subjected to the ASTM E 84 test procedure after it has been subjected to extended high-humidity and high-temperature conditioning in accordance with ASTM D 5516. For this reason, AC66 has not made such testing a requirement. Staff welcomes any additional input the committee and interested parties might have on this issue.

Thank you for consideration of the above items.