

# CODES & STANDARDS®

Monthly digest of recent events in model codes and standards affecting design professionals, code officials and industry.

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## IMPEACH THE #\$\$%&\* BOARD

AS UNACCUSTOMED AS I am to giving my opinion on how the model codes should operate, this next subject just raises the hair on the back of my neck.

The **International Code Council (ICC)** and the **International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO)** announced that they have reached tentative agreement on certain key elements of a venture to jointly develop one plumbing code and one mechanical code for use by the entire nation.

AFTER MUCH HARD work, they reached a preliminary agreement on the basic code development processes that could enable them to jointly provide one plumbing code and one mechanical code for the country beginning in 2009. Both organizations emphasized that this is a tentative agreement, and that any final agreement will require resolution of a number of important implementation issues. This decision was made by the ICC Board without the permission of the membership. The Board claims they don't need the membership O.K. Who's working for who here?

BUT HERE IS the rub. The ICC membership of code officials are up in arms. Why?... IAPMO wants ICC to use the ANSI "consensus method" of adopting codes, where business, industry and labor unions have a large input. The current ICC system is voted on by code officials only, the persons who have no direct benefit of a code requirement accept to promote health, safety and welfare to their community. It appears that the ICC Board of Directors is willing to bow to the IAPMO procedure of code adoption. But why?



ALL THE POSTED comments I have read from code officials indicate they are against this change in voting on code changes and blame the ICC Board of Directors for selling them down the river. IAPMO claims their plumbing and mechanical codes are equal to or superior to those of the *I-Codes*. I doubt that seriously. What about plastic plumbing piping that the *I-Codes* permit and the IAPMO code all but prohibits. The reason - -Copper and steel pipe are more labor intensive (the union vote). There are more horror stories with the IAPMO code that hinder new materials and alternate compliance performance methods.

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