

NRC Publications Archive Archives des publications du CNRC

National Model Construction Codes

Saint-Martin, L.

This publication could be one of several versions: author's original, accepted manuscript or the publisher's version. / La version de cette publication peut être l'une des suivantes : la version prépublication de l'auteur, la version acceptée du manuscrit ou la version de l'éditeur.

Publisher's version / Version de l'éditeur:

Ontario Building Officials Association Journal, June 31, pp. 1-2, 1997-06-01

NRC Publications Record / Notice d'Archives des publications de CNRC: https://publications-cnrc.canada.ca/eng/view/object/?id=d0c42b36-7ff1-4010-9cae-c7afbcdeefa9 https://publications-cnrc.canada.ca/fra/voir/objet/?id=d0c42b36-7ff1-4010-9cae-c7afbcdeefa9

Access and use of this website and the material on it are subject to the Terms and Conditions set forth at https://nrc-publications.canada.ca/eng/copyright

READ THESE TERMS AND CONDITIONS CAREFULLY BEFORE USING THIS WEBSITE.

L'accès à ce site Web et l'utilisation de son contenu sont assujettis aux conditions présentées dans le site https://publications-cnrc.canada.ca/fra/droits

LISEZ CES CONDITIONS ATTENTIVEMENT AVANT D'UTILISER CE SITE WEB.

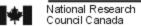
Questions? Contact the NRC Publications Archive team at

PublicationsArchive-ArchivesPublications@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca. If you wish to email the authors directly, please see the first page of the publication for their contact information.

Vous avez des questions? Nous pouvons vous aider. Pour communiquer directement avec un auteur, consultez la première page de la revue dans laquelle son article a été publié afin de trouver ses coordonnées. Si vous n'arrivez pas à les repérer, communiquez avec nous à PublicationsArchive-ArchivesPublications@nrc-cnrc.gc.ca.







NRC · CNRC

National Model Construction Codes

Saint-Martin, L.

VISI-316

A version of this paper is published in / Une version de ce document se trouve dans : OBOA Journal, no. 31, June 1997, pp. 1-2

www.nrc.ca/irc/ircpubs



Reprinted from the OBOA Journal Issue No. 31, June 1997

By Luc Saint-Martin

National Model Construction Codes

Welcome to our first column, which we hope will be an ongoing series designed to tell you about what is happening on the National Codes scene and about related activities such as research and product evaluation in support of codes. The purpose of this introductory article is to tell you who we are, what we are doing and what is on the horizon.

The National Model Construction Codes are the responsibility of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC), an independent committee of senior individuals from all aspects of the construction industry and the regulatory community, across Canada. The CCBFC directs the work of the various technical standing committees that are responsible for subject areas in the codes. Standing committees are also composed of experts from industry and government, with wide geographical distribution across the country.

The Commission is chaired by Bruce Clemmensen, a builder from Weston, Ontario. There are seven other members from Ontario, including Garry Davis, former president of the OBOA. In order for the Commission and its standing committees to operate, the National Research Council of Canada provides them with technical and administrative support through the Canadian Codes Centre of the Institute for Research in Construction (IRC).

The National Model Construction Codes include the National Building Code (NBC), which forms the basis for the Ontario Building Code (OBC) and all other building codes across Canada.

About one year ago, the Commission approved a strategic plan to ensure that its work continues to be relevant to Canadians and that the National Codes meet the needs of code users in Canada. Accordingly, it established, as its first priority, to provide model codes that are clear, logical and flexible. To achieve this goal, the Commission decided to move to an objective-based structure for all model codes. The concept has received widespread support, and provincial regulatory authorities have already indicated they are favourable to it.

Currently, most of the activities of the standing committees and Canadian Codes Centre revolve around the transition to objective-based codes. This proposed new framework for building and fire codes will provide codes that are easier to use and understand, more logically organized, more applicable to renovation, and more supportive of innovation. At the same time, the codes will retain the benefits of today's excellent prescriptive-based documents. The key to these new codes is understanding their intent; initial work is therefore concerned with defining the intent of all code requirements. Once standing committees have agreed on these intents, they will be made available to code users, primarily via the Internet.

Future articles will keep you posted on the development of objective-based codes and other interesting initiatives at the Canadian Codes Centre including:

- Task Group on Codes Development and Review Process in Canada
- Objective-Based Codes Truths and Myths
- The Canadian Construction Materials Centre (IRC's product evaluation group)
- Durability and Building Codes
- Task Group on Possible Additional Benefits of Sprinklers in Buildings
- The Model National Energy Codes
- Task Group on Egress for Persons with Disabilities
- Progress on the CCBFC Strategic Plan
- Code-related Research at IRC

Information on the above is available from

Canadian Codes Centre Institute for Research in Construction National Research Council of Canada Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R6 Telephone: (613) 993-9960

Fax: (613) 952-4040

The activities of the CCBFC and the programs and activities of IRC are also featured in IRC's national quarterly newsletter, "Construction and Innovation," which is issued free of charge. There are also numerous Internet pages. A good place to start is http://www.nrc.ca/irc/

Luc Saint-Martin is a member of the Canadian Codes Centre at NRC's Institute for Research in Construction.