

Fire Technical Advisory Committee - Meeting Report
January 13, 2004
Rosen Plaza Hotel
9700 International Drive
Orlando, Florida

(1) Committee members attended the meeting:

Nick D'Andrea, Carl Coughlin, Joe Belcher, Hamid Bahadori, Jeff Gross, John Calpini, Dale Greiner, and Jim Schock.

(2) The Committee reviewed, discussed and provided comments on the proposed changes to Table 503, Allowable Heights and Building Areas. The changes consisted of Florida specific modifications which replaced the height and area numbers of Table 503 with those from Table 500 of the 2001 Florida Building Code using the appropriate IBC occupancy classifications and types of construction. In addition, this option will include revising several sections of the IBC necessary to make the height and area requirements, including modifications for increases in height and areas, consistent with the 2001 FBC.

Action: Schock move to accept staff recommendations, one oppose (Gross).

The following is a summary of the concerns and comments provided by the attendees:

- Type 1A = Type 2 FBC, with sprinklers becomes 2 hr. rated, unlimited height limit Type IA with current FBC fire requirements.
- Mechanical TAC recommended adopting new code, smoke control sequence
- Supported adopting new code.
- If sprinklered, additional story advantage with 503
- Fire partitions are not in Table 500, do not consider, use amendment process.
- Table 503:
 - Note H relates to maximum number of stories for each occupancy
 - Table 601, ratings different, Type I = Type II, FBC.
 - Fire Sprinkler Association, ICC, LA did not modify Table 503.
 - 44 states adopted ICC as is.
 - Level of safety not demonstrated.
- Discriminates against materials, promotes passive fire protection.
- BOAF supports IBC adoption.
- Supports IBC, people die in residential occupancies, fires extend up exterior in high rise buildings.
- Engineered data support IBC.
- Fire record good for sprinklers, sprinklers do not necessarily make heights safe, have a contract to investigate safety
- Several states are reconsidering height and area table, NFPA post fire analysis.

- IBC more lenient, no fire record on IBC as a new code, Florida's code working, older population, transients

- 21 of 23 in audience opposed Committee action.
- No Type I in IBC, only Type II