



International Code Council

## **NEWS RELEASE**

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### **ICC Announces Planned Consolidation of the Nation's Leading Evaluation Services**

The International Code Council (ICC) announced plans to consolidate the evaluation services offered by or on behalf of the Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc. (SBCCI), and National Evaluation Service, Inc. (NES). By January 1, 2003, in conjunction with the planned consolidation of the model code organizations (BOCA, ICBO, and SBCCI) as the ICC, the ICC plans to implement a single program that will replace the evaluation services that are currently offered separately by BOCA, ICBO-ES, SBCCI PST&ES and NES.

On April 3, 2002, a task force with representation from ICC, ICBO, BOCA, NES and SBCCI met and agreed to work together to immediately begin the design of a singular evaluation program under the ICC that will foster the "one evaluation" concept in the U.S. That program will create an opportunity for national acceptance of testing laboratories, quality assurance agencies and building technology compatible with the "one code" desires of code enforcement officials and the building industry to which the ICC has already responded.

Additionally, the task force also emphasized that a future ICC evaluation program must recognize evaluation reports issued by BOCA, ICBO-ES, NES and SBCCI PST&ES for the existing term of the report and provide the opportunity for those report holders that have secured or applied for an evaluation from any of these organizations to continue to rely on those existing reports. Those involved in this consolidation are very sensitive to eliminating disruption of service during the transition phase and allowing the report holder to choose when they want to transition from their existing report to the new ICC evaluation program.

The task force will also focus on the nature of the consolidated evaluation program and its design, operation, and deployment by employing the following principles:

- Single application process
- Menu of alternative report types
- Cost-effective service
- Timely, consistent, reliable expert service
- Reports and services that have wide-spread acceptance
- Access to reports using advanced technology

“Having a consistent and singular set of requirements and evaluation process is a major advantage for code enforcement officials, architects, engineers, designers and contractors throughout the United States. Manufacturers can put their efforts into research, development and technology deployment rather than designing to different sets of criteria and programs, allowing them to become more competitive in worldwide markets,” said Bill Tangye, CEO of the ICC.

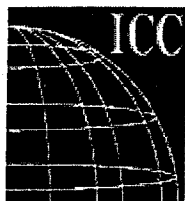
In future meetings, the task force will be developing a plan to make this all happen and implementing activities to ensure prompt and uniform communication with customers, members and other interested parties regarding these important events.

#### **About Evaluation Services**

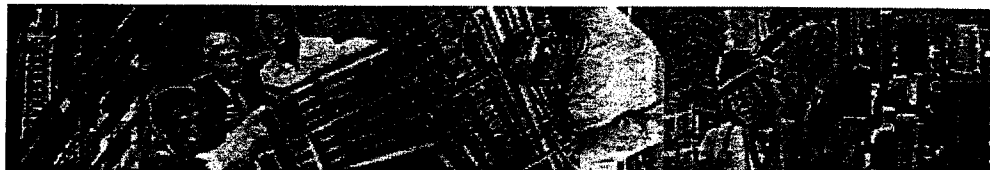
Evaluation service programs facilitate acceptance of building technology by issuing reports of engineering findings that address the ability of the subject technology to satisfy the requirements of the model codes and any limitations on the use of the technology. Such reports eliminate the need for each agency enforcing these codes to develop their own “litmus test” to evaluate the technology and then conduct the time consuming efforts associated with verification that the subject technology complies. Integrally tied to this conformity assessment process are testing laboratories and quality assurance agencies, whose qualifications are also considered in the evaluation process.

*The ICC was founded in 1994 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model construction codes. The founders of the ICC are Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), and Southern Building Code Congress International, Inc. (SBCCI). Since the early part of the last century, these nonprofit organizations have developed the three sets of model codes used throughout the United States.*

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## NEWS & INFO



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## ICC consolidation benefits building safety and public

With the stroke of a pen, more than 190 years of combined building and fire safety code development and 30 years of anticipation for one organization to produce codes for use across the country and around the globe became a reality.

The International Code Council (ICC) became one consolidated organization effective Feb. 1. Directors signed documents to create a unified ICC made up of what is Building Officials and Code Administrators International (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI).

"The new ICC will continue to be dedicated to public safety," said ICC CEO Bob D. Heinrich. "The ICC will represent and support those rarely recognized champions who make sure the buildings we and our loved ones live in, go to school in and work in are constructed safely."

Services, products and staff operations of BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI will be consolidated and phased in during the next few months, Heinrich said.

"The Board is dedicated to providing quality services to our members," said ICC Board President Paul E. Myers. "In fact, the consolidation should be seamless to members. The goal is to build upon the high level of service and products offered by the three organizations to best serve ICC members."

Prior to the ICC, building safety codes were regional. *BOCA National Codes* were used mostly in Eastern and Great Lakes states; *ICBO Uniform Codes* in Western and Midwest states; and *SBCCI Standard Codes* in Southern states. As a result, the construction industry often faced the challenge, and cost, of building to different codes in different areas of the country.

The ICC *International Codes (I-Codes)* combine the strengths of the regional codes without regional limitations. I-Codes respond to the needs of the construction industry and public safety. A single set of codes has strong support from government, code enforcement officials, fire officials, architects, engineers, builders, developers, and building owners and managers.

In 1994, BOCA, ICBO and SBCCI created the ICC to develop a single set of comprehensive, coordinated model construction codes that could be used throughout the United States and around the world. The first I-Code published was the 1995 *International Plumbing Code*.

By 2000, a complete family of I-Codes was available including the *International Building, Fire, Residential, Private Sewage Disposal, Mechanical, Fuel Gas, Property Maintenance, Energy Conservation, Zoning* and *ICC Electrical Codes*.

The *ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* joined the I-Code family in 2001. Two new codes debut in 2003: The *International Existing Building Code* and *International Urban-Wildland Interface Code*. ICC also publishes I-Code Commentaries and a host of products and services that strengthen its position as the leader in building and fire safety codes.

The ICC code development process allows input from all interested individuals and parties. To ensure public safety always comes first, only government officials are eligible to vote on the final code requirements. ICC provides technical and educational services to support the I-Codes and I-Code users.

Today's building codes can be traced back to the Code of Hammurabi, circa 2200-1800 B.C. The Code of Hammurabi provided for the death of a builder if the construction of a dwelling collapsed and caused the death of the owner.

The first building codes in the United States, established in 1625, addressed fire safety and specified materials for roof coverings. In 1630, Boston outlawed chimneys made with wood and thatch roof coverings. In the late 1770s George Washington recommended that height and area limitations be imposed on wood frame buildings in his plans for the District of Columbia. In 1788, the first known formal building code was written in the United States (in German) in Old Salem, (now Winston-Salem) North Carolina.

Larger U.S. cities began establishing building codes in the early 1800s. In 1865, New Orleans was the first city to enact a law requiring inspections of public places. The National Board of Fire Underwriters published its Recommended National Building Code in 1905. In 1915, the world's first model code organization was established to provide a forum for exchange of ideas regarding building safety and construction regulations. In 1973, the American Institute of Architects called for one code to be used throughout the United States.

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**EDITORS NOTE:** Photos are available at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)



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