

S&B is part of state code development site

Safety and Buildings Division code development projects are now part of a state agency Internet site that helps interested parties follow the steps of code changes: <https://apps4.dhfs.state.wi.us/admrules/public/Home>.

The site, in which all agencies are not yet participating, will eventually cover all state administrative code projects, featuring drafts of documents involved in code changes. A user can enter search words concerning topics of their interest and find code change projects in different agencies related to those words.

S&B will also continue to post on its WebSite documents related to code development projects and code advisory councils, See, respectively, <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-CodeDevelopment.html> and <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-CodeCouncils.html>.

A number of program-related email subscriber groups are used by the division to announce code activities: <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivEmailSignup.html>.

For more information, contact Todd Taylor, S&B Communications, ttaylor@commerce.state.wi.us, 608-267-3606.

WCBC Update

Commercial Building Code on level path to renewal

by J.B. Smith, Commercial Buildings Program Manager, jsmith@commerce.state.wi.us, 608-266-0251

Administrative codes and adopted national standards are the foundation for safe buildings and structures in Wisconsin. The codes establish minimum safety and health expectations for the built environment and, therefore, are the main tool for state and municipal code officials. The Wisconsin Commercial Building Code (WCBC), Comm 61-65, is also used extensively by the design community.

For codes to be effective tools, they must be kept current; codes cannot be static. In that vein, the Safety and Buildings Division has a schedule to regularly review S&B administrative codes and to create code development projects to update them as necessary.

We are now in the middle of a two-year review of Comm 61-65. Staff and advisory councils are watching the national process that will culminate in 2006 editions of four International Code Council codes [International Building Code (IBC), International Energy Conservation Code (IECC), International Mechanical Code (IMC), and International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)]. Year 2000 editions of those codes are the basis of the current 2002 WCBC. Even though there were some WCBC changes since 2002 (changes that included some provisions from the newer editions of the ICC codes), for all intents and purposes, we are now working with model codes developed in 1999.

To efficiently review ICC changes that have occurred since 2000, and those which will be part of projected 2006 ICC editions, S&B is working

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Wisconsin Construction Codes Report



Safety and Buildings Division, August, 2005

www.wisconsin.gov/state/app/wizard



www.wisconsin.gov



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Updating the Commercial Building Code

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with a number of advisory code councils in considering various parts of the WCBC. We have one council to review the IMC and IFGC, one to review the IECC, and four that are reviewing IBC “specialty” areas (General, Structural, Fire Systems, Fire Safety - Means of Egress and Accessibility). In addition, there are other resources and advisory councils involved with related subjects (i.e., electrical code, elevator code, boilers and pressure vessels, etc.). People can keep up with the progress of the various councils online: <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-CodeCouncils.html>, and can sign up to receive email messages about council activities: <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivEmailSignup.html>

New advisory Fire Systems and the Fire Safety Councils held their initial meetings several months ago. The Fire Systems group is reviewing such things as the sprinkler and alarm provisions, while the Fire Safety group focuses on subjects like fire walls and interior finishes. Also, an Alteration and Change of Occupancy Advisory Council is reviewing the International Existing Buildings Code.

If specialty councils decide to make recommendations to S&B regarding proposed code language, S&B takes their input through the two “umbrella” advisory councils, the Commercial Buildings Code Council and the Multifamily Dwellings Code Council.

A joint meeting of the umbrella councils was held in June, when updates were provided on plumbing code activities and on the aforementioned fire groups. I hope the specialty groups will have gotten through their assignments and offered any

recommendations by late August, so that we can work towards future public hearings on proposals. The umbrella councils will meet together again this fall.

Even with all of the valuable work and efforts of the experts on the various councils, rule changes are never put into place until reviewed by the public. When the councils and this agency feel the work is “good to go,” public hearings will take place to give folks in Wisconsin the opportunity to provide their thoughts on any code development proposals. If all stays on track, I’m looking for public hearings on any WCBC proposals at the beginning of the new year, 2006, which is an apt time for code renewal.

Should you have any questions on this article, the project, or the rule-making process, contact me at jsmith@commerce.state.wi.us or 608-266-0251.

**Safety and Buildings
Division commercial
building plan review
scheduling is on the
Internet,
[http://commerce.
wi.gov/SB/SB-
DivPlanReview.html](http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivPlanReview.html)**

**Q&A - Wisconsin Commercial
Building Code** online: [http://
www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/
SB-Commercial
BuildingsCodeQuestions.html](http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CommercialBuildingsCodeQuestions.html)

Rental Weatherization services, such as compliance stamp sales and stipulation waiver authorizations, are no longer available in S&B offices outside of Madison. Info: 608-266-2780.



Water heater T&P valve standards changed

by Lynita Docken, S&B Plumbing Program Manager, Ldocken@commerce.state.wi.us, 608-785-9349

During continuing education presentations, Safety and Buildings Division plumbing staff have always said that the AGA (American Gas Association) rating should be used when sizing a temperature and pressure relief valve for a domestic water heater. **That is no longer true.**



The AGA has dropped the standard for temperature and pressure relief valves and the standard has been picked up by the Canadian Standards Association, CSA.

You should size a T&P relief valve based on the CSA standard rating on the device nameplate.

Q: I'm installing a domestic water heater. I have a relief valve that has both a CSA rating and an ASME rating. Which should I use?

A: Use the CSA rating. The ASME rating does not reflect the valve's temperature relieving capacity. Water under pressure has a much higher boiling point than water in free atmosphere. Water under 50 psig pressure turns to steam at 297 degrees F. If a tank ruptures at that setting

the force released would equal one pound of nitroglycerin.



Q: Are there ratings for T&P relief valves other than the CSA and the ASME rating?

A: Yes. Prior to CSA, the same standard was listed as the AGA standard. There is also a "Manufacturer's Certified Temperature" water rating. This was used prior to 1959 and may still be found in some specifications. This standard is based on a pressure of 30 pounds and a temperature of 220 degrees F.

Q: How does a T&P relief valve work?

A: A T&P relief valve is a device that responds to both temperature and pressure increases. When responding to pressure increases, the valve opens and allows the pressure in the tank to fall. When a relief valve is dribbling, it's usually reacting to an increase in pressure or some fouling of the valve because of foreign material. When a T&P relief valve responds to temperature increases, the thermostat lifts the disc off its seat and discharges the overheated water, allowing cooler water into the tank. When a T&P relief valve responds to temperature, there is usually a large volume of water released.

UPcoming UW POWTS training

The UW-Madison Small Scale Waste Management Project will offer an all-day **POWTS Maintainer-Qualifier** class Wednesday, October 5, 2005, at the Arlington UW Ag Research Station. The class is approved for six credit hours for POWTS maintainer-qualifier, as well as continuing education for some inspector, maintainer, soil tester, plumber and waste hauler (DNR) credentials.

ALSO, an all-day **On-Site Wastewater System Tour** - Onsite systems incorporating components including sand filters, recirculating sand/gravel filters, suspended and fixed-growth-media tank units, drip distribution, mounds, drop boxes, etc. - on Wednesday, October 19, 2005, in Dane and Columbia Counties. Approved for 5.5 hours of continuing education for POWTS inspector, maintainer, and plumber credentials.

Brochures will be available in September. For more information, contact Jim Peterson, UW Environmental Resources Center, 608 262-3799, jopeters@wisc.edu.

UPcoming UW POWTS training

15-session Wisconsin Commercial Building Code course in Milwaukee in September

Beginning September 6, the Safety and Buildings Division will present in Milwaukee a 15-session concentrated introductory course to the Wisconsin Commercial Building Code, which can prepare potential commercial building inspector candidates for



the certification exam. The exam is offered on the last day of the course, for those people who wish to take it. Designers, building owners, facility

managers, as well as fire and building officials, can benefit from the course, which meets one full-day a week for 15 consecutive weeks at the City of Milwaukee Neighborhood Services Building, 4001 South Sixth Street. The registration form is on Safety and Buildings WebSite, <http://commerce.wi.gov/SBdocs/SB-ContinuingEdInspectsMilw05.pdf>.

For more information, contact Henry Kosarzycki, S&B's Agent Monitor, 608-212-0138, hkosarzycki@commerce.state.wi.us.

Watch here or online for more info on
2006 WCBC Inspector Credential Training,
 City of Manitowoc Police Dept., beginning January 10, 2006,
<http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivContinuingEducation.html>

Fax or email technical code questions to:

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- Boilers and Pressure Vessels 608-283-7420 sbboilertech@commerce.state.wi.us
- Building and Plumbing Products 608-283-7407 productech@commerce.state.wi.us
- Commercial Buildings, Comm 61-65 608-283-7402 bldgtech@commerce.state.wi.us
- Electrical 608-283-7418 electrictech@commerce.state.wi.us
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- Public Swimming Pools 608-283-7406 pooltech@commerce.state.wi.us
- Welding 608-283-7420 sbboilertech@commerce.state.wi.us



Plan Review Resources

To schedule a plan review appointment for commercial/multifamily buildings (only):
Online: <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivPlanReview.html>

To schedule a plan review appointment for pools, elevators, or plumbing:
>Fax 24-hour toll-free number for appointment scheduling, 877-840-9172
>Email: planschedule@commerce.state.wi.us

For application **forms**:
>On the S&B WebSite, choose "Get Forms,"
<http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-DivForms.html>

Info about **next available** review appointment: <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-DivDailyDoc.html>.

Info about status of a plan review: <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-DivReviewStatusSearch.html>



S&B Contact List

The Safety and Buildings Division's current alphabetical telephone, fax, mailing address list is online. You can download and print a copy:

<http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivContacts.html>

To receive a monthly email notifying you when the WCCR is placed online, see: <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-DivEmailSignup.html>. For past issues, go to: <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-DivPublications.html>

**WCCR
online**



Commercial Buildings Delegated Municipalities

Some municipalities in Wisconsin have authority to do building or fire protection plan review, inspections, and otherwise carry out code-related functions as delegates of the Department of Commerce. For further information, and a list of current delegated municipalities, see the S&B WebSite: <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CommercialBuildingsDelegatedMunicipalities.html>.

Questions about S&B licenses?

- How does someone get a Master Plumber's License?

- Is there a continuing education requirement for the Automatic Fire Sprinkler Contractor-Maintenance Registration?

**Etcetera,
Etcetera**



Not this kind of license!

Find a big new S&B online service with answers about all S&B credentials, <http://commerce.wi.gov/SB/SB-DivCreds.html>

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Questions about your continuing education credits? Call the Credentialing Unit, 608-261-8500. Or, check the S&B WebSite, <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/SB/SB-CredentialStatusCheck.html>

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