

## Exterior Ramp Ad-Hoc Committee

December 3, 2009

### Participants:

Walter Brandes, Riverside County Fire Department  
Jeff Hartsuyker, Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM)  
Joe Garcia, Tulare County Fire Department (teleconference)  
Steve April, Contra Costa County Fire Department (teleconference)  
Lisa Martinez, Contra Costa County Fire Department (teleconference)  
Scott Miller, Los Angeles City Fire Department (teleconference)  
Deborah Vanek, San Ramon Valley Fire Department (teleconference)  
Steve Bunting, Newport Beach Fire Department (teleconference)  
Richard Friend, Friend's Home Care  
Paulette Moses, Board & Care Assoc (teleconference)

### Absent:

Ernie Paez, Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM)  
Kevin Reinertson, Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM)  
Cindy Moore, Office of the State Fire Marshal (SFM)  
Thomas Stahl, Department of Social Services (DSS)  
Shawn Huff, House Community Development (HCD)  
Doug Pancake, Irwin Pancake Architects  
Mike Goryan, Resources for Continuing Education

### Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 am.

### CBC Ch. 11

The meeting began with discussion on Ch. 11 and its applicability to the R-3.1 exterior ramp proposal. Joe Garcia clarified that Ch. 11 applies to accessibility requirements to a building, not egress and only specific provisions were adopted by CSFM. There was additional discussion and the group collectively agreed that Ch. 11 was not applicable to this proposal.

### Applicable doors for exterior ramps

Richard Friend initiated discussion and suggested only two exit doors should be required. He stated that ramp construction could be problematic in areas where side yards are small and adjacent property lines could limit installation. Joe Garcia suggested that exterior ramping be required for exits that are required per CBC 425.8.3.2. It was further clarified that not every exterior door may be affected, only those required under the four non-ambulatory exiting configurations of CBC 425.8.3.2. After detailed discussion, Joe made a motion for exterior ramps to apply to doors that are required by CBC 425.8.3.2, seconded by Jeff Hartsuyker. Richard Friend and Paulette Moses opposed, all others supported. Motion was approved 8 to 2.

### Ramp slope

The group discussed the applicable percentages of slope as required by Code for changes in elevation and ramps. There was discussion on different percentages based upon concern for the length of run for ramps depending on elevation. Joe Garcia proposed developing a working group to work on this issue exclusively. Joe will take the lead with Paulette Moses, Deborah Vanek, and Richard Friend volunteering to participate. The working group will report back to the ad-hoc committee at the next meeting.

### Means of egress from the ramp

Discussion was detailed on where the means of egress should lead after the end of the ramp. The group discussed the Code requirements for the means of egress to terminate at a public way. Fire service participants also discussed the importance for clients to be allowed to egress away from the structure and not be subjected to heat or smoke of a fire when access to a public way is not feasible. This tied into discussing safe dispersal areas with a suggestion to use the existing concept for schools of 50 feet away from the structure and increasing from the 3 square feet to 7 square feet per person. During this discussion, it was also noted that gates from yards leading to the public way would also require compliance with CBC Ch. 10 as being a component for means of egress. This also led to discussion on the type of surface material(s) for the pathway to the public way and also for the safe dispersal area.

It was suggested to use text in Version #1 for "Continuity and Components" that requires the means of egress be continuous to a public way, yard or court that opens to the public way and also provides an exception that allows the use of a safe exterior area.

### General Code provisions for ramp components

There was a brief discussion on the additional components that apply to ramps. This item was on the agenda primarily to raise awareness that there are additional components that must be provided beyond the basic ramp.

### Door threshold issues

Door threshold issues were discussed in detail. Richard Friend stated that he had concerns with sliding glass door thresholds and has typically seen elevations at one-inch or greater. He felt that this would lead to obtrusive ramps on the interior side of the door and develop additional hazards for clients. It was noted that this was already addressed in 425.8.5 for interior changes in level. After some detailed discussion, it was suggested to also reference CBC 1132A.4.1 for specific provisions for thresholds to lend guidance on this item for acceptable changes in elevation. More work will be required on this item.

### Modifications to existing CBC 425.8.5 for *interior* changes in level

There was a basic question on the proposed changes to the existing text for CBC 425.8.5 for interior changes in level and if this was within the scope of this ad-hoc committee that was formed to address exterior changes in level and ramps. It was quickly decided to continue with the proposed changes.

### Additional agenda items

There were no additional agenda items.

### Next meeting date

The next meeting will be in January with days still to be proposed to the committee.

### Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:55.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Brandes  
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