

INFORMATION

May 2003

Around the Task Groups and Working Commissions

TG37 – Performance Based Building Regulatory Systems

Introducing the New Joint Coordinator: Mr. Denis Bergeron



Expertise/Experience

Assessment of fire hazards in buildings and conformance to codes and standards; survey of commercial and industrial buildings; analysis of required levels of fire safety and elaboration of strategies to correct deficiencies; research on national building and fire code issues relating to fire safety and fire protection; safety precautions for the safe use of dangerous goods and flammable liquids; development of performance-based and objective-based building and fire codes.

Before joining IRC, Mr. Bergeron worked as a loss prevention specialist in the fire insurance industry and as a risk manager with an international manufacturing organization. He has gained deep knowledge of North American fire protection codes and standards, fire alarm and fire protection systems, and risk management practices.

Since joining IRC in 1990, he has developed expertise in building and fire codes development, including conversion to objective-based format. He has also

gained knowledge of performance-based codes developed in other countries and participated in international research activities related to the performance concept in building regulations.

Professional Accreditations

Registered Professional Architect in Québec - Architect, OAQ Québec Member, Society of Fire Protection Engineers, USA

Professional Activities

CIB TG37 on Performance Based Building Regulatory Systems: Member

Subjects

- Fire safety
- Hazardous materials
- Flammable liquids
- Building codes
- Fire codes
- Technical writing

- Building performance
- Risk assessment/management
- Property insurance

Publications

For a list of publications, please search the IRC Publications Database

Coordinator's Statement

Since its creation in 1999 CIB TG37 has been very active in working with and pursuing various issues related to performance based building regulatory systems. The main objective of TG37 is to support the priority of Performance-based buildings through increased knowledge and the development of tools in the area of performance-based building regulatory systems. TG37 developed and presented several papers focusing on issues such as standards in a performance environment, understanding the quantitative and qualitative implications of performance regulations, application of acceptable solutions and finally investigation of the concept of multiple levels of performance within building regulations. Most of this work was done in close cooperation with the Inter-Jurisdictional Regulatory Collaboration Committee (IRCC – an independent committee focused upon the development and use of performance-based building regulations and associated regulatory systems).

TG37 work includes the formalization of the concept of a "Performance System Model," a concept originally derived from the work of IRCC, and the development of a case study involving the participation of several countries. The Performance System Model provides a conceptual framework that assists in the understanding of the role of various stakeholders. More specifically, demonstrating the relationship between the policy level statements of the regulations with the more technical solutions. The case study was initiated to provide a perspective on how regulatory systems work from one country to another and how the concept of building performance fits within that structure.

The output of this task group can provide tools and information to those involved in building regulation, design and construction thus promoting an environment that is more willing to explore innovative solutions. Advancements in the area of performance-based regulatory systems will result in advancements in the building design and construction industry.

As member and joint-coordinator of this task group, I am working towards an enhanced understanding of how building regulatory systems work around the world. My objective is to facilitate sharing of information in a manner that all members can benefit from each other's experience and use it to further

develop the regulatory framework in their own country. Through the work of this task group and its close cooperation with IRCC, I believe that the development of regulatory frameworks around the world could be done in a manner that will reduce trade barriers and promote the concept of performance in the development and use of building products and services.