



INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL FOR RESEARCH AND INNOVATION IN BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION

# INFORMATION

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## Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

### Meeting Report TG37 Melbourne, March 2002

by



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TG37 recently held its 5th meeting on March 23, 2002 in Melbourne, Australia. The focus of this task group is on Performance Regulatory Systems specifically focused to support the use and implementation of performance building regulations. This particular meeting was held following the 4th International Conference on Performance-Based Codes and Fire Safety Design Methods held March 20-22 in Melbourne, Australia.

#### Participation in Conference

Several papers were presented at the Conference regarding the work of TG37. These papers were as follows:

- Performance System Model – A Framework for Describing the Totality of Building Performance - Brian Meacham, Beth Tubbs, Denis Bergeron and Françoise Szigeti
- The Role of Standards in a Performance-based Building Regulatory System - Dick Bukowski
- Qualitative versus Quantitative Aspects of Performance-Based Regulations - Doug Beller

- Role of Acceptable Solutions in Evaluating Innovative Designs - Denis Bergeron

These papers were well received and provided for relative discussions as to the advancement of performance based building regulatory systems. Specifically the paper titled "*Performance System Model – A Framework for Describing the Totality of Building Performance*" is a presentation of the work of the task group regarding the performance system model concept which is the focus of the Task Groups Workplan.

#### CIB TG37 and IRCC

CIB TG 37 has an ongoing relationship with the Inter-Jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee (IRCC). IRCC was the motivating factor towards the creation of CIB TG37 and the two groups have been tracking each others progress along the way. IRCC has a policy-oriented focus whereas TG37 takes a more detailed approach to specific subjects such as the further development of the concept of a performance system model. This concept truly originated with IRCC which saw the need to clearly communicate that policy



level decisions must first be made before technical decisions can and that a strong link between the technical tools for design and construction must be maintained with the upper level policy statements. IRCC is currently working on the organization of a workshop in October or November of 2003, which will address the higher-level policy issues associated with performance based regulatory systems. TG37 hopes to contribute to the workshop however possible. CIBTG7 and IRCC will have a joint meeting on October 24th in Madrid, Spain.

### **Workplan Update**

The key tasks involved in the current workplan for TG37 involve further advancing the performance system model, drafting and receiving feedback on a case study, and producing and presenting a final report on these findings at the 2004 CIB World Congress.

#### *Performance System Model*

The primary focus of the current workplan of this Task Group has been the further development of the concept of a Performance System Model. This model was created as a method of communication between various stakeholders such as policy makers, code officials, designers and society. Also, it is felt that in order for the concept of "Performance Buildings" to advance beyond our current dependence upon traditional design methods a model which clearly describes all the important elements and their relationships to each other must be provided. Such elements include design standards and test methods. A diagram of the Performance System Model is seen in Figure 1.

This model also can extend far beyond the minimum regulatory issues and address individual client expectations. It has been discovered that regulations tend to evolve over time to include new objectives such as accessibility for those with disabilities and sustainability. If the PSM is structured to address regulatory and non-regulatory issues then this evolution of regulations will be a smoother process. This issue will be discussed at some length within the final report of the Task Group.

#### *Case Study*

A case study is being assembled by this Task Group as a method to better understand how the regulatory systems work in a variety of countries. Essentially, a simple design issue, likely a wall separating occupancies such as a movie theatre from a residential complex, will be analyzed. This will demonstrate the variety of approaches available and indicate which issues are important such as sound transmission and fire resistance. It is hoped that the basic case study will be approved at the next meeting of TG37 and sent back to the various members of the TG for completion. The results of the case study will be included in the final report of the Task Group.

#### *Final Report Development*

The development of the Performance System Model and the results of the Case study, along with the various papers presented by this task group are hoped to lead to the creation of a final report that is a helpful tool to those interested in performance regulatory systems. An outline for the contents of the final report will be finalized at the next meeting of TG37 in Madrid, Spain (October 24-25, 2002).

### **Conclusions.**

TG37 continues to follow their established workplan. The task group has recently presented a series of papers relative to the concept of performance building regulatory system at the 4th International Conference on Performance- Based Codes and Fire Safety Design Methods in Melbourne, Australia. The papers were well received and were relevant to the issues of concern to the fire engineering community.

Additionally, the Performance System Model continues to be advanced through presentations and discussions at the TG37 Meetings. A Case Study designed to help understand differences between regulatory systems in various countries is to be finalized at the next meeting of TG37. Results of the work on the Performance System Model and the Case Study are to be presented as part of the final report of the Task Group at the 2004 CIB World Congress in Toronto, Canada.

### **Future Meetings**

October 24-25, 2002, Madrid, Spain  
May 2003, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (Tentative)  
September -October 2004 - TBA  
May 2004 - CIB World Congress