



Session 2B The ICC's Proposed Changes for Tall Wooden Buildings

This presentation will provide attendees the latest information about the proposed changes for the 2021 edition of the International Building and Fire Codes to allow taller and larger buildings using mass timber for structural elements.

The ICC's Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings completed its study of the fire risks associated with "mass timber" buildings, including a review of fire tests specifically designed by the Committee, literature review, and public testimony by numerous experts and interested parties over the last 18 months. In January, the Committee submitted a comprehensive series of changes to the ICC and will be on the agenda at the ICC's code development hearing in April in Columbus, Ohio, and, ultimately, considered for approval by the ICC membership.



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Carl Baldassarra is a Principal at Wiss, Janney Elstner and Associates, consulting engineers, in Northbrook, Illinois, and leads the firm's fire protection practice group. He has a BS degree in fire protection engineering, a Master's degree in business, and is a licensed engineer in several states.

Mr. Baldassarra leads project teams involving fire protection/life safety analysis, code consultation, fire protection system design, loss investigation, and litigation support. He is also very active in a number of ICC and NFPA codes and standards-making technical committees. He was chair of the International Code Council's Code Technology Committee. The Code Technology Committee was responsible for reviewing the technical literature and proposing many of the major changes which have been adopted into the IBC over the last ten years.

Prior to joining WJE, Mr. Baldassarra was Executive Vice President at RJA and President of Schirmer Engineering Corporation. A 40-year veteran of the fire protection engineering profession, he is well-versed in systems design, code compliance, performance-based design, fire investigation and project management. Carl has also been active in the Society of Fire Protection Engineers, the international organization representing practicing fire protection engineers globally, serving on its Board of Directors and as its President in 2014. Carl served as Vice Chair on the Executive Committee of the Chicago Committee on High-Rise Buildings 2012-2014. Most notably for this presentation, he is a member of the NFPA Fire Protection Research Foundation Advisory Committee for Tall Wood Buildings, and a member of the ICC's Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings.

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