

**From:** Brian Rinke [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 28, 2016 11:26 AM  
**To:** DSPS PracticeFAQ1; Cleveland, Sandy A - DSPS  
**Cc:** Sarah L. Frecska ([REDACTED])  
**Subject:** Commercial Building Code Council Meeting scheduled for 5-3-2016

The agenda for the Commercial Building Code Council Meeting on May 3, 2016 indicates that there is a time allotment for Public Comments (Item 'H' on the Agenda). Is this time designated for reading and addressing emails or written comments and questions? Or is it open forum for the attending public to address concerns?

If it is based upon written questions or comments, please submit this following statement to be considered for discussion during this portion of the session:

Structural Engineers throughout the State of Wisconsin feel strongly that the Commercial Building Code Council reconsider the topic of including Chapter 17 of the 2015 International Building Code (IBC) when it is formally adopted into the state's Building Code in 2017. When the IBC was originally adopted for use in Wisconsin in 2002, the current Code Council felt that the positive work ethic and reputation of Wisconsin Contractors and tradesmen of the various crafts performing construction of structural components of buildings was strong enough to justify not requiring Structural Inspection and therefore saving the building owner the expense of the testing and inspections. The positive work ethic and reputation of Wisconsin Contractors are not in question, however, in the past 15 years we have seen a rise in construction being performed by contractors from outside of the state in addition to an ever-increasing complexity to our projects.

Above all of that, the latest version of the IBC along with the Reference Standards for structural systems (AISC, ACI, NDS, etc.) have cross references between the standards, their respective chapters in IBC (Chapter 16 for Structural, Chapter 18 for Soils/Foundations, Chapter 19 for Concrete, Chapter 20 for Aluminum, Chapter 21 for Masonry, Chapter 22 for Steel, Chapter 23 for Wood, and Chapter 24 for Glass/Glazing), and Chapter 17 for Structural Tests and Special Inspections. Without the inclusion of Chapter 17 for IBC 2015, there will be various "holes" within requirements of the Code. The Structural Design Chapter will reference the material chapters, the material chapters will reference Chapter 17 (which won't be there), but that is then required to reference the material standards. A discontinuity will now be present that may create some unknown conditions amongst the code users.

Furthermore, Structural Tests and Special Inspections adds a level of safety that is currently not present in the State of Wisconsin. Structural Engineers and Architects understand how to relate the requirements of their design documents to the items present on site going into the building project. However, Structural Engineers and Architects do not possess the equipment nor the knowledge/ability to test materials as they are being constructed. For example, the Structural Engineer has no means to verify concrete or masonry strength, and Architects have no means of being able to determine weld depth and strength. However, Structural Inspectors do have this equipment, knowledge, and ability. Also, project architects or engineers have the means to only visit the site of a construction project about once to twice per month. A lot of progress happens within that timeframe.

Unfortunately, buildings in Wisconsin have history of showing what happens when materials are not constructed in the means that they were designed. One additional safeguard will only help minimize these unfortunate situations.

Please let me know if this statement would need to be presented in person at the scheduled meeting, or if submittal of the written document is preferred.

Thank you,

**Brian J. Rinke, P.E., S.E.**

