10168 ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATION REVIEW COMMITTEE

13 AAC 50.020 Building Code: If the International Building Code 2000 Edition is adopted, please consider replacing the seismic design requirements of the IBC with the seismic design requirements from the UBC, so that the construction industry can actually understand the requirements.

(13)

Yours truly,
WESTERN MECHANICAL, INC.

Mike Desmond

Michael C. Desmond
President
MA #77

HCI

Hankal Construction, Inc.

550 W. 54th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99518
(907) 563-5719
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General Industrial

June 6, 2001

Office of the Governor
Tony Knowles, Governor
Third Floor, State Capitol
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK 99811-0001

ATTENTION: TONY KNOWLES

SUBJECT: MECHANICAL CODE

Gentlemen:

I strongly oppose the adoption of the International Mechanical Code and strongly urge you to adopt the Uniform Mechanical Code.

I currently hold a Mechanical Administrators License and have confidence, based on experience, in the Uniform Mechanical Code. I see no reason to spend time and money to become skilled in a new mechanical code that is not going to provide the public with any increased protection. It appears based on the Mechanical Contractors of Alaska, Inc. research of the 2001 I.M.C. (copy attached) that melding the two codes together, in the way the Fire Marshall proposes, results in less protection for the public. Again I urge you to adopt the Uniform Mechanical Code.

If you have any questions, or require further information, please contact the undersigned at your convenience.

Sincerely,
HANKAL CONSTRUCTION, INC.

Gary T. Hankal
President

cc: Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Dept. of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

cc: Eugene R. Rutland, Executive Director
Mechanical Contractors of Ak, Inc.
P.O. Box 74796
Fairbanks, AK 99707-4796

GH\mm\LTROOG.606

Mechanical Contractors Association
MCA
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS
of Alaska, Inc.

Comments on the International Mechanical Code (I.M.C.):

1. Section "Maintenance" of I.M.C. has a significant disclaimer for any liability resulting from compliance or non-compliance with I.M.C. The U.M.C. contains no such disclaimer. (17)

2. Under paragraph (11) of 13AAC 50.023 of the proposed regulations the addition of the Table 304.7 would not be needed if 2000 U.M.C. were adopted. This information is contained in Table 3-1 of 2000 U.M.C. This is a concrete example of how much more prescriptive the U.M.C. is. (10)

3. The code users currently using the 1997 U.M.C. will find it a relatively smooth transition to the 2000 U.M.C. in comparison to adopting the I.M.C. It is clear from comparing the size of the two books that the U.M.C. 2000 is significantly more prescriptive in its approach, a philosophy that has been utilized in the development of the Uniform codes. This philosophy is evident in the fact that the 2000 U.M.C. reproduces important standards in the code for ease of use while the I.M.C. only references them. The State Fire Marshal needs to examine these differences and consider their impact on the health and safety of the communities in Alaska. (9)

4. The 2000 I.M.C. consists of 110 pages, the 2000 U.M.C. consists of 284 pages. The 2000 U.M.C. is a much more descriptive, stand-alone, document. Part of the difference in size is probably due to the fact that the publishers of the U.M.C. have many more years of experience publishing a Mechanical Code than the publishers of the I.M.C. The I.M.C. relies heavily on incorporating other codes and standards by reference. This makes the I.M.C. more cumbersome for the user and therefore more prone to mistakes and misunderstandings. Exactly the sorts of problem codes are designed to avoid. (3)

5. Since the Fire Marshal's proposed regulations already incorporate the 2000 Uniform Plumbing and 2000 Uniform Solar Energy Code, doesn't it make sense for him to adopt the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code?
   Then there would be an integrated family of Uniform Codes that cover all of the plumbing, heating and ventilation systems in a building. Considering that these Uniform Codes are superior to their International Code counterparts and that the installers (Plumbers, Pipe Fitters and Mechanical Administrators) are licensed (as required by statute) according to the Uniform Codes and are familiar with Uniform Codes it seems apparent that better, safer systems could be installed. (12)
   To my knowledge, today there are no installers or mechanical administrators licensed per the International Mechanical Code in the State of Alaska.
   Once more we raise the question "What is the compelling reason to adopt the International Mechanical Code? (4)

6. LPG Facilities are prohibited in pits or basements and other specific locations by Section 1313.5 of the U.M.C. The 2000 I.M.C. does not contain any such restriction.

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7. Referenced Standards: Appendix A of the 2000 U.M.C. contains 7 U.M.C. standards. These standards based on nationally recognized standards are reproduced in their entirety in the U.M.C. The I.M.C. does not have any standards in it and only mentions them by reference. (3)

8. The I.M.C. reproduces text from other codes. As an example refer to Section 513 in the I.M.C. for Smoke Control systems. The U.M.C. does not use this approach. Section 513 of the I.M.C. reproduces portions of the I.B.C. and the I.F.C. for this section. I urge you to study Section 513 of the I.M.C. (3)

9. Chapter 11 Refrigeration:
There are several differences in this chapter. In size alone, the U.M.C. chapter is about double the size of the I.M.C. chapter. The reason is that the U.M.C., while keeping with its philosophy, has several prescriptive provisions so as to allow the user to have all the information needed in the chapter. The I.M.C. refers to both the I.C.C. Building and Fire Code extensively and defers to standards for requirements such as refrigerant control valves. The I.M.C. chapter requires access to several other documents for the user to comply with its provisions. (4)

10. Chapter 14 of the 2000 U.M.C. covers Process Piping. There is no equivalent chapter in the 2000 I.M.C. (4)

11. The U.M.C. 2000 has Appendix A, B, C and D. Appendix A contains 8 standards. Appendix B contains Fuel Gas Piping, Installation and Testing of Gas or Fuel Fired Equipment, Installation and Testing of Oil (liquid) Fuel Fired Equipment. Appendix C has sizing tables for venting systems. I.M.C. has 2 appendices – one for combustion air openings and one for chimney connector pass throughs. The I.M.C. has no provisions for Fuel Gas Piping. (4)

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South Central Plumbing and Heating
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Anchorage, Alaska 99504
(907) 337-2444 or (907) 229-0654 Cell

ROSS FOSBERG, CODE ADOPTION COORDINATOR
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

As you may or may not be aware, the Alaska State Fire Marshal proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 13AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code. He proposes to repeal the 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code and adopt the 2000 International Mechanical Code.

As a State of Alaska Licensed Mechanical Administrator and Mechanical Contractor, I am strongly opposed to the adoption of the International Mechanical Code. (I.M.C.) The 2000 Uniform Plumbing Code has been adopted by the Alaska Department of Labor and is the "law of the land" in Alaska for plumbing and fuel gas installations. The Fire Marshal recognizes this fact in his proposed regulations. We (contractors) have worked with the Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC), since it's adoption by the Municipality of Anchorage and the State of Alaska in 1964. It is not in my best interest, as a contractor or installer, and is not in the best interest of the public, to adopt the IMC. (5)

As you should know, my Administrators License is based, by statute, on the Uniform Plumbing Code and the Uniform Mechanical Code. The mechanical industry has confidence based on experience in the U.P.C. and the U.M.C. and I am not interested in spending time and money to become skilled in a new mechanical code that is not going to provide the public with any increased protection. As an example, the I.M.C. refers me, the installer, to 128 different codes. As a member of the public, it is less restrictive with the installation of gas appliances. This is just two of the numerous problems with the I.M.C. With the U.M.C., I can design and install with just one book and it governs the installation of all gas appliances. (6)

I urge you to stop the Alaska State Fire Marshal in the adoption of the International Mechanical Code and strongly support the adoption of the Uniform Mechanical Code. The Uniform Plumbing Code and the Uniform Mechanical Code are coordinated and integrated to provide a family of codes for all mechanical systems within a building and they assure the public of safe mechanical installations.

I received a letter from Eugene Rutland, the executive director of the Mechanical Contractors of Alaska, Inc. and was given some insight into his research of the 2000 I.M.C. and the 2000 U.M.C. and as a result of that research, I have attached comments that seem useful in explaining our position.

Lee M. Van Ness
South Central Plumbing and Heating

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Lee M. Van Ness

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   To my knowledge, today there are no **installers** or **mechanical administrators** <u>licensed</u> per the International Mechanical Code in the State of Alaska.
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Mechanical Contractors Association
MCA

MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS
of Alaska, Inc.

May 3, 2001

Mr. Gary Powell
State Fire Marshal's Office
State of Alaska, Division of Fire Prevention
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Subject: Proposed Regulation Changes
To 13AAC 50.023, Re-Issued

Dear Mr. Powell:

Our Association is opposed to the repeal of the Uniform Mechanical Code. We feel very strongly that the State of Alaska should adopt the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code.

In order to properly address our concerns during the public comment period we need some information from your office:

1. We need the review analysis you performed that led to your conclusion that the International Mechanical Code is superior to the Uniform Mechanical Code.

2. We need to know how the public comments will be weighed and how the determination is made as to which Mechanical Code will be adopted after the comment period.

Your prompt reply is requested due to the short comment period and the fact that the Mechanical Industry is very busy at this time of the year.

Sincerely,

Eugene R. Rutland
Executive Director

cc: Glenn Godfrey, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety
450 Whittier Street
PO Box 11120
Juneau, AK 99811-1200

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STATE OF ALASKA

TONY KNOWLES, GOVERNOR

Glenn G. Godfrey, Commissioner

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION

May 21, 2001

Eugene R. Rutland
Executive Director
Mechanical Contractors of Alaska Inc.
P.O. Box 74796
Fairbanks, AK. 99707-4796

Dear Mr. Rutland:

Per your request, the following outlines the review process followed by this office in reaching the conclusion that the International Mechanical Code should be adopted as part of the Alaska Fire safety regulations:

1. A review of the International Mechanical Code (IMC) and Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC), 2000 Editions showed that both codes essentially regulated the same subjects and systems with a few variations and that both codes had changed from the previous 1997 Edition of the UMC. The IMC in addressing the fuel-gas distribution, gas-fired appliances and gas-fired appliance venting deferred to the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) which is not being adopted as part of the State Fire Regulations. The UMC defers to the Uniform Plumbing Code adopted by the labor department for fuel-gas distribution while still covering the gas-fire appliances and venting of such in chapter nine. On the other hand, the UMC had no correlation to the building or fire codes construction and process/occupancy requirements as they related to subjects covered and impacted by the mechanical code, whereas the IMC had clear correlation to both the International Building (IBC) and Fire Codes (IFC). Examples of this correlation/cross referencing within the IMC can be found in sections 302. 309-311. 401.4, 502.2-502.15, 507, 509, 510, 513, 603.1, and 607.. Similar cross-references to the IMC are found in the IBC and IFC. An additional important factor is that the International Building Code. in Section 1202.1, now refers you to the IMC for change of air ratios and design purposes whenever mechanical ventilation is provided in lieu of natural ventilation. On the strength of the correlation and cross referencing of the IMC it was felt that to the end user this would be very valuable, if not imperative, and would facilitate clear understanding of the codes requirements and eliminate conflict. All other things being equal, that was an overpowering factor in our selection of the IMC.

2. To corroborate our conclusion. all 40 members of the codes review committees that were formed to review the I-Codes were asked, among other tasks. to look at the correlation between the three codes. Amongst this group were three mechanical engineers representing firms within the state and the State Department of Labor represented by Paul Yoder. Mr. Yoder reviewed the IMC and recommended adoption with suggested revisions that would eliminate conflicts between the labor department's authority and the fire marshal's. Those included the revisions to chapters 10 and 14. Later discussions with Mr.

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Yoder (after the various work sessions) identified the conflicts of adopting the IFGC and the possible void in the coverage of the gas-fire appliances and their venting. Since this is the labor department's area of jurisdiction Mr. Yoder agreed to review the IFGC as it relates to the subject and move forward with recommendations to revise regulations to cover that. All other mechanical reviewers were complimentary in regard to the correlation between the codes and offered few changes. The adoption of the three I-Codes has been supported by all others commenting from the deferred jurisdictions to the architectural firms and fire departments. The principle reason, the harmony between the three codes and the ease of use.

3. As a result of the resounding support through our previous public comment period we have chosen to go forward with the IMC. During that time it was felt that certain revisions should be added that covered unlisted appliances and unvented room heaters (revisions 10 & 22). These were added for life safety reasons, because, while the IMC does not recognize the existence of unlisted appliances such as barrel stoves, etc., the simple nature of the Alaskan lifestyle dictates that we address such. It should be noted that throughout this process great effort has been put forth to make a clear delineation between the codes and enforcement authority of the fire marshal's office and the labor department.

On the matter of how the comments will be weighed in regard to the adoption of the mechanical code, I can only assure you that it is the intent of this office to adopt by reference a standard that achieves the greatest level of fire and life safety protection to the citizens of Alaska. At this point it is our analysis that the IMC meets that criteria. All comments received during the previous comment period support that position. As additional comments are received they will be weighed in regard to their contribution to the level of fire and life-safety afforded the public in general, the enhancement of the interrelationship between the building, fire and mechanical codes, and their enhancement of the end users ease of interpretation and understanding of the fire and life-safety regulations of the State of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Gary L. Powell
State Fire Marshal

cc: Glenn G. Godfrey, Commissioner

RF/GLP/djb

Mechanical Contractors Association
MCA
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS
of Alaska, Inc.

May 31, 2001

Mr. Gary Powell
State Fire Marshal's Office
State of Alaska, Division of Fire Prevention
5700 E. Tudor Road
5701 Anchorage, AK. 99507-1225

Subject: Proposed Regulation Changes to 13AAC 50.023, Re-issued
Your letter dated May 21, 2001

Dear Mr. Powell:

Thank you for your 5/21/01 letter in response to my 5/03/01 letter.

In the paragraph numbered 1 of your letter:

a. You state that the UMC defers to the UPC in addressing fuel gas distribution. This is not true. Chapter 13 appendix B of the 2000 UMC includes Chapter 12, Fuel Gas Piping, from the UPC in its entirety plus the 2000 UMC contains Chapter 15, Installation and Testing of Gas or Fuel Fired Equipment. There Is nothing on fuel-gas piping in the 2000 IMC.
To have a complete fuel-gas code system you should adopt the 2000 UMC.

clean out

b. Also, in the same paragraph 1, you cite some 14 sections of the IMC that refer to the IBC or IFC. The connotation in your letter is that this cross-referencing poses a problem to the adoption Of the UMC. In Ross Fosberg's memo of 3/21/01 to Royce Weller, Ross lists a total of 211 revisions (32 of these to the IMC) that your department has made to the IBC, IMC and IFC to accommodate the Dept. of Labor. It does not seem unreasonable to make a few more revisions to the IBC and IFC to adopt the 2000 UMC and accommodate 500 plus mechanical administrators in addition to the mechanical contractors, inspectors and installation personnel who are licensed and skilled in the use of the family of Uniform Codes.

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c. Again, paragraph 1, you cite IBC Section 1202.1 reference to IMC for mechanical ventilation. You state that this was an "over powering factor" in your selection of the IMC.
In response to this reasoning I direct you to paragraphs (10) and (11) of your proposed regulations. These paragraphs add clearances for listed and unlisted heat-producing appliances to the IMC. These paragraphs essentially are already contained in the 2000 UMC. Were you to adopt the 2000 UMC these paragraphs would not be necessary for heat-producing appliances. The mechanical ventilation requirements could be substituted in the proposed regulations. No net gain in revisions !

d. In your paragraph 2, I believe that the Dept. of Labor letter of 5/29/01 totally contradicts your statement of Paul Yoder's endorsement of the IMC.
The 40 members of the code review committee appear to be mainly building officials, fire department employees and design professionals. There were not any mechanical administrators, mechanical industry contractors represented, the very people who are licensed and use these codes. These construction professionals were not appointed to committees even though some building officials and fire department employees were appointed to multiple committee posts.

e. Paragraph 3 of your letter refers to "resounding support" in the previous public comment period. Through Dwight Perkins request Royce Weller provided what we were told was a complete copy of the previous regulation review package.
A review of this package reveals no comments at all on the mechanical code. The vast majority of the comments were from foster home providers who objected strenuously to the fire sprinkler requirements in the IBC. All the other comments addressed the IFC and most complained that there was inadequate time to locate copies of a brand new code and prepare comments.

f. Again, in Paragraph 3, Revision (10) to the IMC would not be necessary if the 2000 UMC were adopted since this material is already in the UMC.

In closing I must comment that frankly it appears your office is determined to adopt the IMC. Some of our members have reported that Mr. Fosberg stated that the IMC adoption is a "done deal". This means that the public comment phase of this process is a farce on your part. Your less than forthright conduct in this matter is a sad commentary on the Fire Marshal's office.

Please add this letter to the public comment file for 13AAC 50.023.

Sincerely,

Eugene R. Rutland

Eugene R. Rutland
Executive Director

cc: Office of the Governor
Tony Knowles, Governor
Third Floor, State Capitol
P.O. Box 110001
Juneau, AK. 99811-0001

1. Process:

From the beginning we have wondered how the Fire Marshal's office could propose to adopt a new mechanical code without wanting to get the input from the ones most affected by the change, that being the Mechanical Administrators. From the Fire Marshall's own list of the Mechanical review committee it shows that there are eleven members all of which are either building officials or fire officials (other governmental agencies) and five at large members, one of which is a State Plumbing Inspector and four that are Engineer's. Not one person that holds a Mechanical Administrators License or at least makes their living as a contractor is represented on this list.
We would like to know how this committee was appointed. We know that some Mechanical Administrators asked that they be considered but were never appointed to the review committee.

2. Why is it necessary to change from the UMC to the IMC?

The State has a long tradition of adopting the latest version of the Uniform Mechanical Code every time a new code is published. We have not seen any compelling statement or reason by the Fire Marshall's office that would justify the adoption of the International Mechanical Code, thereby putting the Mechanical Administrators that do business in this state in complete disarray.
In his letter to Mr. Fosberg the project coordinator for the Fire Marshall's office, Mr. Bryan Borjesson of Fairbanks, who is a licensed engineer states " We have had an opportunity to go through the new International Mechanical Code and find that not only has the format changed but there are a great deal of other items that have changed. We believe it will take at least 10 to 15 years before these codes are truly tested through the courts and all of the confusion and arbitrariness removed and the full education of the user's is accomplished. I personally, do not believe that we should have to go through this. I believe we should continue to use and adopt the Uniform series of codes for the next 2 cycles which is approximately 6 years and observe what is happening to the International Codes in other areas of the country. In other words, why should we be guinea pigs and suffer through all of the problems that everyone else is going to suffer through when we can simply avoid it by using a familiar and well known code into the near future and allow others to suffer the trial and tribulations of a new code system. I would suggest that this should be reviewed in approximately 6 years to see if the new International Code is 1) still in existence and 2) is providing the necessary protections for building owners and has been tested in court to eliminate those controversial portions which ultimately will be tested" Again we don't see the necessity to change.

Letter Received

3. Apparent conflict in Policy Regulations and Statutes:

In Chapter 70 FIRE PROTECTION, section 18.70.010 General function of Department of Public Safety with respect to fire protection. States, "The Department of Public Safety shall foster, promote, regulate, and develop ways and means of protecting life and property against fire, explosion, and panic"

In Sec. 18.70.080 Regulations (a) The Department of Public Safety shall adopt regulations for the purpose of protecting life and property from fire and explosion by establishing minimum standard for

(1) fire detection and suppression equipment;
(2) fire and life safety criteria in commercial, industrial, business, institutional, or other public buildings, and buildings used for residential purposes containing four or more dwelling units;
(3) any activity in which combustible or explosive materials are stored or handled in commercial quantities;
(4) Conditions or activities carried on outside a building described in (2) or (3) of this section likely to cause injury to persons or property.

(b) the commissioner of public safety may establish by regulation and the department may charge reasonable fees for fire and life safety plan checks made to determine compliance with regulations adopted under (a)(2) of this section.

In the Department of Community and Economic Development, Division of Occupational Licensing. Mechanical Administrators Statutes (AS 08.40.210- 08.40.490) Sec. 08.40.270 Examination of applicant. (a) Each applicant shall be examined to determine the applicant's

(1) ability to understand plans, design specifications, and engineering terms commonly used in the mechanical field;
(2) knowledge of mechanical installations and piping;
(3) familiarity with the requirements of the Uniform Plumbing Code, Uniform Swimming Pool, spa, and Hot Tub Code, Uniform Solar Energy Code, and the **Uniform Mechanical Code** currently in effect in the state; (because of the time lapse of adopting codes by the state the statute gives itself latitude by saying UMC currently in effect in the state)

Then in A.S. Sec. 08.40.490 Definitions.

(4) "mechanical administrator means a person who is responsible for (A) installing or modifying mechanical piping and systems, devices, fixtures, equipment, or other mechanical materials subject to the Uniform Plumbing Code, Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa, and Hot Tub Code, Uniform Solar Energy Code, and the Uniform mechanical Code as published by the International Association of Plumbing and

Mechanical Officials and the International Conference of Building Officials.

Currently, IAPMO is the only organization that publishes the Uniform Mechanical Code. ICBO sponsors the International Code Council which publishes the International Mechanical Code. The background to this is that until 1991 the Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC was cosponsored by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) with each organization owning the copyright to the document. That situation changed in 1994, and again in 1997, when each of the two model code bodies published a separate UMC. Currently only IAPMO publishes a 2000 edition of the UMC with ICBO discontinuing publication of their Uniform Codes set. The point is all the division of Occupational Licensing needs to do is put a period after the word officials and their statute is just fine. In times when departments are trying to do more with less, it doesn't make sense that DCED and DOL should incur costs to change the way they do business when there is a simple solution which we will explain later on.

Division FYI

The Mechanical Administrators are all tested under the Uniform Codes. They receive continuing education based on the Uniform Codes. They have received continuing education on the UMC for the next licensing cycle, through 2003

If the Department of Public Safety adopts by regulation the IMC, it will conflict with State Statute of the Department of Community and Economic Development, causing more confusion. In fact the project coordinator didn't even notify the Division of Occupational Licensing of the proposed changes. The person who administers the M.A. program called to find out when the fire Marshall's office was going to adopt the 2000 edition of UMC and it was only then that she was told "that the fire Marshall's office was going to adopt the IMC"

4. Appearance that the re notice of the proposed regulation is a sham.

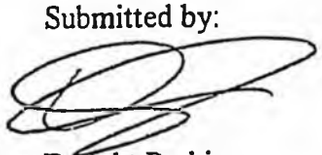
On May the 7th 2001 Mr. Fosberg was a guest at the Anchorage Mechanical Contractors Association meeting. At this meeting, Mr. Fosberg explained that because of mistakes in the advertising process, public comment had been extended until June 8th When asked if he would entertain suggestions concerning the adoption of the 2000 UMC instead of the 2000 IMC, he stated that it was merely a formality and that the adoption of the IMC was a "done deal" He went on to say that he would only review comments on the IMC, and that any comments concerning keeping the UMC would be a wasted effort. I would submit to you that not only is this unethical but maybe illegal.

5. The solution.

As I stated earlier, we have a suggestion that we think both of us can live with. In a memo dated March 21, 2001 from Mr. Fosberg to Mr. Royce Weller, Mr. Fosberg discusses the separation of jurisdiction regarding the Department of Labor. Mr. Fosberg states in the International Building Code where it references the International electrical, plumbing and fuel gas codes that each section is revised and replaced by and it goes on to cite which Alaska Administrative Code it applies to. We ask that you allow us to work with the department to identify in the International Building Code where all references are made to the 2000 IMC that we delete that reference and insert with the words 2000 UMC. The Fire Marshal still gets the International Building Code and the International Fire Code. In return we get the Uniform Mechanical Code which will work in conjunction with the Uniform Plumbing Code. This will also eliminate the problem of the conflict described in number 3

PLEASE SUBMIT FOR THE RECORD TO THE NOTICE OF PROPOSED CHANGES IN THE REGULATIONS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY.

Submitted by:



Dwight Perkins
P.O.Box 33922
Juneau, Alaska 99803

MEMORANDUM State of Alaska

TO: Royce Weller
Department of Public Safety

DATE: March 21, 2001

TELEPHONE: 465-4322

FROM: Ross Fosberg
Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention

SUBJECT: Separation of Jurisdiction regarding Dept. of Labor in 13AAC 50.020, 50.023 and 50.025

In our development of the revisions to the new I-Codes under the Fire and Life Safety regulations, we worked with the Department of Labor to assure clear delineation of authority and responsibility for enforcement and code application jurisdiction.

The regulations currently being reviewed by the AG's office have as an example the following references:

(3) *I.B.C.* Chapter 1, Section 101.4.1 Electrical, is revised by deleting the reference to the "*ICC Electrical Code*" and inserting the reference "Electrical Code as adopted by 8 AAC 70.025";

(4) *I.B.C.* Chapter 1, Section 101.4.2 Gas, is revised by deleting the reference to the "*International Fuel Gas Code*" and inserting the reference "Plumbing Code as adopted by 8 AAC 63.010";

(5) *I.B.C.* Chapter 1, Section 101.4.4 Plumbing, is revised by deleting the reference to the "*International Plumbing Code*" and inserting the reference "Plumbing Code as adopted by 8 AAC 63.010";

These three examples are taken from the revision to the International Building Code under 13 AAC 50.020 and reflect the verbiage used in revisions to each of the codes. The IBC has a total of 74 revisions with 21 (28%) of those referring the user to the Department of Labor for either the electrical or plumbing codes. The IMC has a total of 32 revisions with 16 (50%) referring the user to DOL, and the IFC has 105 revision with 34 of those (33%) referencing DOL's jurisdiction.

Throughout this whole process we have been consistent in our goal of giving a clear indication of whose authority the enforcement and interpretation of referenced regulations the end user is subject to. Over all, I believe that this has been very successful, and done so with the assistance of staff from the Department of Labor.

PATRICK MECHANICAL INC.
(907) 452-3334 Fax (907) 452-3369
E-Mail: patrick@ptlalaska.net
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 80510
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
Physical Address:
3307 International Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

6/6/01

Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Subject: Adoption of the 2000 IMC

Attn: Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator

Dear Sir,
I am a licensed Mechanical Administrator with the State of Alaska and am writing this letter to state my strong objection to the adoption of the 2000 International Mechanical Code (IMC) and my support for adoption of the Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC).

One of the first problems that we, as mechanical administrator's, face is that our license renewal is based upon continuing education. To date, the regulations that govern us still mandate education for the UMC. Additionally, there are no registered classes on the IMC that are approved for the required continuing education credits.

Secondly, to the best of my knowledge, we have been utilizing the UMC since statehood. Is there a problem with the code? If not, why are we forcing the issue and making the administrator's retrain to a new code? It would seem to me that this would create some confusion in installation until we settle into the IMC, thus costing us money and increasing the potential for violations and citations.

It is my belief that the UMC is a better code. The language in the UMC leaves less open to interpretation and is more descriptive in the requirements of the installation. Also, it incorporates the requirements right into the code. The IMC makes reference to other manuals and codes.

The IMC is a looser code that allows practices that are not deemed safe by the industry. One such example is the IMC allows propane to be installed in a basement or pit with the installation of a fan to move air if the propane is detected. What happens if the fan fails or power is shut off to the fan? All safety precautions would then be defeated. If a problem were encountered, it opens both us, as administrators and the State to liability lawsuits. The UMC prohibits this installation.

(5)

There are many more examples of similar items. Again, I want voice my strong opposition to the adoption of the IMC. I sincerely hope your division carefully considers all of the implications in adopting the IMC to us and the State.

Sincerely,

Dave Peet

cc: Office of the Govenor

Chandler
Plumbing & Heating, Inc.
129 Minnie St. • P.O. Box 70534
Fairbanks, AK 99707-0534
Phone: (907) 456-5282 Fax: (907) 451-6973

June 8, 2001

Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Attn: Ross Fosberg

Mr. Fosberg:

The purpose of this letter is to express my support for the adoption of the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code rather than the International Mechanical Code. As a mechanical administrator (MEC M 55), I have completed my continuing education for both the UPC and UMC as mandated by statute and will be renewing in August of this year.

If the IMC were adopted, my men and I would have to be re-educated to the new code. There is a cost involved with this. Additionally, there is a potential for error due to being unfamiliar with the requirements of the new code. The potential liability cost could greatly exceed the retraining costs. I see no benefit to public health and safety by incurring these direct and indirect costs.

It seems odd that a regulation would require a change in statute to avoid a contradiction. It was my understanding that statutes were the law and regulations were to help implement the law. Adopting the IMC by regulation directly places me as a mechanical administrator in a crossfire between the statute requiring installation by UMC and a regulation requiring installation by IMC. Would it not be more logical to adopt the code mandated by statute? (6)

Again, I would urge you to adopt the 2000 UMC. Thank you for your consideration during the public comment period.

Sincerely,

CHANDLER PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.

Dayn M Cooper

Dayn M.Cooper
Engineer

Fc: Office of the Governer

HARBOR PLUMBING & HEATING, INC.
MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS

P.O. BOX 32117
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99803
(907) 789-7222 FAX (907) 789-0314

June 6, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Mr. Fosberg:

I strongly oppose the adoption of the International Mechanical Code, which is being proposed for adoption by the Alaska State Fire Marshall. There are many reasons why I oppose the adoption of the International Mechanical Code. I believe the Uniform Mechanical Code and the Uniform Plumbing Code coordinate with each other whereas the International Mechanical Code does not. The International Mechanical Code is not an in depth code and leaves room for speculation.

I believe that adopting the Uniform Mechanical Code is in the best interest of all parties involved in the plumbing and mechanical trade.

Sincerely,

James L. White
President
Mechanical Administrator # 188

cc: Office of the Governor

R & S Mechanical Inc.
P. O. Box 80889
Fairbanks, AK 99708
907-456-6052
Fax 907-456-8053

June 6, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

Re: International Mechanical Code

The current 2000 Uniform Plumbing Code and 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code have served the industry and public well. Research of the International Mechanical Code in comparison to the Uniform Mechanical Code does not provide any increased protection to the public.

Since there is no apparent benefit to the adoption of the I.M.C. over the U.M.C., I am opposed to any repeal action as it relates to the U.M.C.

Sincerely,

George Roberts
Mechanical Administrator #121

cc: Office of the Governor

UNITED ASSOCIATION
of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of
the United States and Canada

Founded 1889

Letters should be confined to one subject

UA Local Union: 367

Subject:

(907) 562-2810
(907) 562-2587 FAX

610 W. 54TH AVENUE
ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99518

Martin J. Maddaloni
General President

Thomas H. Patchell
General Secretary-Treasurer

C. Randal Gardner
Assistant General President

June 1, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg,

I would like to voice my opinion about the proposed regulation change in Title 13 AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code. I am strongly opposed to the adoption of the International Mechanical Code (IMC).

The Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) has protected public health and safety in Alaska for many years. The similar structures of the UMC and the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) **make the codes easier to teach and interpret**

The IMC uses constant referencing to other code books, over 100 when I quit counting. To ensure accurate interpretation and compliance to the code, I see this referencing as a problem. (3)

I feel, after reviewing the IMC, that the UMC is a more descriptive and stringent code for protecting public health and safety. (5)

I urge you to take the advice of a person who has worked in the trade and taught apprentices and journeymen. I feel the UMC is a far superior code and should not be replaced.

Sincerely,

Craig Hately
Training Coordinator
U.A. Local 367

UNITED ASSOCIATION
of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of
the United States and Canada

Martin J. Maddaloni
General President

Michael A. Collins
General Secretary-Treasurer

C. Randal Gardner
Assistant General President

Founded 1889

Letters should be confined to one subject

UA Local Union: Local Union 262
723 West 10th Street
Juneau, Alaska 99801

Subject:

May 25, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg,

The Plumbers and Pipefitters U.A. Local Union 262, representing over one hundred members in Southeastern Alaska, strongly oppose the adoption of the International Mechanical Code, which is being proposed for adoption by the Alaska State Fire Marshal. There are many, many reasons why UA Local 262 and its members oppose the adoption of the International Mechanical Code. The main reasons are that the Uniform Mechanical Code and the Uniform Plumbing Code coordinate and mesh with each other whereas the International Mechanical Code will not. Another main reason is that the International Mechanical does not go into depth in some areas and leaves too much for speculation. (1)

We strongly support the adoption of the Uniform Mechanical Code because, together with the Uniform Plumbing Code, they provide a family of codes for all mechanical systems within a building and assure the public of safe mechanical installations.

We currently have many members who are licensed to install mechanical systems, yet there are no licensed installers under the International Mechanical Code. (6)

Yours truly,

Max R. Mielke
Business Manager
UA Local Union 262

cc: Office of Governor

(907) 586-2874
FAX (907) 463-5116
E-mail local262@ptialaska.net

UNITED ASSOCIATION
of Journeymen and Apprentices of the
Plumbing and Pipe Fitting Industry of
the United States and Canada

Martin J. Maddaloni
General President

Thomas H. Patchell
General Secretary-Treasurer

C. Randal Gardner
Assistant General President

Founded 1889

UA Local Union: 375
3568 Geraghty Street, Fairbanks, Alaska 99709

Letters should be confined to one subject

Subject: **Proposed changes to Title 13AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code**

June 4, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

As the Business Manager of U.A. Local 375 Plumbers & Steamfitters Union representing approximately 500 members who must deal with any proposed changes to the Title 13AAC 50 023 Mechanical Code, I am writing to express my strong opposition to those proposed changes. The members of our industry have supported the Uniform Plumbing Code and the Uniform Mechanical Code to provide a family of codes for all mechanical systems within a building so that the public is assured of safe mechanical installations. These Uniform Codes have a more than thirty year history in our State.

Having read and compared the International Mechanical Code (IMC) to the Uniform Plumbing Code (UMC), I come to the conclusion that the strong opposition to the IMC is based on the following:

1. **UMC provides the industry with the confidence of experience.**
2. **UMC updates to 2000 will be relatively smooth for our industry.**
3. **UMC is a much more common industry standard.**
4. **Adoptions of IMC will not provide the public with added protection, rather it will provide less protection because it is because the UMC is more descriptive.** (5)
5. **There is no compelling reason to change to IMC on this code cycle (if it ain't broke, don't fix it). We should wait a few code cycles to see if the IMC , and the ICC who publishes it, are still around** (12)

I urge you to take into consideration the professionals in this industry who support the adoption of the 2000 UMC as the best code for insuring the residents of the State of Alaska of a practical, economic, and safe code.

Sincerely,

J.C. Wingfield
Business Manager

cc: Office of the Governor
The Honorable Tony Knowles, Governor of the State of Alaska

Randy Bayer
1119 Bruhn Rd.
Fairbanks, Alaska 99709
907-457-2530
goal@mosquitonet.com

Re: Uniform Mechanical Code/
International Mechanical Code
Public comment

Dear Sir,

I am writing to oppose the adoption of the International Mechanical Code (IMC) and urge the adoption of the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC). My concern, as should be all of ours, is the health and safety of the public. **I believe the UMC does the best job of fulfilling the need of protection of the public in a cost effective manner.** I hold a Mechanical Administrators license State of Alaska, certified Plumbing Inspector and Certified Mechanical inspector through both International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials and International Conference of Building officials. Below I have pointed out a number of issues that I believe lend value to this request:

1. Unvented room heaters; The 2000 IMC allows for the use of unvented room heaters by reference to the 2000 International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) in Section 301.3. Unvented fuel burning room Heaters are specifically prohibited under Section 916.3 of the 2000 UMC. **The dangers of unvented products of combustion inside a structure are well founded.** (4)
2. LPG Facilities are prohibited in pits or basements and other specific locations by Section 1313.5 of the 2000 UMC. The 2000 IMC or the 2000 IFGC do not contain any such restriction. **The heavier than air characteristics of LPG make this a very dangerous consideration.** (4)

Denial IFC prohibits

3. Unlisted Equipment; Table 3-1 of the UMC provides for clearances for different types of unlisted appliances. There is no equivalent table in the IMC. The manufacturers installation instruction only address installation and do not take into account maintenance and all aspects of the installation. Because of this the need for clearance table. (4)
4. Referenced Standards: Appendix A contains 7 UMC standards. These standards based on nationally recognized standards are reproduced in their entirety in the UMC. The IMC does not have any standards in it and only mentions them by reference. (3)

NOT CURRENTLY ADOPTED →

5. Fuel Gas provisions: Chapter 13 of the UMC by reference to Appendix B contains these provisions. The IMC refers you to a different document; i.e. the International Fuel Gas Code for these provisions. (4)

→ TO IFC NFPA.

6. Text from other codes: The IMC reproduces text from other codes. As an example refer to Section 513 for Smoke Control systems. The UMC does not use this approach. This factor needs to be considered when we are considering adopting one document over another. (3)

Approach IMC IS Superior

7. Commercial Cooking Equipment (Chapter 5): There are significant differences between the two codes in this area. The requirements for duct enclosures for Type I Hoods are different; clearances are different with the UMC being more restrictive. The cleanout requirements are different as well. (4)

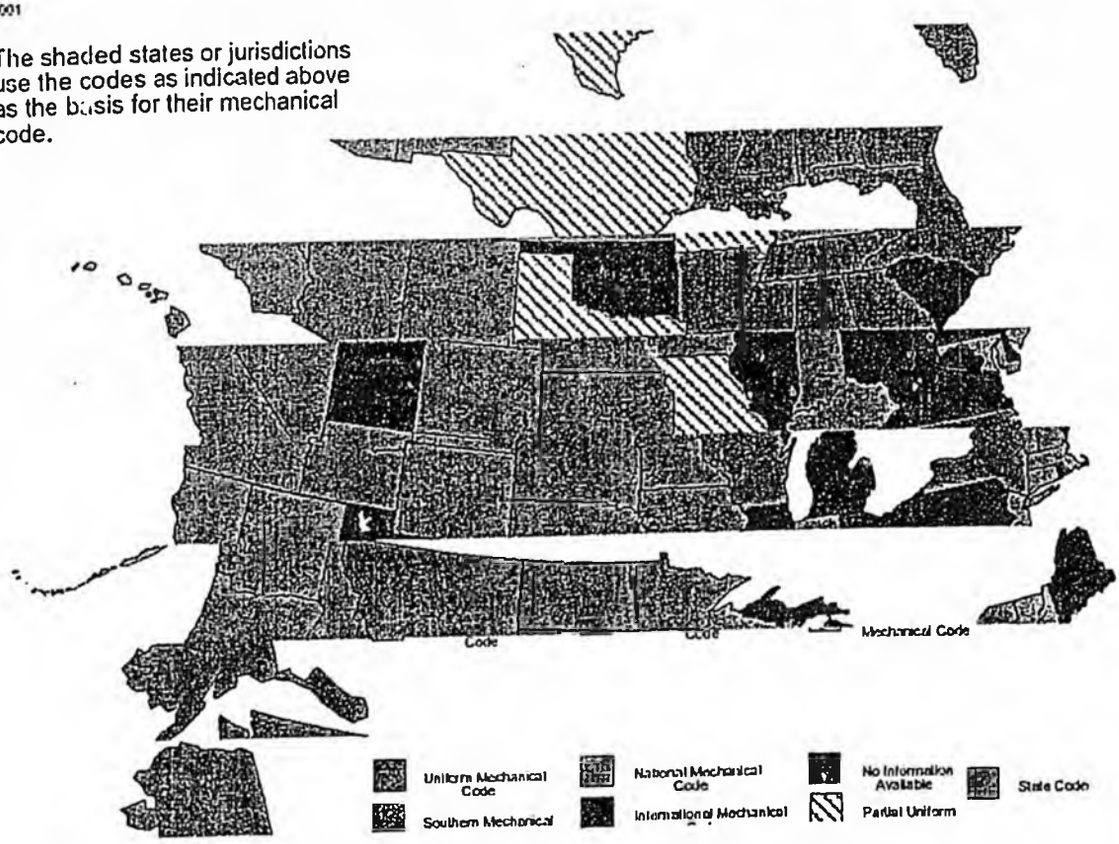
Against IMC MORE RESTRICTIVE

8. The 2000 UMC has Appendix A, B, C and D. Appendix B contains fuel Gas Piping, Installation and Testing of Gas or Fuel Fired Equipment, Installation and Testing of Oil (Liquid) Fuel Fired Equipment. The IMC has no provision for Fuel Gas Piping.
9. Chapter of the UMC covers Process Piping. There is no equivalent chapter in the IMC.
10. The 2000 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) has been adopted by the Alaska department of Labor. This is the governing document for Plumbing and Fuel Gas installations. The UPC and the UMC are coordinated and integrated to provide a family of codes for all mechanical systems within a building and they assure the public of safe mechanical installations. **To adopt the IMC will create many conflicts involving code enforcement. A situation we experienced some time ago, before coordination and integration.**
11. The UMC is a much more descriptive, standalone document. The IMC relies heavily on incorporating other codes and standards by reference. This makes the IMC more cumbersome for the user and therefore more prone to mistakes and misunderstandings. **Exactly the sorts of problems codes are designed to avoid.**
12. Engineers and craftsmen currently using the 1997 UMC will make a smooth transition to the 2000 UMC in comparison to adopting the 2000 IMC. Much of the licensing in the state is dependent of the codes. If you adopt the IMC there will be much expenditure of time and money for reeducation not to mention throwing the current licensing situation into and uproar.

Below is a map of the United States showing adopted Mechanical codes

Revised 1/2001

The shaded states or jurisdictions use the codes as indicated above as the basis for their mechanical code.



Mechanical Code Adoption

Thank you for your consideration,

Randy Bayer

ENSTAR Natural Gas Company
A Division of SEMCO ENERGY, Inc.
3000 Spenard Road
P.O. Box 190288
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-0288
(907) 277-5551

June 4, 2001

Gary Powell
Alaska State Fire Marshal
5700 E Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

RE: opposition to adoption of the International Mechanical Code

Mr. Powell

I would like to take this opportunity to express some concerns that I have with the proposed adoption of the International Mechanical Code for the State of Alaska. I am the Service Supervisor and the Mechanical Administrator for ENSTAR Natural Gas Co. certificate # 69. I was a Mechanical Contractor for 12 years before I came to work at Enstar Natural Gas Co. I am on the Code Review Committee for the Municipality of Anchorage. We have reviewed for adoption the International Mechanical Code (IMC) and I have to say that I am opposed to the adoption of this code. The IMC is a good code for Engineers as it allows a lot of latitude in system design but it would be very difficult to install or inspect per codebook. It will be extremely difficult to teach installers how to do the work from the IMC. The Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) is a prescriptive code that explains how a task must be done therefore it is a given as to what is expected and easier to inspect. The response I have received about teaching the IMC to Installers is to teach them from the UMC and then they will not have problems with the IMC installations. I don't believe this is the type of code that we want in the State of Alaska. (10)

My understanding is that you, as the State Fire Marshall, are trying to push the IMC through to adoption. I do not know of any Mechanical contractor in the State of Alaska that wants the IMC or any of the International codes. I would like to know who else is pushing for the International codes and what your and their reasons are? Most all problems in the UMC have been addressed and corrected. We are all trained and licensed by the Uniform Mechanical Code. We are not having problems with the UMC so why would we want to change it to a less restrictive code? I do not like the idea of changing to a less restrictive code that could lead to unsafe installations. The UMC has proven to be a safe guideline that the contractors / installers have learned to live by and I do not see any need whatsoever to implement a lesser code. If the IMC is adopted, every mechanical contractor / installer will have to obtain every International code book because of the cross referencing required, the International Mechanical, Plumbing, fuel gas, building, Energy Conservation, Fire, Electrical and Residential codes. This would be an unnecessary political change (brought on by people in offices) that would cause many problems for the individuals who have to make it all work. This presents a problem for me as I have 24 Service Technicians that would have to be trained and tested to continue to perform their job. If the IMC is adopted every Mechanical contractor / installer in this state will have to purchase and learn a new code. This letter is to register my support for keeping the Uniform Mechanical Code as the adopted code for the State of Alaska. (5) (3)

In regards to these issues, I would be happy to talk to you at any time. Please feel free to contact me at 264-3701

Respectfully,
ENSTAR Natural Gas Co.

Kit Dahlstrom
Service Supervisor

cc: Tony Knowles
Ross Fosberg

May 24, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225
Reference: 2000 Mechanical Code Change Cycle

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I understand the Alaska State Fire Marshal proposes to adopt the 2000 International Mechanical Code (IMC) and that it is "a done-deal" even though the adoption process is not complete.

As a Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector for the Department of Development Services, Municipality of Anchorage, I am very concerned about the Alaska State Fire Marshal's proposal to replace the current mechanical code (1997 Uniform Mechanical Code) with the IMC.

As an inspector, I know the life/safety standards required for a mechanical installation, but may not be able to enforce those standards if code requirements are not clear. One significant problem with the IMC is that it refers to so many separate documents. This approach creates confusion, redundancy, and sometimes omits critical information. For example, the IMC covers solid fuel appliances only while the International Fuel Gas Code refers to gas appliances. Neither document covers both installations completely without referencing even more standards and codes. The 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) is prescriptive and contained in one document. An entire heating, cooling and ventilation system may be designed, installed and inspected using the UMC. It works. More inquiries need to be made, more time allotted to hear all sides of this issue from design engineers, contractors, installers, inspectors and end users. I have studied both codes and can cite facts and figures to illustrate my concerns. My business card is enclosed should you wish to continue this discussion.

Most important, I believe this change from current code (UMC) will seriously compromise the "minimum standards to safeguard life or limb, health, property and public welfare" (1997 UMC, Section 102) in this state. You and I, our neighbors and friends, all your constituents are the stakeholders here. We will be subjected to a great travesty characterized by vagueness and incongruity and perhaps injury or death if the "I" Codes are adopted.

Respectfully yours,

Marilyn Honeysett

Marilyn Honeysett, Plumbing/Mechanical Inspector, Municipality of Anchorage

May 23, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Re: Adoption of regulation changes in Title 13 AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code.

Dear Sir:

I urge you not to adopt the 2000 International Mechanical Code. The following reasons are why the state should keep the Uniform Mechanical Code.

1.: The Uniform Mechanical Code, here after referred to as UMC, is better established and is a more prescriptive code then the International Mechanical code, here after referred to as the IMC. In my review of the IMC I have found it to be less definitive and more open to interpretation and/or misinterpretation than the UMC. (10)

2.: I have gone to great lengths and expense, as required by state of Alaska statute, to maintain my continued credit hours for renewal of my Mechanical Administrator license. This license, in accordance with 12 AAC 39.410, is based on the Uniform Plumbing code and UMC, not the IMC. The Alaska Division of Occupational Licensing has not notified me in writing, that the continued education is changed to the IMC. If the IMC is adopted I, as a Mechanical Administrator in Alaska, will be licensed to a different code than the law of the land. If the Mechanical Code is to be changed, then adequate time, with advance written notice, should be provided for my retraining to the IMC. This brings up several questions that need to be addressed. Is the state of Alaska going to provide me with a reimbursement of the costs I have incurred, maintaining my continuing education of the UMC? If the IMC is adopted will I be grand fathered into the mechanical portion of my administrators license? Will I be required to submit to an examination to prove I am acknowledgeable competent in the new code to carry out my Mechanical Administrator responsibilities? (6)

3.: I have managed mechanical construction projects for over 17 years to the UMC and I have a working knowledge of this code. I know where to reference the UMC to find the answers to code questions. To learn the IMC will require learning a new codebook. While I am up to any challenge that my career offers, I would rather not waste my time if it does not provide a better product. The UMC has an established history in Alaska. It has provided the people of Alaska quality mechanical construction that meets the health and safety for our communities. The IMC is unproven, it is new, it is still in its infancy, and does not meet all the necessary requirements for Alaska. This code will require extensive review, modifications and addenda to bring it just up to the standard of the UMC. I can find no reason why IMC is an improvement over UMC. Changing to the IMC will be an unnecessary impact to the mechanical construction industry in Alaska, while providing little or no benefit to the public at large. (8)

The purpose of codes is to provide a MINIMUM standard. The UMC is a superior code to IMC. The UMC is more prescriptive than the IMC. The UMC is known and established in the Alaska mechanical industry. To adopt the IMC is to lower the standard of quality for mechanical construction in Alaska, while risking the health and safety of our communities. Therefore, I urge you to not adopt the 2000 International Mechanical Code.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Anderson
Mechanical Administrator License #4

% Western Mechanical, Inc
P.O. Box 60067
Fairbanks, AK 99706

Cheski's Plumbing and Heating, Inc.
11180 Via Appia
Anchorage, Alaska 99515
Phone: (907) 344-3380
Fax: (907) 344-3380

May 29, 2001

Office of the Lt. Governor
Fran Ulmer, Lt. Governor
P.O. Box 110015
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0015

OFFICE OF THE
JUN 0 1 2001
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Dear Lt. Governor

Subject: Replacement of the 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code with the 2000 International Mechanical Code.

It has come to my attention that the Alaska State Fire Marshal is proposing to adopt a regulation change in Title 13 AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code. This proposal to repeal the 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code and adopt the 2000 International Mechanical Code is absurd!

Although I recently became self-employed and am the owner of my small business, over the years I have worked for other companies and secured the time and licensing needed to do so based on the Uniform Mechanical and Plumbing Codes. I have acquired the Mechanical Administrator's License under these same provisions. Working with these codes is very precise, and they are considered a stand alone document.

The difference between the two codes is obvious and there is no comparison. The International Mechanical Code is a sub book; reproducing and referencing text that is directly from other code books that are currently in use and recognized now. Having this additional information could cause confusion by not knowing which information is current, or questions about the applications of the information could bring up the factor of safety for the public. (3)

By trying to adopt the I.M.C. you are undermining the integrity of the existing system, as well as the structure that has formed from it's use. With this proposed change other common sense questions arise very quickly. There may also be problems with Alaska statutes, testing, continuing code education, and licensing divisions. (6)

If this International Mechanical Code is adopted, there will be much uncertainty, and gray areas will be opened up possibly jeopardizing safety factors that are already in place to protect the public. I strongly urge you to keep the existing Uniform Mechanical Code in place with the State of Alaska and not to settle for anything less for its people. (5)

Sincerely,

John M. Przeczewski

John M. Przeczewski

Owner, Cheski's Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

John Bumgarner
Noble Mechanical Inc.
P.O. Box 111209
Anchorage Alaska 99511
349-8611 349-5832 fax

June 7, 2001

LATE

RECEIVED
JUN 12 2001
Director's Office
Div. of Fire Prevention
Anchorage, Alaska

Office of the Governor
Governor Tony Knowles
State Capital bldg., 3rd floor
Post Office Box 110001
Juneau Alaska 99811-0001

Mr. Ross Fosberg
Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage Alaska 99507-1225

Dear Governor Knowles / Ross Fosberg

Re: Alaska State Fire Marshal's proposed regulation changes in title 13AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code

I am writing to object to the Alaska State Fire Marshal's proposed changes in the Title 13AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code. He has proposed to repeal the 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) and adopt the 2000 International Mechanical Code (IMC). To this date I have had several conversations and meetings with contractors and Mechanical Administrators and have yet to find anyone that supports these changes. Also I have yet to here any real reason why the changes should be made.

As a licensed Mechanical Contractor and licensed Mechanical Administrator. I work daily with the (UMC) and have confidence that all work done by Noble Mechanical Inc. in accordance with the now (UMC) has been tested and proved.

As far as my Mechanical Administrators License, I am concerned that my need for continuing education credits will not be met with the (IMC). To this date I have not received any information from the Division of Occupational licensing in regards to their accepting any continuing education credits for the (IMC). Enclosed are 6 pages of approved sponsors and course information that is accepted. None of them suggest a new code at all.

In closing I would ask that you reassess the State of Alaska's position on this issue and adopt the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code

Sincerely;

John Bumgarner
Noble Mechanical Inc.
Alaska Mechanical Administrators License # 36

JMI Johansen Mechanical inc.
JOHANMI173PK
P.O. Box 1768 • Woodinville, WA 98072
425-481-2266 Bus • 425-486-6933 FAX

Tony Knowles, Governor
Third Floor, State Capitol
P.O. Box110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Governor Tony Knowles
Re: 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code

Dear Governor

I am writing to Support the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code. Current 1997 code users will have an easy transition to the 2000 UMC. These codes are an assurance of safe mechanical installations. The Uniform Mechanical Code is a much more descriptive and comprehensive document than the proposed International Mechanical Code. Much of (3) the condensed IMC relies on other codes and standards by reference. It is more difficult to use and I fear harder to understand which will lead to installation errors.

The 2000 UMC is already incorporated in the Fire Marshall's Uniform Solar Energy Code. It is logical therefore, that he adopt the 2000 UMC. Isn't better to have related (1) codes that include plumbing, and heating and ventilation? There aren't any Mechanical installers that are licensed per the International Mechanical Code in the State of Alaska. What reason do we have to switch to the IMC?

Refrigeration references in Chapter 11 of the UMC go much further in detail than the IMC and provides all the information that is necessary, while the IMC requires the (4) installer to reference several other documents to comply with its provisions. There is no coverage on Piping or specifically Fuel Gas piping in the IMC as there is in the UMC.

I urge you to reconsider the adoption of the International Mechanical Code. Its' adoption will severely confuse and cloud the installation of mechanical systems in the State of Alaska. Please go forward with the nationally recognized standards in the Uniform Mechanical Code updated for 2000.

Sincerely,

Allen Johansen
Johansen Mechanical, Inc.

c.c. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator

June 4, 2001

RECEIVED
JUN 0 6 2001
Southcentral Office
Div. of Fire Prevention
Anchorage, Alaska

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg,

This letter is concerning the adoption of a mechanical code for the State of Alaska. As a plumbing and mechanical inspector, and a former Mechanical Administrator in the State of Alaska, I urge the Fire Marshal to adopt the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) instead of the 2000 International Mechanical Code (IMC).

The codes are adopted for the public's safety, meaning you, me, family, friends, relatives, neighbors, visitors to the state, etc. Does this mean a "performance-based" code first published in 1997, is more beneficial than a "prescriptive" code, first published and adopted by the State of Alaska in 1964? I think not. The UMC, a prescriptive code, is written and changed by all people involved, not just government officials. The IMC, a performance-based code, allows only government officials to vote on changes. By changing codes now, are we asking for injury or death because of the numerous cross-references in the IMC, allowing many interpretations of the code? (10) (5)

For example, propane must be allowed in pits and basements according to the IMC, potentially creating a bomb. This is not allowed in the UMC. Fuel gas piping and appliances are not covered in the IMC, but referenced to other codes. Unlisted appliance installation is not addressed. Refrigeration is not covered in detail in the IMC, and also refers to other codes. The UMC covers these examples in detail. (4)

Public safety is of the prime concern, but the cost of converting to a new code should also be considered. The Statutes would have to be changed (UMC is to be adopted by statute). New tests would have to be created and all journeymen, inspectors, contractors, and engineers would have to purchase all the codes referenced and learn them. As you know, most, if not all costs, are passed on to the end user, you and me. (6)

Therefore, I believe that it is in the public's best interest to adopt the UMC, which has proven itself over the years.

Sincerely,

Lyman Meacham

Lyman Meacham

cc: Tony Knowles, Governor

4921 E. 11th Ave. #2
Anchorage, AK 99516

May 21, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

RE: The Mechanical Code (I.M.C.) for the State of Alaska

Dear Ross:

I am a licensed Mechanical Administrator through the State of Alaska. My license number is #107. I have several questions on how the State has chosen to go for their Mechanical Code.

1. Why has the State chosen to change to the International Mechanical code?
2. Combustion Air requirements is another area that is not covered in the I.M.C.
3. There are some large safety problems in the 2000 I.M.C. it does not cover gas piping for one.

(4)

Just these items or even only one could end up in a death if not done right.

The I.M.C. does not cover the present license that I have. It is based on the U.M.C. not the I.M.C. The regulation of required continued education on the U.M.C. not the I.M.C. Why change something that is not broke? This seems to be a large expense to the State and everyone who works with the codes. For the life of me I do not understand why the State is making this change. The code we have been using is the best with no report of a health problem or a complaint from a person using it. So again, why the change?

(6)

Thank you,

Lester H. Bate, Mechanical Administrator
7050 Viburnum Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507
(ph: 907-349-1453)

CAMERON

PLUMBING & HEATING

AND SHEETMETAL

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Protection
5700 East Tudor RD
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Me Letter
Both Names
Starting "Gentlemen"

Dear Sir,

Regarding the proposal to adopt regulation c[illegible] Mechanical Code, I believe changing from the 1997 Unif[illegible]000 International Mechanical Code is not in the p[illegible] the best interest of Cameron Plumbing & Heating at t[illegible].

My reasons for this are as follows:

1. The public will not get as good of a code administration deal under the International Mechanical Code as it now gets under the Uniform Mechanical Code . (6)
2. All of our Mechanical Administrator Licenses now come under the Uniform Mechanical Code.
3. The International Mechanical Code falls far short on descriptions, examples and drawings compared to the Uniform Mechanical Code. The Uniform Mechanical Code has 284 pages where as the International Mechanical Code has only 110 pages. They must have left out a lot of information. (8)

Sincerely,

Donald Cameron
Vice President
Cameron Plumbing & Heating

CAMERON

PLUMBING & HEATING

AND SHEETMETAL

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Dear Sir,

Regarding the proposal to adopt regulation changes in Title 13AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code, I believe changing from the 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code to the 2000 International Mechanical Code is not in the public's best interest nor is it in the best interest of Cameron Plumbing & Heating at this time.

My reasons for this are as follows:

1. The public will not get as good of a code administration deal under the International Mechanical Code as it now gets under the Uniform Mechanical Code .
2. All of our Mechanical Administrator Licenses now come under the Uniform Mechanical Code.
3. The International Mechanical Code falls far short on descriptions, examples and drawings compared to the Uniform Mechanical Code. The Uniform Mechanical Code has 284 pages where as the International Mechanical Code has only 110 pages. They must have left out a lot of information.

(6)

(8)

Sincerely,

Jim Cameron

Jim Cameron
Owner/ President
Cameron Plumbing & Heating

Cont. Lic# 4902

MICHELLE GIFFORD

1657 Jewell Dr., #1
Anchorage, AK
99501

June 6, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507

Re: *Proposed adoption of the International Mechanical Code*

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I have been employed as a licensed trades person since 1984. During this time the equipment and systems I have installed have been engineered and installed in accordance with the Uniform Mechanical Code UMC. During this time, I have seen and installed many different types of equipment that have potential for combustion and fire within homes and buildings. The installation codes of these systems and associated combustion equipment are contained in the UMC, which have served the safety of the Alaskan public.

I am very concerned, for safety reasons, that the State of Alaska is considering adoption of the 2000 International Mechanical Code (IMC) in lieu of the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC). The UMC has been in service since 1964 in the vast majority of cities and municipalities of the United States and has be come the standard for engineered structures and associated plumbing, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, fire suppression, refrigeration, gas appliance and piping systems. The UMC has proven to be a reliable, easily indexed code in which contractor's and Inspector's have come to rely on for the installation of building components insuring the safety of the building occupants. (6)

In Alaska, unlisted combustion equipment is frequently installed in the homes for heat. Such as, woodstoves, combustion equipment etc. The installation codes are found in a single chapter of the UMC. On the other hand the IMC lists no codes for the proper installation of unlisted combustion equipment. (4)

Respectfully yours,

Michelle Gifford

Michelle Gifford, Inspector

June 4, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordina
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg

As a licensed plumber with the State of Alaska and a master plumber with the City of Fairbanks I would like to voice my support for the adoption of the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC). I am not in support of proposed regulation changes in Title 13AAC 50 023 Mechanical Code where the International Mechanical Code (IMC) is being reviewed for adoption.

The State of Alaska adopted the 2000 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC) last year and adoption of the UMC seems sensible since these codes where designed to compliment each other.

Currently all master plumbers with the City of Fairbanks pass an exam using the UMC and the UPC. This is also true for State Mechanical Administrator exams.

In closing I urge you to investigate the differences between the UMC and IMC and you will find that the 2000 UMC is a preferable code in technical as well as health and safety concerns. Combine this with the training IAPMO provides brings a great benefit to the installer and in turn to the people of Alaska.

Sincerely,

Bret Helms
770 Bennett Rd.
Fairbanks, AK 99712

cc: Office of the Governor
Tony Knowles, Governor

June 4, 2001

Ross Fosberg
Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK. 99507-1225

Re: Alaska State Fire Marshal's proposed regulation changes Title 13AAC 50.023

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I am writing to express my strong support for adoption of the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code. It defies reason that your office would consider adopting such a new code, the International Mechanical Code, published by a recently formed publishing group when the Uniform Mechanical Code with a 30 plus year track record is already in place. Who knows if the International Mechanical Code or its publisher, the ICC, will even be in existence a few code cycles from now ?

As a currently licensed mechanical administrator I have invested a great deal of my time and money over the years to become proficient in the use of the Uniform Plumbing Code, Uniform Mechanical Code, Uniform Solar Energy, Uniform Swimming Pool, Spa and Hot Tub Codes. These codes form a family of codes that cover all of the mechanical systems in a building. I believe the adoption of the International Mechanical Code would only weaken the otherwise strong cohesiveness that these codes have. I have studied the International Mechanical Code and in my opinion it adds nothing to this family. (1)

As a public official charged with protecting public safety, you should respect the judgement of the people, that by statute, are responsible for proper mechanical installations (Mechanical Administrators) and adopt the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code.

I find the deceitful and "stacked-deck" approach to your code review and adoption process appalling and shameful. Your premature press release to ICBO Code Central speaks volumes to the "fairness" with which this review and recommendation was made. The review committees make-up of ICBO members, and the exclusion of the mechanical administrator and contractor "stakeholders", call into question any claim to impartiality (2)

Sincerely,

Richard L. Rutland
Alaska Administrators License # 250

1068 Badger Rd.
North Pole, AK 99705

Cc: Office of the Governor
Tony Knowles, Governor
State Capitol , Third Floor
Post Office Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Houston/Nana, JV
P.O. Box 60349
Fairbanks, AK 99706
Phone (907) 450-5368 • FAX (907) 450-5312

May 31, 2001

Mr. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg,

I have recently taken the State of Alaska's Mechanical Administrators test and now have my license assigned to Houston/Nana. It has been brought to my attention that the Alaska State Fire Marshall is proposing to repeal the 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code and adopt the International Mechanical Code. I strongly oppose this adoption for the following reasons.

1. The UPC and the UMC are dovetailed together to provide the highest level of Safety and Protection to the public. The State of Alaska has already adopted the UPC. By dividing this family of codes, you are severely limiting the level of protection provided by the UMC. (1)
2. Has anyone talked to the people in the industry (plumbers, pipefitters and mechanical administrators) that are licensed by the State of Alaska as to what they think? I personally am opposed. To become licensed in the State, whether it be a certificate of fitness or mechanical administrator's, the tests are reflective of the Uniform Plumbing Code and the Uniform Mechanical Code. As far as I know there is no one in the State certified to the International Mechanical Code. (6)
3. There are several areas that the IMC is very weak in. I am referring to process piping for one. There is no pertinent chapter in the IMC. However Chapter 14 of the UMC covers this subject. Another example would be the LPG installations. The UMC prohibits such installations in pits and basements per Appendix B, Chapter 13, Section 1313.5. The IMC does not contain this restriction. (9)+(11)
4. The IMC relies heavily upon other codes and standards by reference. This will only lead to mistakes and unsafe conditions in the field. (3)

In short, I urge you to review and visit with people in the industry, that this code change would affect. The professionals that deal with the UPC and UMC daily are very satisfied with the coverage and quality of the Uniform Mechanical Code.

Sincerely,

Mike Hale
Mechanical Administrator
Houston/Nana

Cc: Mechanical Contractors Association

American
Mechanical Inc.
P.O. Box 72991 • Fairbanks, Alaska 99707 • (907) 479-5754

Date: June 1, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire protection
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage Alaska 99507-1225

Attention: Ross Fosberg

From: Robert Sandstrom

Reference: Title 13AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code

Subject: Proposed Adoption of The IMC Mechanical Code

Dear, Mr. Fosberg

American Mechanical does not support the replacement of the Uniform to the International Mechanical Code (IMC). The Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) has served the state satisfactorily for many years. No compelling reason has been put forth to justify any such change. Listed below are a few of the concerns we have regarding this proposed code adoption.

1) The IMC is not as comprehensive as the UMC. There are many health and safety concerns that have been addressed in the UMC that are not addressed in the IMC.
2) Alaska statutes require mechanical contractors to have an Administrators License that is based upon the UMC.
3) Journeyman are trained and tested under the rules of the UMC.
4) The IMC is a relatively new code with very little performance record.
5) The IMC contains a disclaimer not accepting any liability resulting from compliance or noncompliance. UMC does not have such a disclaimer.
6) The fire marshal's proposed regulations already incorporate the 2000 Uniform Plumbing Code, and the 2000 Uniform Solar Energy Code. UMC is part of this same family of codes, which are closely coordinated with each other.

(4) (6) (5) (1)

Sincerely,

Robert Sandstrom
Project Administrator
Mechanical Division

4868 Old Airport Road • FAX (907) 479-5771

June 1, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Re: Proposed Regulation change in Title 13AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code

Dear Mr. Fosberg,

I am writing this letter in regards to the proposed regulation change to adopt the International Mechanical Code by the Alaska State Fire Marshal.

I have been licensed in the State of Alaska as a Journeyman Plumber for twenty-one years, and a mechanical administrator since the programs inception. I am also the Apprentice Coordinator and Instructor for the Plumbers and Pipefitters Local Union 262 in Juneau.

I feel the proposed change from the Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) to the International Mechanical Code (IMC) is a poor idea. Mechanical codes in general set the standards that make our buildings safe and healthy to live and work in. The International Mechanical Code falls short in several areas that affect the publics safety. As an example the UMC addresses fuel gas piping, the installation and testing of gas fired equipment, fuel oil piping, and the installation and testing of fuel oil fired equipment, the IMC does not. This is one example, there are many other areas that the IMC fails to comprehensively address.

(4)

Please review and adopt the 2000 edition of the Uniform Mechanical Code and protect the public's safety.

Sincerely,

Bradley S. Austin
Alaska Mechanical Administrator

cc: Governor Knowles

P.O. Box 211431
Auke Bay, AK 99821

KNIK PLUMBING & HEATING

4915 W. 84th Avenue - Anchorage, Alaska 99502

Phone (907) 248-7305 Fax (907) 243-0498

June 6, 2001

Office of the Governor
State Capitol Third Floor
P. O. Box 110001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

RE: Proposed regulation changes in Title 13AAC 50.023 Mechanical Code

Dear Governor Knowles,

I am writing to you to voice my concern over the Alaska State Fire Marshals decision to adopt the International Mechanical Code instead of the Uniform Mechanical Code.

The UMC is very unique book and along with its counterparts, the UMC study guide and UMC Handbook it is an absolute necessity for the apprentices in the field today. (6)

There is extensive learning that takes places between the time an apprentice starts in the trade and carries on until he or she becomes a journeyman.

The UMC Books provide the knowledge these apprentices need. UMC has been around a long time and many apprentices have gone through their apprenticeship taken their test and have become Licensed State of Alaska journeyman greatly in part by reading these books.

The IMC Books do not offer the same good, clear and concise information as the UMC does. (3)

The books UMC are used in the field everyday. They are not only used by apprentices, but journeyman also refer to them daily. They are as important as any tool to that professional.

Replacing the UMC with the IMC would be a backwards move. I have read many code comparisons and the IMC is an inferior code.

I have yet to hear one good reason why we should adopt the IMC.

Sincerely,

Frank Kapelari

Frank Kapelari
Owner,

Mr. Jerry L. Nicholson
225 East Fireweed Lane
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
907 - 277 - 1830

June 6, 2001

Office of the Governor
Tony Knowes, Governor
Third Floor, State Capitol
PO Box 11001
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0001

Subject: I oppose adoption of 2000 International Mechanical Code

Reference: Alaska State Fire Marshal proposal to repeal 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code

Dear Honorable Governor,

I have been in Alaska for 57 years. Over 38 of these years, I have been in involved in the Alaska plumbing and heating trade. I strongly oppose the adoption of the International Mechanical Code (IMC) into Title 13AAC 50.023 Mechanical code.

I am confident that our current 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) serves the life and safety of the people of Alaska. I am familiar with the IMC and I do not have the same respect for it as I do the UMC. The IMC is very vague in interpretation whereas the UMC is more explicit. This is great for new apprentices as well as for us old timers.

I have spent quite a few hundred dollars in continuing education referencing UMC. Why should I spent more in learning IMC, when the bottom line is, I'm going to look into UMC for the same and a better interpretation. The UMC is a better code, recognized all along the west coast.

Sincerely

Gerald (Jerry) Nicholson, M.A.
Alaska Mechanical Administrator #302

cc: (1).. Mechanical Contractors of Alaska - Fairbanks

(2).. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Division of Fire Prevention

Scott Mechanical Construction, Inc.
P.O. BOX 670701 • CHUGIAK, AK 99567 • TELEPHONE (907) 688-4820 FAX (907) 688-9395

May 20, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Dept. of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Mr. Fosberg,

This letter is in reference to the proposed regulation changes in the mechanical code. I have been a mechanical contractor in Alaska for the past 20+ years; I have been a mechanical administrator since it has been a requirement. I'm not in favor of adopting the IMC. Adopting a new code system will cost the public and the contractors money and time to retrain with no obvious benefits to the public or the contractors. We have been using the UPC and UMC for longer than I have been in the trade and it has worked well for us. I see no reason to change to a new code that has no benefits to either contractors or the public.

Sincerely,

James N. Scott

PARAGON MECHANICAL

2955 SWEET DREAM LANE
WASILLA ALASKA 99654

http://paragonmechanical.homestead.com PHONE & FAX 376-7210

May 17, 2001

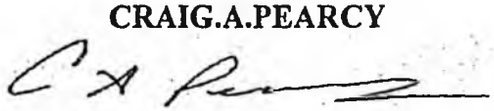
TO: ROSS FOSBERG CODE ADOPTION COORDINATOR
DEPT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF FIRE PREVENTION
5700 EAST TUDOR RD
ANCH, AK,99507-1225

TODAY I RECEIVED NEWS THAT THE FIRE MARSHAL INTENDS TO REPEAL **THE 1997 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE.** AND **ADOPT THE 2000 INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE** .THE UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE AND THE UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE IS CURRENTLY WHAT ALL MECHANICAL CONTRACTORS HERE IN ALASKA ARE USING TO GUIDE US IN THIS TRADE. FROM WHAT I UNDERSTAND THE U.M.C. IS A FAR GREATER RESOURCE THAN WHAT IS BEING PROPOSED. AND IT IS NOT IN CONFLICT WITH THE U.P.C. PLEASE TAKE THE TIME TO ADDRESS MY CONCERNS.

(3)

THANK YOU

CRAIG.A.PEARCY



RICK WARINGUEZ

RICK **SOS Plumbing and Heating** INC

2301 Chandalar · Anchorage · AK · 99504 - Tel: 337-2187

RECEIVED
MAY 2? 2001
Director's Office
Div. of Fire Prevention

y 20 2001

o Ross FOSBERG Code Adoption Coordinator

I am very surprise when I heard

2 may go adpopt the 2000 IMC and 2000 UMC

de.

I don't think by law you can do that

the Uniform MECHANICAL Code has

nfidence based on esperience and safety.

ly politicians wants to make mess,

ve the decision for people who works

field and not white collar.

why not vote by mechanical contractor?

the UMC is safer for people and cheeper

they take money away leave the throne

(5)

PATRICK MECHANICAL INC.
(907) 452-3334 Fax (907) 452-3369
E-Mail: patrick@ptialaska.net
Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 80510
Fairbanks, Alaska 99708
Physical Address:
3307 International Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

June 6, 2001

ONE LETTER
LIST BOTH NAMES
SALUTATION: GENTLEMEN

Subject: Adoption of the 2000 IMC
Attn: Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption C

Dear Sir,

I am a licensed Mechanical Administrator with the State of Alaska and am writing this letter to state my **strong objection to the adoption of the 2000 International Mechanical** Code (IMC) and my support for adoption of the Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC).

One of the first problems that we, as mechanical administrator's, face is that our license renewal is based upon continuing education. To date, the regulations that govern us still mandate education for the UMC. Additionally, there are no registered classes on the IMC that are approved for the required continuing education credits. (6)

It is my belief that the UMC is a better code. The language in the UMC leaves fewer issues open to interpretation and is more descriptive in the requirements of the installation. Also, it incorporates the requirements right into the code. The IMC makes reference to other manuals and codes. (3)

Again, I want voice my strong opposition to the adoption of the IMC. I sincerely hope your division carefully considers all of the implications in adopting the IMC.

Sincerely,

Michael B. Patrick
President
Mechanical Administrator License # 113

cc: Office of the Governor

UNIVERSAL MECHANICAL, INC.

509 Monroe Street
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701

Tel: (907) 452-5269
Fax: (907) 456-5532

email: mikesexton@gci.net

May 21, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Dept. of Public Safety, Div. of Fire Protection
5700 E. Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Dear Mr. Fosberg,

Re: Fire Marshall's Code Adoption

Please reconsider your choice of codes and select the Uniform Mechanical Code instead of the International Mechanical Code.

There is nothing progressive with the IMC and it more of a step backwards. The Code is more cumbersome to use due to the fact that you must refer to other codes and standards. There are other reasons to numerous to state here.

(3)

The UMC has been developed over time. It is self-contained and easy to use. It is used all over the country. It is used by all facets of the industry: Manufacturing, Engineers, Apprenticeship Training, Licensing Authorities, Continuing Education, etc.

Sincerely,

Michael Sexton

Michael Sexton, President
Mechanical Administrator's No 275

cc: Office of the Governor

1103 Aliak
Kenai, Alaska 99611
May 21, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I wish to voice my concern about changing the Uniform Plumbing Code and Uniform Mechanical Code to the International Mechanical Code. Besides costing time and money to make the change to a code that would not be as practical or efficient, it sounds like the United Nations would be getting into the act making changes and managing our Uniform Mechanical Code and Uniform Plumbing Code.

(5)

Melding the two codes together results in less protection for the public. The International Mechanical Code is more cumbersome to the user and more prone to mistakes. The IMC has no standards in it and only mentions them by reference. Please do not adopt the IMC in Alaska.

(3)

Sincerely,

Harvey E. Buzzell

Harvey E. Buzzell
Mechanical Administrator License # 102

Cc: Governor Tony Knowles
Eugene R. Rutland, Executive Director of Mechanical Contractors

Mr. Rooter
"QUICK AS A WINK"
EXPERT PLUMBING & HEATING
ACE PLUMBING & HEATING, INC. d/b/a MR. ROOTER
EIN: 91-1797266
(907) 456-DRIP (3747) P.O. BOX 75095 • FAIRBANKS, AK 99707 FAX. (907) 457-5094

May 22, 2001

Ross Fosberg
Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Re: Mechanical Code

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

This letter is for the purpose of expressing my opposition to the adoption of the International Mechanical Code. I strongly support the adoption of the Uniform Mechanical Code.

As a Licensed Mechanical Administrator, the training and licensing for myself and my employees have all been based on the Uniform Plumbing Code and the Uniform Mechanical Code. The Uniform codes are coordinated for all mechanical systems with a building and assure public safety. Most experienced mechanics are familiar with the Uniform codes and readily able to recognize and comply with their requirements.

(6)

(1)

It is in no one's best interest to impose a new mechanical code the would require additional training of mechanics without providing any increased protection for the public.

Sincerely,

Jon McCoy
Licensed Mechanical Administrator #669
City of Fairbanks Master Plumber

cc: Eugene R. Rutland, Mechanical Contractors of Alaska

JLM/pm

Matthew Whitaker
PO Box 230205
Anchorage, AK. 99523-0205

Ross Fosberg
Code Adoption Coordinator
Dept of Public Safety, Div of Fire Prevention
5700 Tudor Rd.
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg,

I am opposed to changing to the International Building Code. I am especially opposed to changing to the International Mechanical and Plumbing Codes.

We have been working under the Uniform codes in Alaska for years, and there is no valid reason to change to the less restrictive codes. I believe we should keep the high standards that we now have.

Sincerely,

Matthew Whitaker
AK. Mechanical Administrator Lic # 730

Matthew J. Whitaker

Kennon C. Jacoby
Alaska Mechanical Administrator
License No. 576

Kennon C. Jacoby
2440 E. Tudor Road
P.M.B. 430
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

May 27, 2001

Ross Fosberg
Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

SUBJECT: 2000 International Mechanical Code

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I am strongly opposed to the adoption of the 2000 I.M.C..

I strongly support the adoption of the Uniform Mechanical Code. The Uniform Plumbing Code and The Uniform Mechanical Code are coordinated and integrated to provide a family of codes for all mechanical systems within a building and they assure the public of safe mechanical installations. (1)

Thank you for your attention.

Kennon C. Jacoby
907-242-5370

Phone: 907-242-5370 **Fax: 907-563-2276**

May 29, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, AK 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg,

This letter will serve as my **strong opposition** to the proposed regulation changes in Title 13AAC 50 023 Mechanical Code. The International Mechanical code (UMC) **does not** have the support of those in the industry. The Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) **has** the support of those in the industry.

The UMC is a true consensus code as is the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC). The 2000 UPC and UMC are designed to work in harmony with each other. The State of Alaska has adopted the 2000 UPC. Mechanical Administrators are examined and licensed under the Uniform Codes. (1)

At the May 2, 2001 meeting of the City of Fairbanks Plumbers Examining Board, a motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to forward a recommendation to the Code Review Commission supporting adoption of the 2000 UMC in lieu of the 2000 IMC. Master Plumbers in the City of Fairbanks are examined and licensed under the Uniform Codes. (6)

Safety and health is contingent upon code compliance. Compliance requires knowledge of our codes. The mechanical industry is trained on the Uniform codes. IAPMO update seminars on the 2000 UPC and UMC are concurrent and scheduled in Fairbanks, Juneau and Anchorage.

In conclusion, I urge you to unite with those who possess the necessary experience and expertise in the mechanical industry and rescind your proposal to adopt the 2000 IMC. The UPC is a far superior and preferable code than the IMC on technical, practical, economic, public health, and safety matters. Adoption of the 2000 UMC is in the best interest of the residents of the State of Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

John Knabe

John Knabe
Chairman, City of Fairbanks Plumber Examiner's Board
Director of Training, Plumbers & Pipefitters UA Local #375

cc: Office of the Governor
Tony Knowles, Governor

3029 [illegible] Riverview Dr
Fairbanks, AK 99709

Clark Courtney
Box 71332
FBKS, AK 99707
907-488-3883
MA# 99

Dear Sir,

I am opposed to the adoption of the International Mech. Code and support the adoption of the Uniform Mech Code and Uniform Plumbing Code.

Sincerely
Clark Courtney

June 4, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Ak. 99507-1225

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I understand that the Alaska State Fire Marshal proposes to adopt the 2000 International Mechanical Code (IMC) on your recommendation. I urge you to change your recommendation. I feel the IMC is not in the best interest of the public. It refers the user to 128 different codes and has some problems with gas appliances, to name a couple of the problems with the IMC.
The Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) is a tried and proven code. It allows the user to design, install and inspect an entire heating and ventilation system with just one book.

(3)

As a mechanical inspector for the Municipality of Anchorage for 15 years, I urge you to recommend the adoption of the Uniform Mechanical Code.

Respectfully
Dennis (Bob) Smith
9811 Tolsona Cir.
Anchorage, Ak. 99515

Code Letter

List 5 Names + Submit "Comments"

ALKOTA *Plumbing & Heating,*
P.O. Box 222412
Anchorage, AK 99522-2412
(907) 563-5325 • Fax (907) 562-0141

June 1, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Recently there has been an attempt by persons in public employ to adopt the IMC document in place of the state adopted UMC. For the past 22 years that I have worked in the mechanical trade the UMC has been used exclusively as the adopted code. I was trained using it and I have conducted my business for 17 years using it to provide safe mechanical installations. The UMC has provided the public with a one document set of standards that is safe and effective.

I would like to express my concern that there is no logical reason to adopt a code that is untried and unproven in the State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage to appease a small special interest group. This change will result in extreme delays as neither the contractor nor the inspector can expect to implement the new code requirements without a large learning curve. The IMC document is more of a reference book than a working document. We must posses a large number of secondary support documents in order to use the IMC document.

Since we are currently tested and licensed by the UMC and the UPC and they have a proven track record for safety, I ask that we not adopt this new code. The majority of the United States operates using the UMC and the UPC making it relatively easy to go from state of state and be able to be familiar with the basic requirements. Several hundred Mechanical Administrators not to mention several thousand craftsmen will be affected by your decision I for one want to stay with the UMC as written and adopted by the State of Alaska.

12
3
6

Thomas Gervais

Thomas J Gervais

President,
Alkota Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

Contractors License #15762

ALKOTA *Plumbing & Heating, Inc.*
P.O. Box 222412
Anchorage, AK 99522-2412
(907) 563-5325 • Fax (907) 562-0145

June 6, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Recently there has been an attempt by persons in public employ to adopt the IMC document in place of the state adopted UMC. For the past several years that I have worked in the mechanical trade the UMC has been used exclusively as the adopted code. I was trained using it and I have conducted my self for many years using it to provide safe mechanical installations. The UMC has provided the public with a one document set of standards that is safe and effective.

I would like to express my concern that there is no logical reason to adopt a code that is untried and unproven in the State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage to appease a small special interest group. This change will result in extreme delays as neither the contractor nor the inspector can expect to implement the new code requirements without a large learning curve. The IMC document is more of a reference book than a working document. We must posses a large number of secondary support documents in order to use the IMC document.

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Kurt Michel

Service Manager,
Alkota Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

ALKOTA *Plumbing & Heating, Inc.*
P.O. Box 222412
Anchorage, AK 99522-2412
(907) 563-5325 • Fax (907) 562-0145

June 6, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Recently there has been an attempt by persons in public employ to adopt the IMC document in place of the state adopted UMC. For the past 18 years that I have worked in the mechanical trade the UMC has been used exclusively as the adopted code. I was trained using it and conducted my self for many years using it to provide safe mechanical installations. The UMC has provided the public with a one document set of standards that is safe and effective.

I would like to express my concern that there is no logical reason to adopt a code that is untried and unproven in the State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage to appease a small special interest group. This change will result in extreme delays as neither the contractor nor the inspector can expect to implement the new code requirements without a large learning curve. The IMC document is more of a reference book than a working document. We must posses a large number of secondary support documents in order to use the IMC document.

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Curtis Hanson,
Radiant Infloor Specialist,
Alkota Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

ALKOTA *Plumbing & Heating, Inc.*
P.O. Box 222412
Anchorage, AK 99522-2412
(907) 563-5325 • Fax (907) 562-0145

June 6, 2001

Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

I would like to express my concern that there is no logical reason to adopt a code that is untried and unproven in the State of Alaska and Municipality of Anchorage to appease a small special interest group. This change will result in extreme delays as neither the contractor nor the inspector can expect to implement the new code requirements without a large learning curve. The IMC document is more of a reference book than a working document. We must posses a large number of secondary support documents in order to use the IMC document.
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Greg Dawson

Greg Dawson

HVAC Manager,
Alkota Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

ALKOTA *Plumbing & Heating, Inc.*
P.O. Box 222412
Anchorage, AK 99522-2412
(907) 563-5325 • Fax (907) 562-0145

6, 2001

Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
ırtment of Public Safety
ision of Fire Prevention
) East Tudor Road
ıorage, Alaska 99507-1225

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rian Larson

oughin crew leader,
lkota Plumbing and Heating, Inc.

K & L Plumbing & Heating, Inc

P.O. Box 774769 • Eagle River, Alaska 99577

907-696-2441 • Fax: 907-694-2441

7 June 2001

Gary Powell
Alaska State Fire Marshall
5700 E. Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Re: Opposition to adoption of the International Mechanical Code

Dear Mr. Powell:

I would like to take this opportunity to express some concerns that I have with the proposed adoption of the International Mechanical Code for the State of Alaska. I have been a licensed Journeyman since 1968 in Alaska and Washington, and a licensed Mechanical Administrator in Alaska since it was implemented. The Uniform Mechanical Code is a complete document. All the information that is required to install a mechanical system is included in this one document. The International Mechanical Code requires the installer to reference several other documents to achieve the same goal. This will cause confusion as well as additional costs. Most journeymen have been trained with the UMC. The Uniform Mechanical Code and the Uniform Plumbing Code are now created in cooperation with the National Fire Protection Association. (3)

There has not been any Mechanical Administrators on any of the committees regarding this change. The UMC has been safety tested, it has even held up in the courts. Should this change pass we are told by Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator to just continue as if we were under the UMC. Then where is the logical reasoning behind the adoption of the IMC. (8)

There is no reason at all to justify adopting the IMC, when our current UMC is working. I do not believe that the State Fire Marshal has the publics best interest in mind. The Uniform Mechanical Code in my opion is far superior to the International Mechanical Code.

In regards to these issues, I would be happy to talk with you at any time. Please feel free to contact me at 696-2441.

Respectfully,

Leslie A. Burnett

Leslie A. Burnett
President

K & L Plumbing & Heating, Inc

P.O. Box 774769 • Eagle River, Alaska 99577

907-696-2441 • Fax: 907-694-2441

21 May 2001

Office of the Governor
Tony Knowls, Governor
Third Floor, State Capitol
P.O. Box 11001
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Governor Knowles,

It has been brought to my attention, the Alaska State Fire Marshal proposes to adopt regulation changes in Title 13AAC50.023 Mechanical Code. He proposes to repeal the 1997 Uniform Mechanical Code and adopt the 2000 International Mechanical Code.

At this time the Mechanical Contractors statewide are using the 1997 Uniform Mechancial Code. All are prepared for a smooth transition to the 2000 Uniform Mechanical Code. The Uniform Mechanical Code is very precise with what is required for code. There is no question to the meaning of these codes.

However, should the International Mechanical Code be adopted there will be great confusion. The International Mechanical Code relies heavily on incorporating other codes and standards by reference. This makes the International Mechanical Code more cumbersome for the user and therefore more prone to mistakes and misunderstandings. The very sort of problem codes are designed to avoid. (3)

Inform the State Fire Marshal that the mechanical industry has confidence based on experience in the Uniform Mechanical Code and is not interested in spending time and money to become skilled in a new mechanical code that is not going to provide the public with any increased protection. By putting the two codes together the way the State Fire Marshal proposes, results in less protection to the public. (5)

Sincerely,

Leslie A. Burnett

Leslie A. Burnett
President

cc: Senator Randy Phillips
Alan Austerman

DENALI COMMISSION
510 'L' Street, Suite 410
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

(907) 271-1414
Fax (907) 271-1415
Toll Free (888) 480-4321
www.denali.gov

January 31, 2001

Mr. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Telephone: 269-5061

Sent via fax to: 338-4375 (2 pages total)

Re: 2000 International Fire Code (IFC) - Comments on Proposed Amendments

Mr. Fosberg:

I have just learned of the 2000 International Fire Code and the proposed State of Alaska amendments. I have the following comments:

1. The proposed code was not available locally for review until last week. It seems that the public comment period may not be adequate in light of the broad change of an entirely new code as well as a lack of reasonable access to the document. Several of the professionals I have contacted were not even aware of the review period. Consideration should be given to extending the comment period.

2. The IFC makes numerous references and in several instances completely defers to NFPA standards, particularly NFPA 30. It appears that the references are to the 1996 edition of NFPA. Some of the referenced items do not exist or are in different locations in the 2000 edition of NFPA. To ensure that designers and plan reviewers are using the same standard, the specific edition of appropriate NFPA standards should be included in the adoption language. The 1996 editions of NFPA would be most appropriate since these appear to be the ones referenced from the IFC.

3. The Division of Fire Prevention and the Alaska Division of Energy entered into Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) 2195027 on January 28, 1999. This agreement was developed to provide practical solutions for unique fuel storage and handling applications in rural Alaska while satisfying the intent of the Uniform Fire Code. The MOA has served to provide guidance to designers and plan reviewers for rural tank farm projects for the past two years. Essentially all of the issues addressed in this MOA will need to be re-addressed with references to the appropriate sections of the International Fire Code. I recommend that a meeting be scheduled between Division of Fire Prevention staff and the Alaska Energy Authority (formerly Division of Energy) to draft a revised MOA prior to final adoption of the new code. The MOA could possibly be expanded to also address some of the new issues that are listed below.

4. IFC Section 2206.2.3 requires a 25' minimum separation between a protected tank and a dispenser, except at fleet fueling stations. The UFC and NFPA have historically allowed the dispenser to be mounted directly on a protected tank for all installations. This has proven to be a very appropriate system for smaller low-volume retail sales facilities in rural locations. I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to allow installation of tank mounted dispensers when the entire system (pump and dispenser) is a listed assembly. UL Standard 2244 defines factory-assembled systems inclusive of an above ground protected tank in accordance with UL 2085 and all necessary components required for a complete motor vehicle fueling package.

5. IFC Section 2206.7.7.1 requires installation of a leak detection device on piping between a remote pump and a dispenser if any portion of the piping is buried. These devices only work if the entire piping run is fully buried. If any portion of the piping is above grade, the pressure variation caused by thermal expansion will cause these devices to malfunction. It is common on above-ground dispensing tank installations to have a portion of the piping near the tank above grade and the run out to the dispenser buried. Automatic leak detection systems will not work on these installations. I would recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to waive the requirement for leak detection if the underground piping is extra-heavy wall steel with all welded joints, dielectric coating, and cathodic protection. This would provide an equivalent level of protection and a more reliable system. An additional requirement for periodic pressure testing similar to EPA and Coast Guard requirements could also be added.

6. IFC Section 3404.2.7.5.8 requires an approved means of overfill prevention for all storage tanks. It references IFC Section 3404.2.9.6.6 which specifies additional requirements for protected (fire-rated) above-ground tanks. These requirements, which include alarms and an automatic flow shut off device, seem excessive for many bulk storage tank installations, particularly above-grade tanks that are completely within liquid tight secondary containment. A similar issue in UFC 7904.4.5 was addressed in the previously referenced MOA under item 7. The resolution was to require visual monitor (gauge or gauge hatch) and an audible alarm (whistle vent or electric). I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to allow above-ground bulk storage tanks that are installed within a liquid tight secondary containment structure to be provided with visual and audible monitoring/alarm systems as described in the MOA.

I appreciate your consideration of these items.

Sincerely,

Charles Y. Walls
Project Manager - Energy

ALASKA INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT
AND EXPORT AUTHORITY

ALASKA
ENERGY AUTHORITY

813 WEST NORTHERN LIGHTS BLVD. ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99503 907 / 269-3000 FAX 907 / 269-3044

January 31, 2001

Mr. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Telephone: 269-5061

Sent via fax to: 338-4375 (2 pages total)

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Dear Mr. Fosberg:

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1. I was only able to perform a cursory review since the code was not available locally and I was not able to obtain a copy until last week. It seems that the public comment period may not be adequate in light of the broad change of an entirely new code as well as a lack of reasonable access to the document. Several of the professionals I have contacted were not even aware of the review period. Consideration should be given to extending the comment period.
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could possibly be expanded to also address some of the new issues that are listed below.

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I appreciate your attention to these items. If you have any questions please call me at 269-4541.

Sincerely,

David Lockard

David Lockard
Project Engineer

BCG ENGINEERING
Mechanical Engineering - Project Management

January 31, 2001

Mr. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Telephone: 269-5061

Sent via fax to: 338-4375 (2 pages total)

Re: 2000 International Fire Code (IFC) - Comments on Proposed Amendments

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3300 Robin Street
Anchorage, AK 99504
Phone (907)338-3035 Fax 338-3034
E-mail: bgray@ak.net

4. IFC Section 2206.2.3 requires a 25' minimum separation between a protected tank and a dispenser, except at fleet fueling stations. The UFC and NFPA have historically allowed the dispenser to be mounted directly on a protected tank for all installations. This has proven to be a very appropriate system for smaller low-volume retail sales facilities in rural locations. I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to allow installation of tank mounted dispensers when the entire system (pump and dispenser) is a listed assembly. UL Standard 2244 defines factory-assembled systems inclusive of an above ground protected tank in accordance with UL 2085 and all necessary components required for a complete motor vehicle fueling package.
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I appreciate your attention to these items. If you have any questions please call me at 338-3035.

Sincerely,
BCG ENGINEERING

Brian C. Gray, P.E.

URS

January 31, 2001

Mr. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Telephone: 269-5061

Comments
Proposed Code Change – UFC to IFC

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I have only recently become aware of the proposed change from the UFC to the IFC. Other professionals have reportedly been unable to locate the IFC in Anchorage. I have ordered a copy from ICBO; however, I do no expect that it will arrive until next week at the earliest. Since several other engineers I have spoken with regarding this issue only became aware of it recently, I would suggest that the comment period be extended to allow those of us who have not yet had time to review the IFC to do so and provide comment.

The Division of Fire Prevention and the Alaska Division of Energy (now Alaska Energy Authority – Rural Energy Group(REG)) currently have a Memorandum of Agreement in place to allow for practical design and construction of bulk fuel tank farms in rural Alaskan communities. Prior to adopting the new code, the Division of Fire Prevention should coordinate with REG to ensure that the intent of the MOA is preserved.

I thank you for your consideration of my comments. If you have any questions or if you need any additional information, please call at your convenience.

Sincerely,

URS

Deborah S. Allen

Deborah S. Allen, PE
Engineering Services Manager - Alaska

URS Corporation
5600 B Street
Anchorage, AK 99518
Tel: 907.562.3366
Fax: 907.562.1297

Alas[redacted] Energy and Engineering, I[redacted]
Mailing Address - P.O. Box 111405
1217 East Klatt Road, Suite A
Anchorage, AK 99511-1405
(907) 349-0100
349-8001 fax

January 31, 2001

ross_fosberg@dps.state.ak.us
3 pages, 338-4375 fax
269-5061 phone

Mr. Ross Fosberg,
Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety
Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225

Subject: **2000 International Fire Code - Comments to Proposed Amendments**

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I first learned of the proposed changes to the Fire Code in November while attending a 2000 IBC seminar. At the seminar, we were informed that a public notice was expected to be issued about December 1st, and there would be a 2-month comment period. I checked the State Fire Marshal's website several times in early December prior to emailing your office on December 12th. I received an email in reply from Carol Olson that the notice would occur in "Hopefully next two weeks". I again checked the website during the holidays and found the comment period had started and would end January 31, 2001. I checked the availability of the 2000 IFC at all major book stores in Anchorage, as well as at all public libraries, Municipality of Anchorage, and the State Department of Public Safety and was unable to get a copy. In order to get the 2000 IFC code, it was necessary to order it from ICBO and have it sent to me by Federal Express. As such, I did not obtain a copy of the code until about two weeks ago. Due to the potential extensive changes associated with adopting an entirely new code, the difficulty in receiving the code for review, and the short time frame to review the impact of the new code, I suggest the comment period to be extended to allow sufficient time to adequately address potential code issues.

Following are comments to the above referenced 2000 IFC and the proposed State of Alaska amendments that have been identified so far.

1. The IFC makes numerous references to NFPA standards, particularly NFPA 30. I reviewed both the 1996 and 2000 versions of the NFPA 30 and found that it appears the IFC is referencing the 1996 NFPA 30. To ensure that designers and plan reviewers are using the same standard, the specific edition of appropriate NFPA standards should be included in the adoption language. The 1996 editions of NFPA would be most appropriate since these appear to be the ones referenced from the IFC.
2. The Division of Fire Prevention and the Alaska Division of Energy entered into Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) 2195027 on January 28, 1999. This agreement was developed to provide practical solutions for unique fuel storage and handling applications in rural Alaska while satisfying the intent of the Uniform Fire Code. The

MOA has served to provide guidance to designers and plan reviewers for rural tank farm projects for the p[redacted] two years. Essentially all of the i[redacted]es addressed in this MOA should be re-addressed with references to the appropriate sections of the International Fire Code (in some cases, the IFC has completely omitted similar sections of the UFC - such as dispensing stations not being connected to bulk plants). I recommend that a meeting be scheduled between Division of Fire Prevention staff and the Alaska Energy Authority (formerly Division of Energy) to draft a revised MOA prior to final adoption of the new code. The MOA could possibly be expanded to also address some of the new issues that are listed below.

3. IFC Section 2206.2.3 requires a 25' minimum separation between a protected tank and a dispenser, except at fleet fueling stations. The UFC and NFPA have historically allowed the dispenser to be mounted directly on a protected tank for all installations. This has proven to be a very appropriate system for smaller low-volume retail sales facilities in rural locations. I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to allow installation of tank mounted dispensers when the entire system (pump and dispenser) is a listed assembly. UL Standard 2244 defines factory-assembled systems inclusive of an above ground protected tank in accordance with UL 2085 and all necessary components required for a complete motor vehicle fueling package. Additionally, the availability of a UL labeled packaged dispensing/tank system supplied directly from a tank manufacturer provides assurance that a retail dispensing facility provides the highest level of safety to the public. UL 2244 systems are factory-assembled systems inclusive of an above ground protected tank in accordance with UL 2085 and all necessary components required for a complete motor vehicle fueling package. UL 2244 Listed systems also provide detailed installation and maintenance instructions on all components of the system.

4. IFC Section 2206.7.7.1 requires installation of a leak detection device on piping between a remote pump and a dispenser if any portion of the piping is buried. These devices only work if the entire piping run is fully buried. If any portion of the piping is above grade, the pressure variation caused by thermal expansion will cause these devices to malfunction. Typically, the piping on above-ground dispensing tank installations is above grade from the top of the tank (submersible pump) until the piping exits the dike, and is run below grade to the dispenser. Automatic leak detection systems will not work on these installations. I would recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to waive the requirement for leak detection if the underground piping is a minimum of 2" extra-heavy wall steel with all welded joints, dielectric coating, and cathodic protection. This would provide an equivalent level of protection and a more reliable system. An additional requirement for periodic pressure testing similar to EPA and Coast Guard requirements could also be added.

5. IFC Section 3404.2.7.5.8 requires an approved means of overfill prevention for all storage tanks. It references IFC Section 3404.2.9.6.6 which specifies additional requirements for protected (fire-rated) above-ground tanks that comply with secondary containment requirements via a double wall tank. These requirements, which include alarms and an automatic flow shut off device, are not applicable to above grade bulk fuel storage facilities that are completely within a liquid tight secondary containment dike. A similar issue in UFC 7904.4.5 was addressed in the previously referenced MOA under item 7. The resolution was to require visual monitor (gauge or gauge hatch) and an audible alarm (whistle vent or electric). I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to allow above-ground bulk storage tanks that are installed within a liquid tight secondary containment structure to be provided with visual and audible monitoring/alarm systems as described in the MOA.

6. IFC Section 3404.2.10 addresses Drainage and Diking. 3404.2.10.2 specifically references "Diked areas containing two or more tanks shall be subdivided in accordance with NFPA 30". There is no reference in Section 3404.2.10 to diking standards or requirements of dike construction, or any reference whatsoever to a dike containing a single tank. Section 3406.4.9, Drainage Control for Loading and Unloading Areas of Bulk Plants or Terminals, refers back to Section 3404.2.10. Section 3406.5.1.5 Spill Control and Secondary Containment for Bulk Transfer and Process Transfer Operations refers to Section 3403.4, which in turn refers to Section 2704.2. Table 2704.2.2 specifically excludes flammable and combustible liquids and refers back to Chapter 34. There does not appear to be a clear standard or clear reference to the diking requirements in NFPA 30. I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to clearly address the diking requirements of NFPA Section 2.3.2.3

7. IFC Section 3403.5.1 requires "white letters on red background". The industry standard has been "red letters on white background". A "white background" sign is more visible in low light areas and should be continued to be used. I recommend the this section be modified to specify "red letters on white background".

If you have any questions please call me at (907) 349-0100, or fax your comments to (907) 349-8001.

Sincerely,

Alaska Energy and Engineering, Inc.

Steven J. Stassel, P.E.
President

FAX TRANSMITTAL

LCMF Incorporated
A subsidiary of Ukpeagvik Inupiat Corporation

Date	January 31, 2001	**Pages**	3
From	Wiley Wilhelm	**LCMF WO**	
	LCMF Incorporated	**LCMF Fax**	(907) 273-1831
	139 East 51st Avenue	**LCMF Tel**	(907) 273-1830
	Anchorage, Alaska 99503-7205		
To	Mr. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator	**Fax**	338-4375
	Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention	**Tel**	
	5700 East Tudor Road		
	Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225		
Re	2000 International Fire Code (IFC)		

Comments

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January 31, 2001

Mr. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Telephone: 269-5061

Re: 2000 International Fire Code (IFC) - Comments on Proposed Amendments

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

In association with other professional engineers familiar with fuel storage and distribution projects in Alaska, I have reviewed the 2000 International Fire Code and the proposed State of Alaska amendments and would like to reiterate the following common comments which I agree with and support:

1. The public notification of the public comment period was not well advertised. Given that comments are requested from both the general public and the design professionals which use the codes, I feel that formal notification of the review period should be sent to registered engineers and architects since they will have the most input.

2. The IFC makes numerous references and in several instances completely defers to NFPA standards, particularly NFPA 30. It appears that the references are to the 1996 edition of NFPA. Some of the referenced items do not exist or are in different locations in the 2000 edition of NFPA. To ensure that designers and plan reviewers are using the same standard, the specific edition of appropriate NFPA standards should be included in the adoption language. The 1996 editions of NFPA would be most appropriate since these appear to be the ones referenced from the IFC.

3. The Division of Fire Prevention and the Alaska Division of Energy entered into Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) 2195027 on January 28, 1999. This agreement was developed to provide practical solutions for unique fuel storage and handling applications in rural Alaska while satisfying the intent of the Uniform Fire Code. The MOA has served to provide guidance to designers and plan reviewers for rural tank farm projects for the past two years. Essentially all of the issues addressed in this MOA will need to be re-addressed with references to the appropriate sections of the International Fire Code. I recommend that a meeting be scheduled between Division of Fire Prevention staff and the Alaska Energy Authority (formerly Division of Energy) to draft a revised MOA prior to final adoption of the new code. The MOA could possibly be expanded to also address some of the new issues that are listed below.

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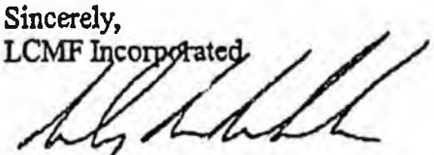
4. IFC Section 2206.2.3 requires a 25' minimum separation between a protected tank and a dispenser, except at fleet fueling stations. The UFC and NFPA have historically allowed the dispenser to be mounted directly on a protected tank for all installations. This has proven to be a very appropriate system for smaller low-volume retail sales facilities in rural locations. I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to allow installation of tank mounted dispensers when the entire system (pump and dispenser) is a listed assembly. UL Standard 2244 defines factory-assembled systems inclusive of an above ground protected tank in accordance with UL 2085 and all necessary components required for a complete motor vehicle fueling package.

5. IFC Section 2206.7.7.1 requires installation of a leak detection device on piping between a remote pump and a dispenser if any portion of the piping is buried. Due to problems in using these systems in partially buried installations, where thermal pressure changes render them inoperative, I recommend that these system be required for only buried tank/piping systems.

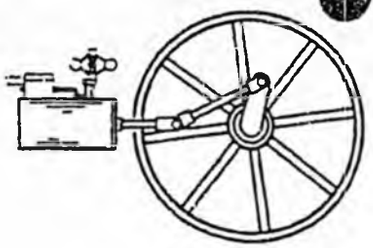
6. IFC Section 3404.2.7.5.8 requires an approved means of overfill prevention for all storage tanks. It references IFC Section 3404.2.9.6.6 which specifies additional requirements for protected (fire-rated) above-ground tanks. These requirements, which include alarms and an automatic flow shut off device, seem excessive for many bulk storage tank installations, particularly above-grade tanks that are completely within liquid tight secondary containment. A similar issue in UFC 7904.4.5 was addressed in the previously referenced MOA under item 7. The resolution was to require visual monitor (gauge or gauge batch) and an audible alarm (whistle vent or electric). I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to allow above-ground bulk storage tanks that are installed within a liquid tight secondary containment structure to be provided with visual and audible monitoring/alarm systems as described in the MOA.

I appreciate your attention to these items. If you have any questions please call me at (907) 273-1851, or e-mail me at wwilhelm@lcmf.ukpik.com.

Sincerely,
LCMF Incorporated



Wiley W. Wilhelm, P.E.
Engineering Manager



POWER & CONTROL ENGINEERING

P.O. Box 231929 Anchorage, Alaska 99523-1929

Phone: 907-345-7117 Fax: 907-345-9684

This message consists of 4 pages, including this page.

Date: 1-31-01

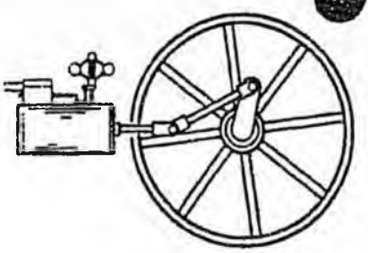
Sent To: ROSS FOSSBERG

Fax No:

Sent by: R. DRYDEN

Hardcopy will be mailed: ____Yes X No

Comments:



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January 31, 2001

Mr. Ross Fosberg, Code Adoption Coordinator
Department of Public Safety, Division of Fire Prevention
5700 East Tudor Road
Anchorage, Alaska 99507-1225
Telephone: 269-5061

Sent via fax to: 338-4375 (3 pages total)

Re: 2000 International Fire Code (IFC) - Comments on Proposed Amendments

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I learned about this change to an entirely new fire code today at 11:00 AM, the last day allowed for public comment. I learned this from two other design professionals actively involved in tank farm design, who only heard about this proposed change a few days ago. As I understand it, copies of the proposed code are not even readily available to review.

The period for public comment should be extended, a source of copies should be established, and every design professional in the state should be notified in some reasonable way. We normally receive notices of change to such items as the Life and Safety Publication and so I am surprised that this same procedure was not followed related to this very important matter.

From verbal discussions with other professionals this afternoon I would like to comment, with the caveat that I have not personnally read the proposed code for the reasons outlined above. Several people have offered comments, copied below. My added comments are in italics.

1. The IFC makes numerous references and in several instances completely defers to NFPA standards, particularly NFPA 30. It appears that the references are to the 1996 edition of NFPA. Some of the referenced items do not exist or are in different locations in the 2000 edition of NFPA. To ensure that designers and plan reviewers are using the same standard, the specific edition of appropriate NFPA standards should be included in the adoption language. The 1996 editions of NFPA would be most appropriate since these appear to be the ones referenced from the IFC. In general this is very bad practice to have one code refer to another, locking in inconsistent ideas. *It would seem that administratively updating acceptance of newer codes should be coupled with updating acceptance of newer NFPA codes to match. NFPA 30 is an excellent code, full of experience, consistent, and practical to design by. I would rather see NFPA 30 as the accepted code with IFC totally deferring to NFPA 30 where applicable.*

2. The Division of Fire Prevention and the Alaska Division of Energy entered into Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) 2195027 on January 28, 1999. This agreement was developed to provide practical solutions for unique fuel storage and handling applications in rural Alaska while satisfying the intent of the Uniform Fire Code. The MOA has served to provide guidance to designers and plan reviewers for rural tank farm projects for the past two years. Essentially all of the issues addressed in this MOA will need to be re-addressed with references to the appropriate sections of the International Fire Code. I recommend that a meeting be scheduled between Division of Fire Prevention staff and the Alaska Energy Authority (formerly Division of Energy) to draft a revised MOA prior to final adoption of the new code. The MOA could possibly be expanded to also address some of the new issues that are listed below. *This memorandum was a landmark in reasonable cooperation between these agencies and the engineers who must apply these codes. It would be a major step backwards to not incorporate these ideas.*

3. .IFC Section 2206.2.3 requires a 25' minimum separation between a protected tank and a dispenser, except at fleet fueling stations. The UFC and NFPA have historically allowed the dispenser to be mounted directly on a protected tank for all installations. This has proven to be a very appropriate system for smaller low-volume retail sales facilities in rural locations. I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to allow installation of tank mounted dispensers when the entire system (pump and dispenser) is a listed assembly. UL Standard 2244 defines factory-assembled systems inclusive of an above ground protected tank in accordance with UL 2085 and all necessary components required for a complete motor vehicle fueling package.

4. IFC Section 2206.7.7.1 requires installation of a leak detection device on piping between a remote pump and a dispenser if any portion of the piping is buried. These devices only work if the entire piping run is fully buried. If any portion of the piping is above grade, the pressure variation caused by thermal expansion will cause these devices to malfunction. It is common on above-ground dispensing tank installations to have a portion of the piping near the tank above grade and the run out to the dispenser buried. Automatic leak detection systems will not work on these installations. I would recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to waive the requirement for leak detection if the underground piping is extra-heavy wall steel with all welded joints, dielectric coating, and cathodic protection. This would provide an equivalent level of protection and a more reliable system. An additional requirement for periodic pressure testing similar to EPA and Coast Guard requirements could also be added.

Subject: International Fire Code Adoption
Date: Wed, 31 Jan 2001 17:00:17 -0900
From: "Kevin L. Hansen, P.E." <Kevin@edc-alaska.com>
To: "'ross_fosberg@dps.state.ak.us'" <ross_fosberg@dps.state.ak.us>

Mr. Fosberg,
As a consultant assisting the Division of Energy with rural fuel system upgrades, I would like to add my support to requests for modifications of the IFC to allow less than 25 foot separation between dispensers and protected aboveground tanks. Appendix II-F of the 97 UFC allows dispensers to be mounted directly on or adjacent to tanks. With the restricted space available in some locations, specifically rural communities, this would be an onerous requirement. Getting a code compliant fuel system in rural areas is difficult enough under the current code. I feel that the Fire Marshal's office needs to develop a policy similar to the Memorandum of Agreement between the Division of Fire Prevention and the Alaska Division of Energy developed in 1999.
The following is an excerpt from comments sent to you by Brian Gray concerning the adoption of the IFC.
"IFC Section 2206.2.3 requires a 25' minimum separation between a protected tank and a dispenser, except at fleet fueling stations. The UFC and NFPA have historically allowed the dispenser to be mounted directly on a protected tank for all installations. This has proven to be a very appropriate system for smaller low-volume retail sales facilities in rural locations. I recommend that this section of the IFC be modified to allow installation of tank mounted dispensers when the entire system (pump and dispenser) is a listed assembly. UL Standard 2244 defines factory-assembled systems inclusive of an above ground protected tank in accordance with UL 2085 and all necessary components required for a complete motor vehicle fueling package."
Mr Gray also expressed concern that many professionals were not aware of the impending adoption (this included myself and many of my colleagues). While I understand that there has been a public comment period, it's existence has apparently slipped by a large number of people in the design and professional community, including myself. I feel that there should have been a much more aggressive campaign of notification of the proposed adoption of the International Codes to make sure that affected parties have an opportunity to comment. It may be in the State's best interest to readvertise this action and at least make sure that ALL of the design community is aware of the change in codes.

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ALASKA VILLAGE ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

January 31, 2001

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Telephone: 269-5061

Sent via fax to: 338-4375 (2 pages total)

Re: 2000 International Fire Code (IFC) - Comments on Proposed Amendments

Dear Mr. Fosberg:

I have not yet personally reviewed the 2000 International Fire Code and the proposed State of Alaska amendments but have been urged by trusted professionals to offer the following comments:

1. I was not able to perform a review since the code was reportedly not available locally and I was not yet able to obtain a copy. It seems that the public comment period may not be adequate in light of the broad change of an entirely new code as well as a lack of reasonable access to the document. Several of the professionals I have contacted were not even aware of the review period. Consideration should be given to extending the comment period.
2. The IFC makes numerous references and in several instances completely defers to NFPA standards, particularly NFPA 30. It appears that the references are to the 1996 edition of NFPA. Some of the referenced items do not exist or are in different locations in the 2000 edition of NFPA. To ensure that designers and plan reviewers are using the same standard, the specific edition of appropriate NFPA standards should be included in the adoption language. The 1996 editions of NFPA would be most appropriate since these appear to be the ones referenced from the IFC.
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I appreciate your attention to these items. If you have any questions please call me at 565-5337.

Sincerely Yours,

Mark E. Teitzel