

The Pro-Active Approach

The Division of Building, Construction and Engineering, CSIRO, Australia will be responsible for formulating plans for the draft programme for the building performance inventory. Below Greg Foliente outlines how they will set about this task.

Developing a CIB Draft Programme on Performance Based Building Standards A Pro-Active Approach

The worldwide interest in the development of performance-based building standards is primarily driven by the need to address the difficulties posed by current compliance procedures to:

- cost-optimize building construction,
- introduce product or system innovation, and
- establish fair international trading agreements.

Performance-based building standards, i.e., standards that describe the target performance rather than the solution (as is the case with compliance or deemed-to-comply standards), free the building regulatory system from these limitations. These benefits of performance-based standards are widely recognised.

There is, however, some confusion in the definition of terms and approaches towards the development of such standards. Disparate views often exist among researchers, building practitioners and code officials from different economies, regions, countries and institutions even in the same country.

The CIB Programme Committee has selected the theme of Performance Based Standards as one of the three priorities for programme development via the CIB's new Pro-Active Approach. After a tender process, CIB has selected the team coordinated by Dr Greg Foliente at the CSIRO Building, Construction and Engineering in Australia to develop a draft programme to be presented at the next meeting of the CIB Board and Programme Committee in October 1998 in Brisbane, Australia.

Once the envisaged deliverables under this theme are approved, a three to six year programme to produce these deliverables will be developed. This programme is envisaged to include:

- committed projects by CIB Commission,
- collaborative CIB Member projects, and
- targeted partnerships with other organisations.

The CIB draft programme aims to provide an outline or programme proposal that will incorporate the state-of-the-art and the state-of-the-practice in performance based building standards and identify issues that need to be addressed. To aid in the development of the draft programme, all CIB Task Group Coordinators and members, and key international experts are invited to submit:

- issues and items that should be considered in the CIB programme on performance based standards,
- suggestions of other experts or practitioners, with contact information, that should also be consulted, and
- information on planned or on-going research and development (R&D) projects related to performance based standards and an indication of interest for possible collaboration with other CIB member institutes.

These should be sent on or before 15 September 1998, preferably by fax or e-mail, to:

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A dedicated e-mail network (i.e. "discussion list") of international experts is currently being established. A synthesis of responses to calls for issues and items, literature review and additional information arising from discussions with a wide range of professionals from key parts of the world will be included in the draft programme.

The CIB Pro-Active Approach in the development of a Programme in Performance Based Standards will facilitate an internationally coordinated effort for information exchange and dissemination, and R&D collaboration among researchers and practitioners in this area. And more importantly, the Pro-Active Approach will produce practical recommendations for their possible adoption and application in national and international development for the benefit of the building industry and the general public.

Greg Foliente