

A photograph of a modern building's interior, featuring a long, bright hallway with a wooden ceiling and large windows on the right side. The space is clean and minimalist, with a light-colored floor and walls. The text "Exploring Tall Wood: New Code Provisions for Tall Timber Structures" is overlaid in a large, bold, dark font across the lower half of the image.

Exploring Tall Wood: New Code Provisions for Tall Timber Structures

Photo: Kaiser+Path

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Questions related to specific materials, methods, and services will be addressed at the conclusion of this presentation.



Course Description

As interest in and use of mass timber in the U.S. has grown, so too has interest in pushing these timber structures to greater heights. Using international examples of successful tall wood buildings as precedent, some designers have proposed tall wood projects in the states using a project-specific performance-based design approach. In order to provide a uniform set of code provisions for these tall wood buildings, the International Code Council established an ad hoc committee on tall wood buildings that proposed a set of code changes allowing up to 18 stories of mass timber construction. Those code changes were announced as approved in January 2019 and will become part of the 2021 International Building Code. Following a brief discussion of history and motivators, this presentation will introduce the new tall wood code provisions and construction types, as well as the technical research and testing that supported their adoption.

Learning Objectives

1. Review the global history of tall wood construction and highlight the mass timber products used in these structures.
2. Explore the work and conclusions of the ICC Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings in establishing 14 new code provisions for the 2021 IBC that address tall wood construction.
3. Discuss differences between the new tall wood mass timber construction types and existing construction types.
4. Identify the key passive fire-resistance construction requirements and active systems that enable taller wood buildings to be built safely.

Questions we'll answer:

- What is tall wood?
- How tall is tall?
- What has been done?
- What wood products are used in tall wood?
- What does the code allow now?
- How did we arrive at the proposed tall wood code changes?
- What are the new tall wood code provisions?



TALL WOOD IN NORTH AMERICA CIRCA 1906

9 STORIES



BUTLER SQUARE, MINNEAPOLIS



GLOBAL TALL WOOD CIRCA 2015

7-14 STORIES



GLOBAL TALL WOOD CIRCA 2019

18-24 STORIES



TALL WOOD IN THE US CIRCA 2019

8 STORIES



Photos: Baumberger Studio/PATH Architecture/Marcus Kauffman | Architect: PATH Architecture



HEAVY TIMBER

Federal Center South, Seattle, WA
Photo: Benjamin Benschneider



MASS TIMBER

Bullitt Center, Seattle, WA
Photo: John Stamets

GLULAM



CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER (CLT)



NAIL-LAMINATED TIMBER (NLT)



Photo: Think Wood



Photo: StructureCraft



Photo: LendLease



Photo: Ema Peter

DOWEL-LAMINATED TIMBER (DLT)



MASS PLYWOOD PANELS (MPP)



DECKING



OFFICES | MULTI-FAMILY | COMMERCIAL | EDUCATIONAL



A low-angle photograph looking up at a wooden roof structure under construction. The image shows a network of wooden rafters and beams. A skylight is visible in the upper center, and a bright light source, possibly a work lamp, is on the right side, creating a strong glare. The text "WHY TALL WOOD?" is overlaid in the center.

WHY TALL WOOD?

GLOBAL POPULATION BOOM



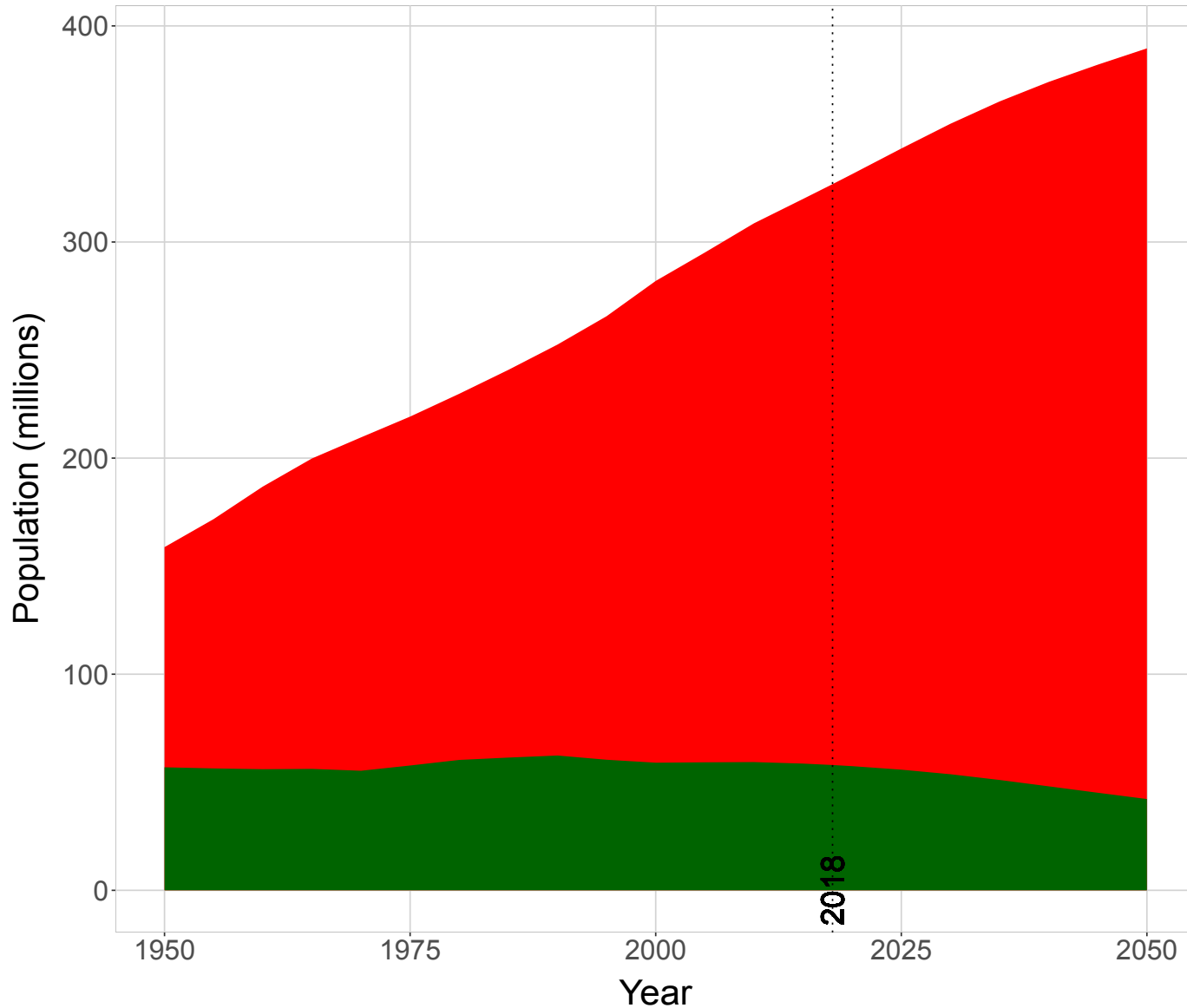
Global Population
7.6 billion now
9.8 billion by 2050
30% increase

Source: United Nations Department
of Economic and Social Affairs

Urban and rural population

United States of America

Urban Rural



US URBAN POPULATION BOOM



URBAN



RURAL

2019

271.4 M

57.7 M

2030

301 M

53.7 M

2050

347.3 M

42.2 M



Construction Traffic & Noise
Material Stockpiles
Labor Costs
Labor Availability
Weather Risks



Resiliency
Sustainability
Fire & Life Safety





ESTIMATED ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WOOD USE



Volume of wood products used:
2,233 cubic meters of CLT and Glulam



U.S. and Canadian forests grow this much wood in:
6 minutes



Carbon stored in the wood:
1,753 metric tons of CO₂



Avoided greenhouse gas emissions:
679 metric tons of CO₂



Total potential carbon benefit:
2,432 metric tons of CO₂

THE ABOVE GHG EMISSIONS ARE EQUIVALENT



511 cars off the road for a year



Energy to operate a home for 222 years

*Estimated by the Wood Carbon Calculator for Buildings, based on research by Sathre, R. and J. O'Connor, 2010, A Synthesis of Research on Wood Products and Greenhouse Gas Impacts, FPInnovations (this relates to carbon stored and avoided GHG).

*CO₂ in this case study refers to CO₂ equivalent

Source: Naturally:Wood9



Reduced Embodied Carbon

Brock Commons, Vancouver, BC

Photo Credit: UBC



August 9th



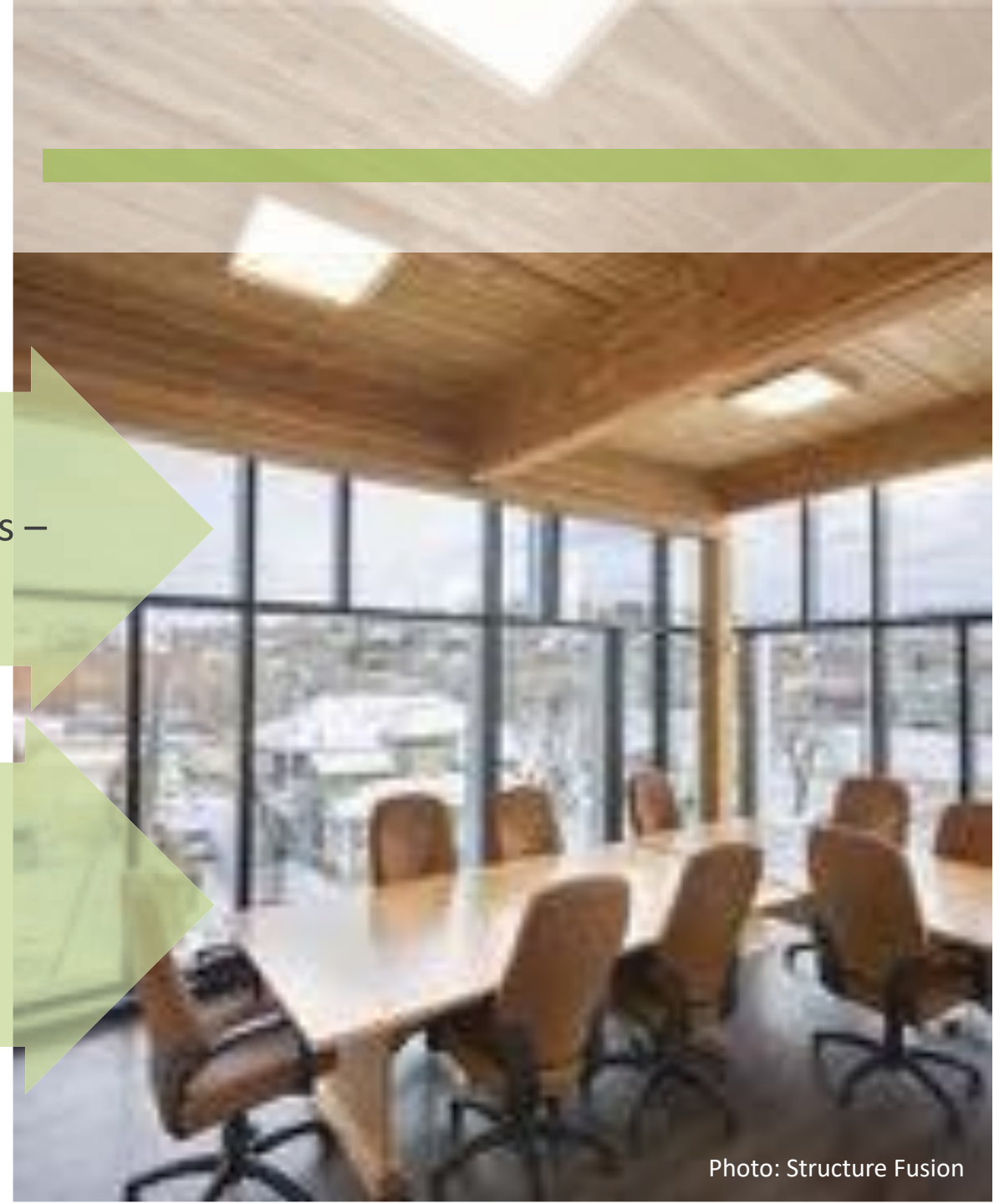
MARKET DRIVERS FOR MASS TIMBER

PRIMARY DRIVERS

- » Construction Efficiency & Speed
- » Construction site constraints – Urban Infill
- » Innovation/Aesthetic

SECONDARY DRIVERS

- » Carbon Reductions
- » Structural Performance – lightweight

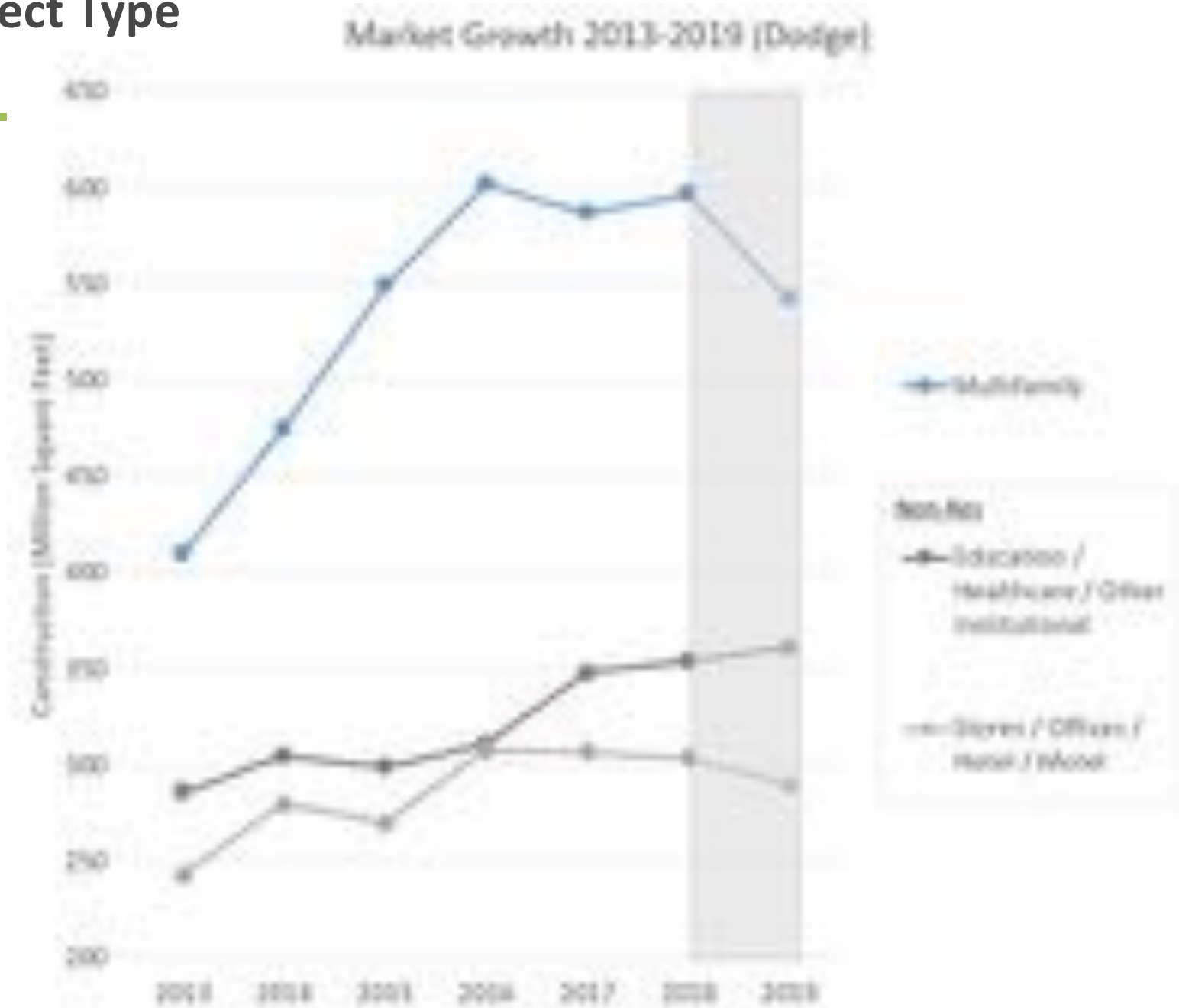


Market Opportunity by Project Type

**Forecast: Mass
Timber “Type”
Projects**

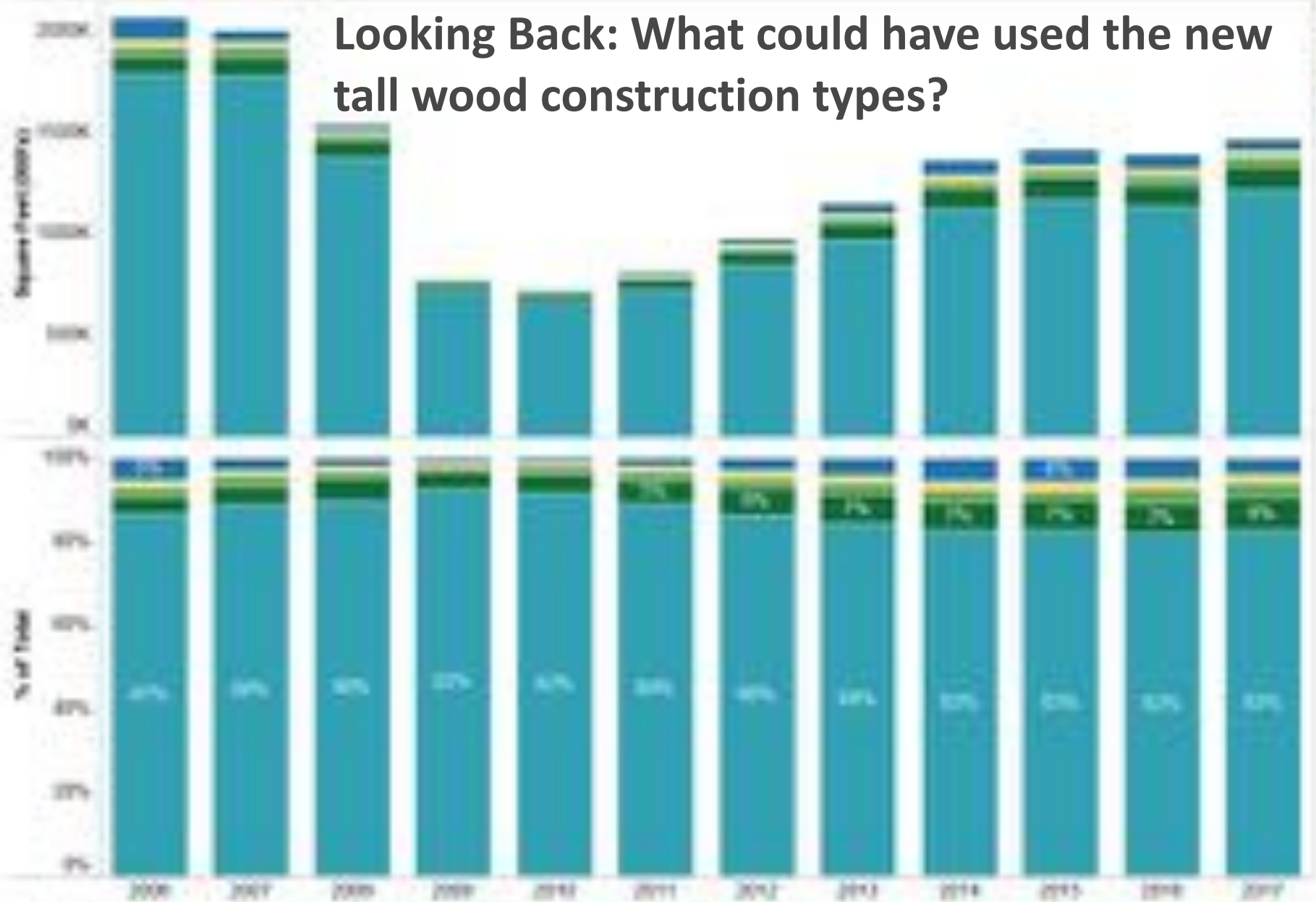
**All stories (not just
tall wood)**

~1 Billion SF per Year



All Multifamily and Non-residential

Looking Back: What could have used the new tall wood construction types?



2021 IBC
Construction
Types

- 19+
- IV-A
- IV-B
- IV-C
- III, IV, V

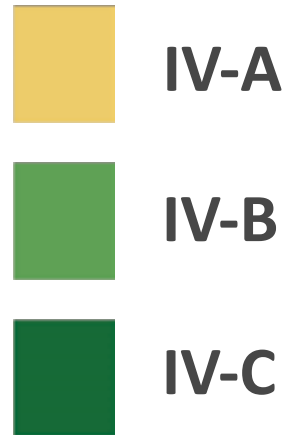
Estimated construction types calculated using building stories and occupancy

Type IV-A,B,C – MF and Non-residential

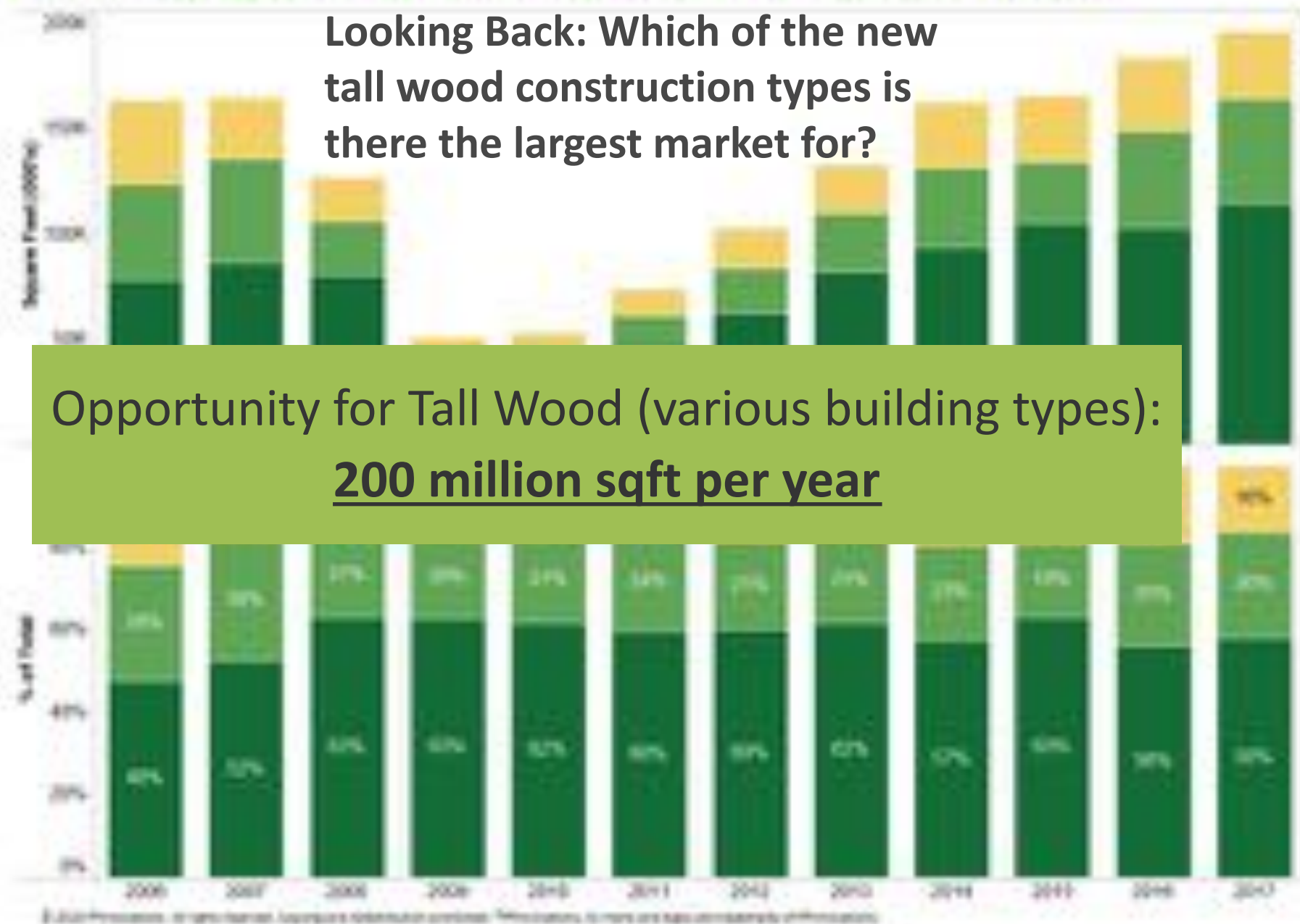
Looking Back: Which of the new tall wood construction types is there the largest market for?

Opportunity for Tall Wood (various building types):
200 million sqft per year

2021 IBC Construction Types



Estimated construction types calculated using building stories and occupancy





TALL WOOD IN THE U.S.

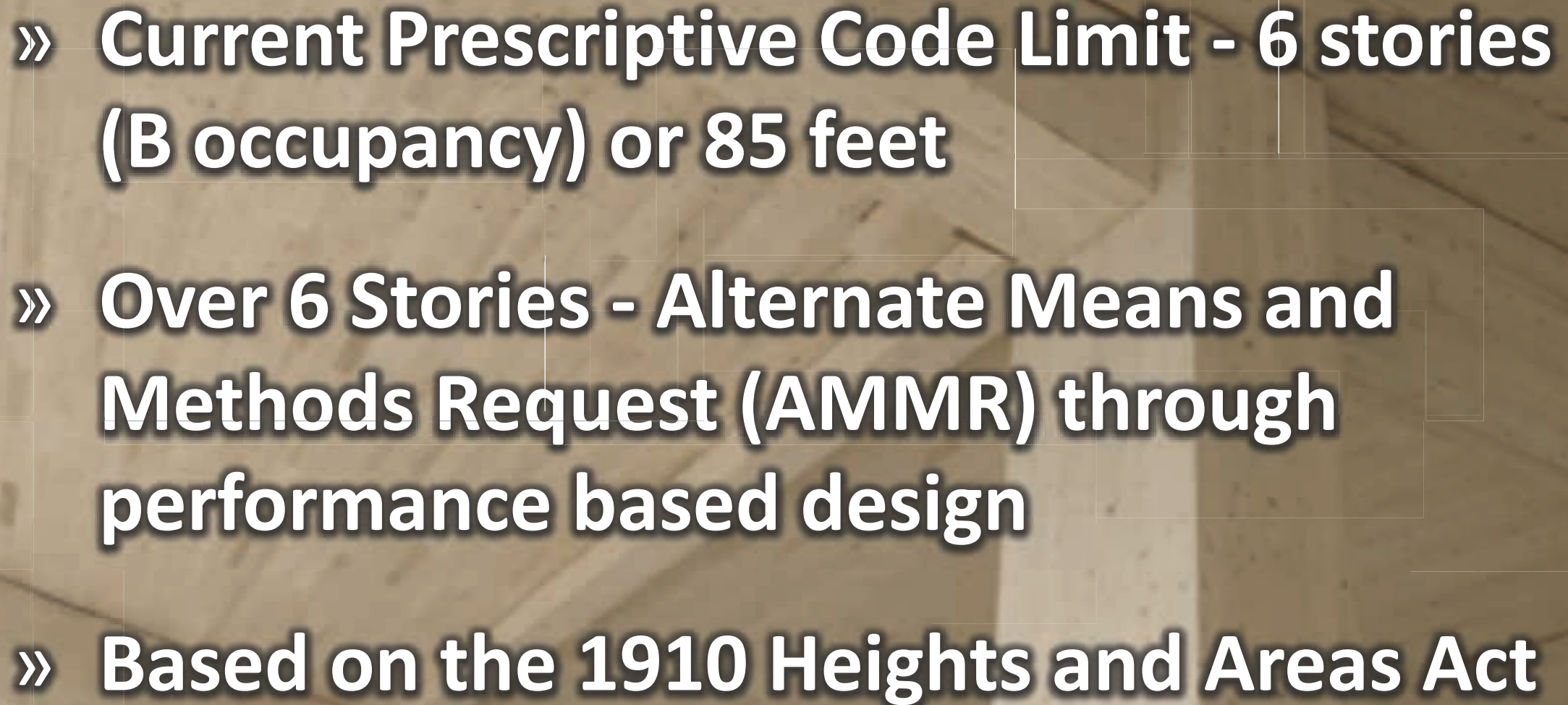
- 
- The background of the slide is a photograph of a wooden structure under construction, showing various wooden beams and joists. The image is slightly blurred and has a warm, brownish tint.
- » **Current Prescriptive Code Limit - 6 stories (B occupancy) or 85 feet**
 - » **Over 6 Stories - Alternate Means and Methods Request (AMMR) through performance based design**
 - » **Based on the 1910 Heights and Areas Act**



Photo: Blaine Brownell



Photo: Christian Columbres



ICE Block I, RMW Architecture & Interiors, Buehler Engineering, Bernard André Photography



Photo: Swinerton

TYPE III CONSTRUCTION, RESIDENTIAL OCCUPANCY: 5 STORIES

**LIGHT-FRAME WOOD
MASS TIMBER**



Photo: Leers Weinzapfel Associates

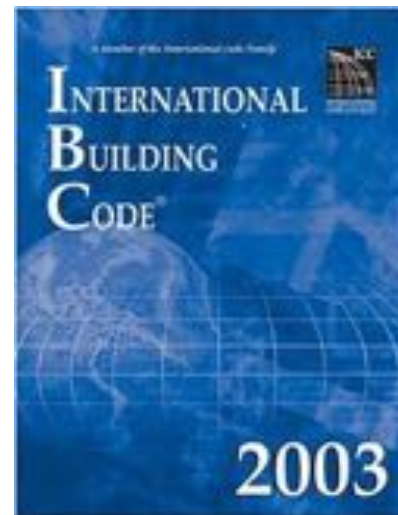
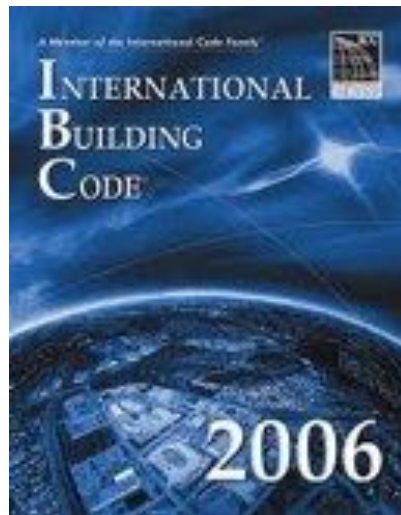




U.S. BUILDING CODE STATUS

Photo: Ema Peter

3 YEAR CODE CYCLE

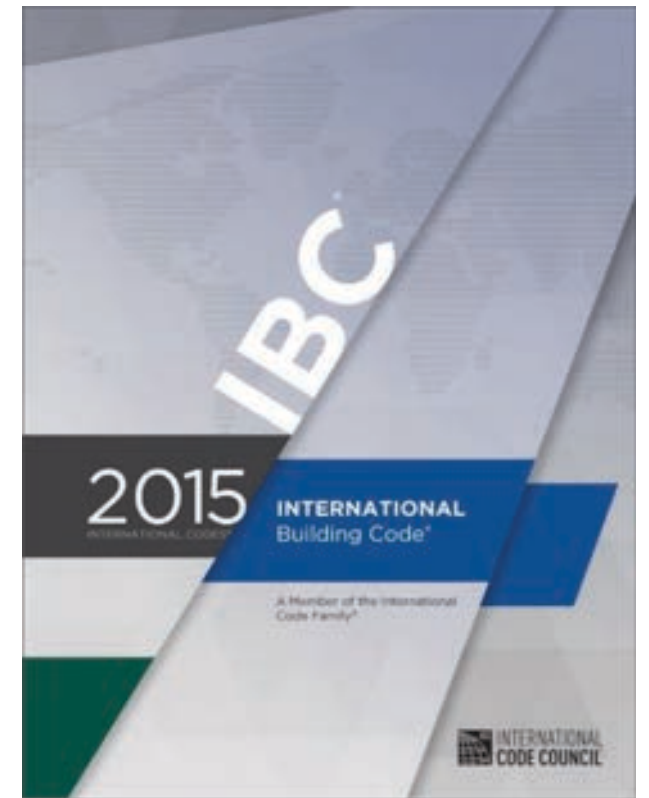


U.S. TALL WOOD DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES

Seen as the catalyst for the mass timber revolution, CLT first recognized in US codes in the 2015 IBC

[BS] CROSS-LAMINATED TIMBER. A prefabricated engineered wood product consisting of not less than three layers of solid-sawn lumber or *structural composite lumber* where the adjacent layers are cross oriented and bonded with structural adhesive to form a solid wood element.

2303.1.4 Structural glued cross-laminated timber. Cross-laminated timbers shall be manufactured and identified in accordance with ANSI/APA PRG 320.



U.S. TALL WOOD DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES

Interest in tall wood projects in the US was rapidly increasing. Some building officials were reluctant to approved proposed plans, primarily due to lack of code direction and precedent



Empire State Building, New York City, New York, 1931



Photo: Seagate Structures

UBC Brock Commons Student Residence, Vancouver, British Columbia, 2016

U.S. TALL WOOD DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES



In December 2015, the ICC Board established the ICC Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings. Objectives:

1. Explore the building science of tall wood buildings
2. Investigate the feasibility, and
3. Take action on developing code changes for tall wood buildings.

U.S. BUILDING CODES

DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES



Timeline:

Submission of code changes for the 2018 Group A Cycle (IBC) in January 2018 – changes for 2021 IBC

U.S. BUILDING CODES DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES

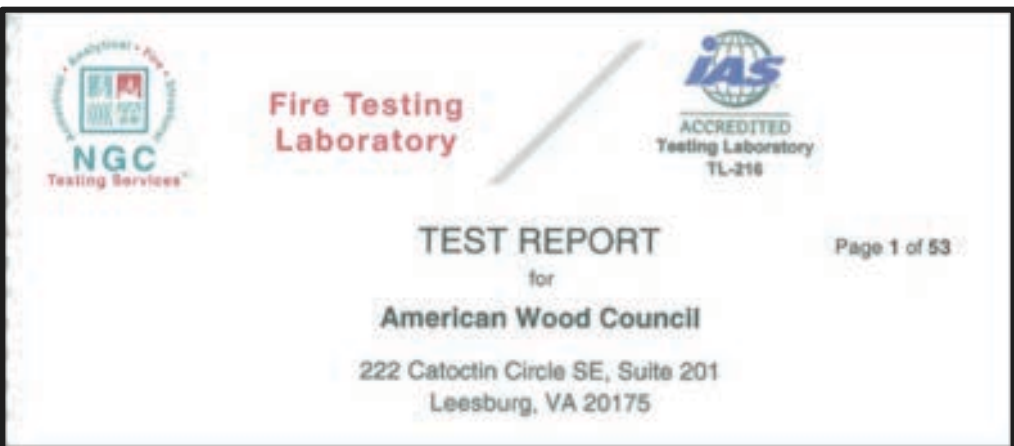
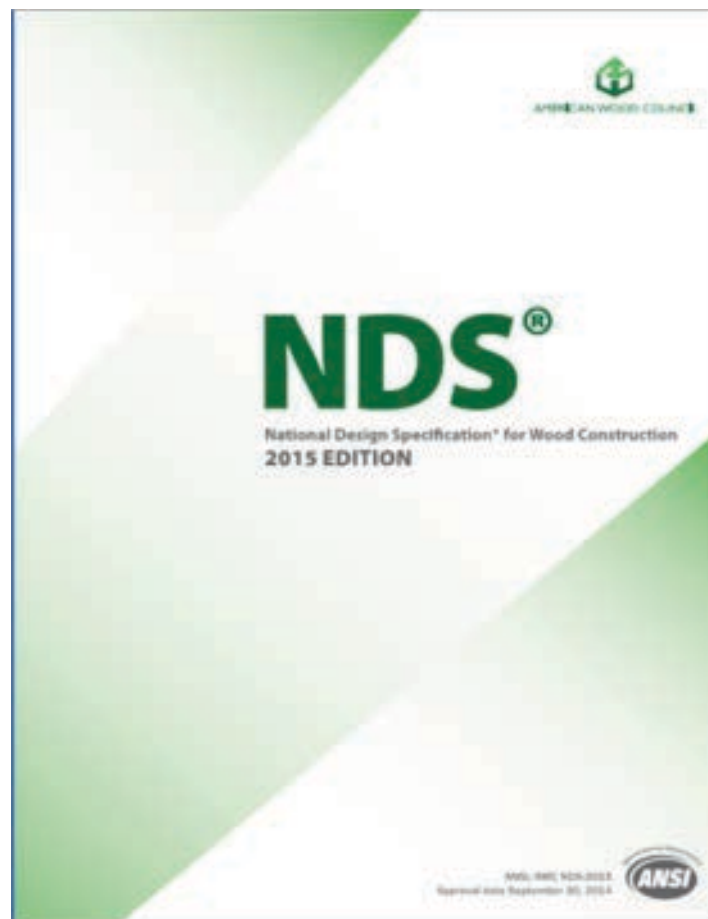


5 Working Groups Created

- July 2016 – November 2017: 5 in-person meetings, numerous conference calls
- 82 issues addressed, one primary topic was fire performance and life safety



Photo: FPInnovations



**Fire resistance of mass timber
for low- to mid-rise structures
well understood, codified**

Taller wood buildings create new set of challenges to address:

AHC established 6 performance objectives:

1. No collapse under reasonable scenarios of complete burn-out of fuel without automatic sprinkler protection being considered.
2. Highly reliable fire suppression systems to reduce the risk of failure during reasonably expected fire scenarios. The degree of reliability should be proportional to evacuation time (height) and the risk of collapse.



AHC established 6 performance objectives:

3. No unusually high radiation exposure from the subject building to adjoining properties to present a risk of ignition under reasonably severe fire scenarios.
4. No unusual response from typical radiation exposure from adjacent properties to present a risk of ignition of the subject building under reasonably severe fire scenarios.



AHC established 6 performance objectives:

- 5. No unusual fire department access issues
- 6. Egress systems designed to protect building occupants during the design escape time, plus a factor of safety.

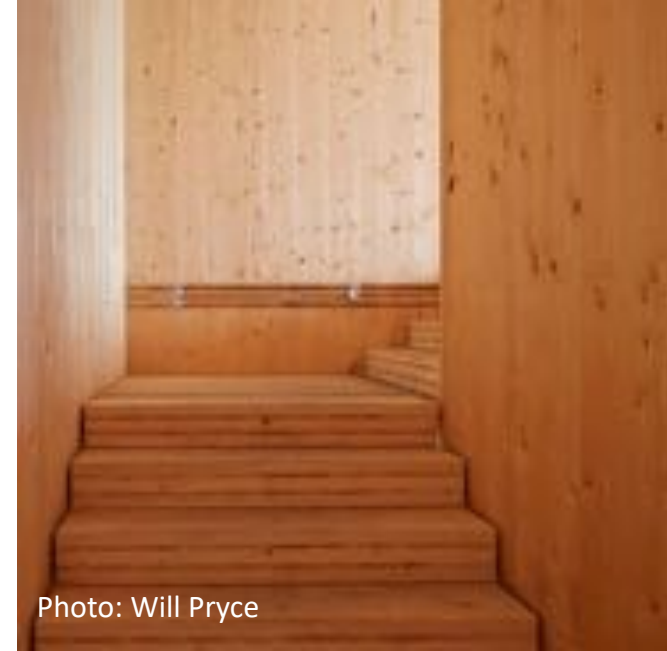


Photo: Will Pryce



U.S. BUILDING CODES

Tall Wood Ad Hoc Committee

Commissioned series of 5 full-scale tests on 2-story mass timber structure at ATF lab in MD, May-June 2017

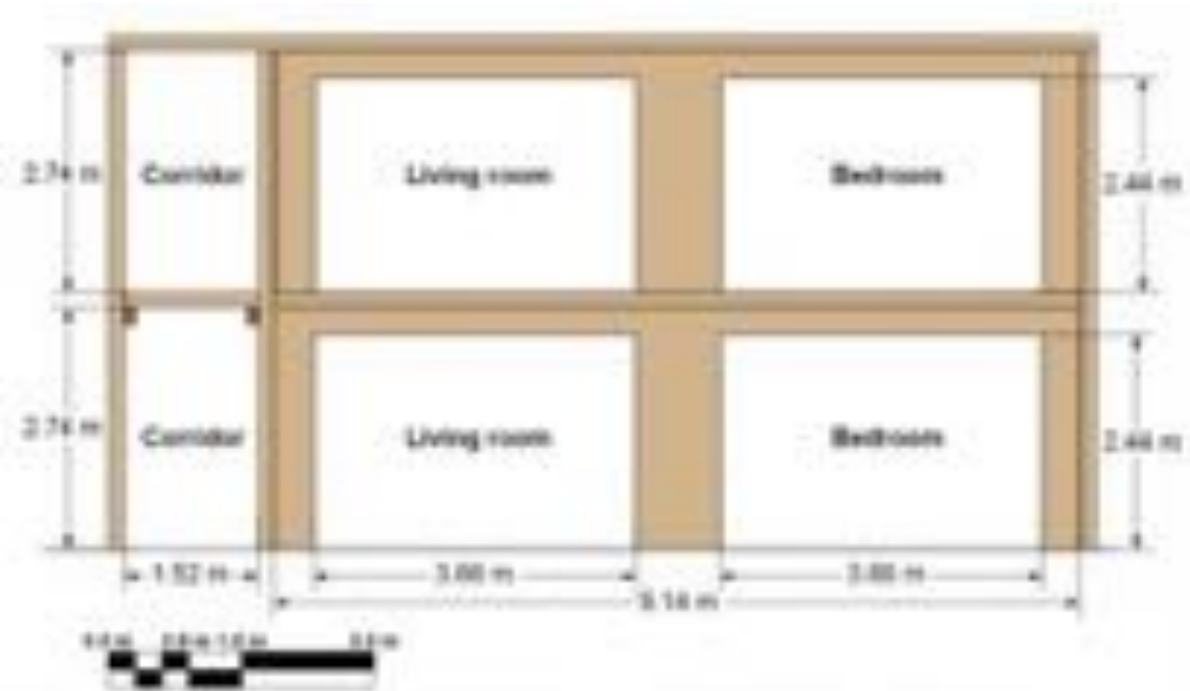


Figure 2. Elevation view of the front of the cross-laminated timber test structure.



Figure 3. General elevation view of cross-laminated timber test structure.

U.S. BUILDING CODES

Tall Wood Ad Hoc Committee

Tests on exposed mass timber, gypsum-covered mass timber; normal sprinkler protection, delayed sprinkler protection

Majority of flames seen are from contents, not structure



U.S. BUILDING CODES

Tall Wood Ad Hoc Committee

Test	Description	Construction Type
Test 1	All mass timber surfaces protected with 2 layers of 5/8" Type X Gypsum. No Sprinklers.	IV-A
Test 2	30% of CLT ceiling area in living room and bedroom exposed. No Sprinklers.	IV-B
Test 3	Two opposing CLT walls exposed – one in bedroom and one in living room. No Sprinklers.	IV-B
Test 4	All mass timber surfaces fully exposed in bedroom and living room. Sprinklered – normal activation	IV-C
Test 5	All mass timber surfaces fully exposed in bedroom and living room. Sprinklered – 20 minute delayed activation	IV-C

TEST 1

Ignition



Living Room /
Kitchen Flashover



Bedroom
Flashover



Decay Phase



Living Room
/ Kitchen



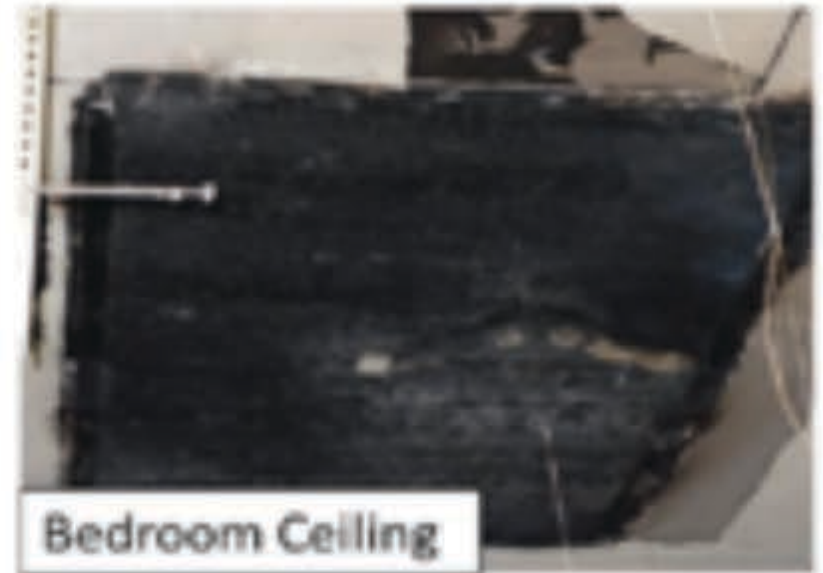
Bedroom



Photos provided by U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, USDA

Source: AWC

TEST 2



TEST 3



TEST 4

All mass timber surfaces fully exposed in bedroom and living room.

Sprinkler – normal activation



Source: AWC

Photos provided by U.S. Forest Products Laboratory, USDA

TEST 5

All mass timber surfaces fully exposed in bedroom and living room.

Sprinkler – activation delayed for 20 minutes after smoke detector activation...approximately 23-1/2 minutes from ignition





Photo: LendLease



Photo: LendLease



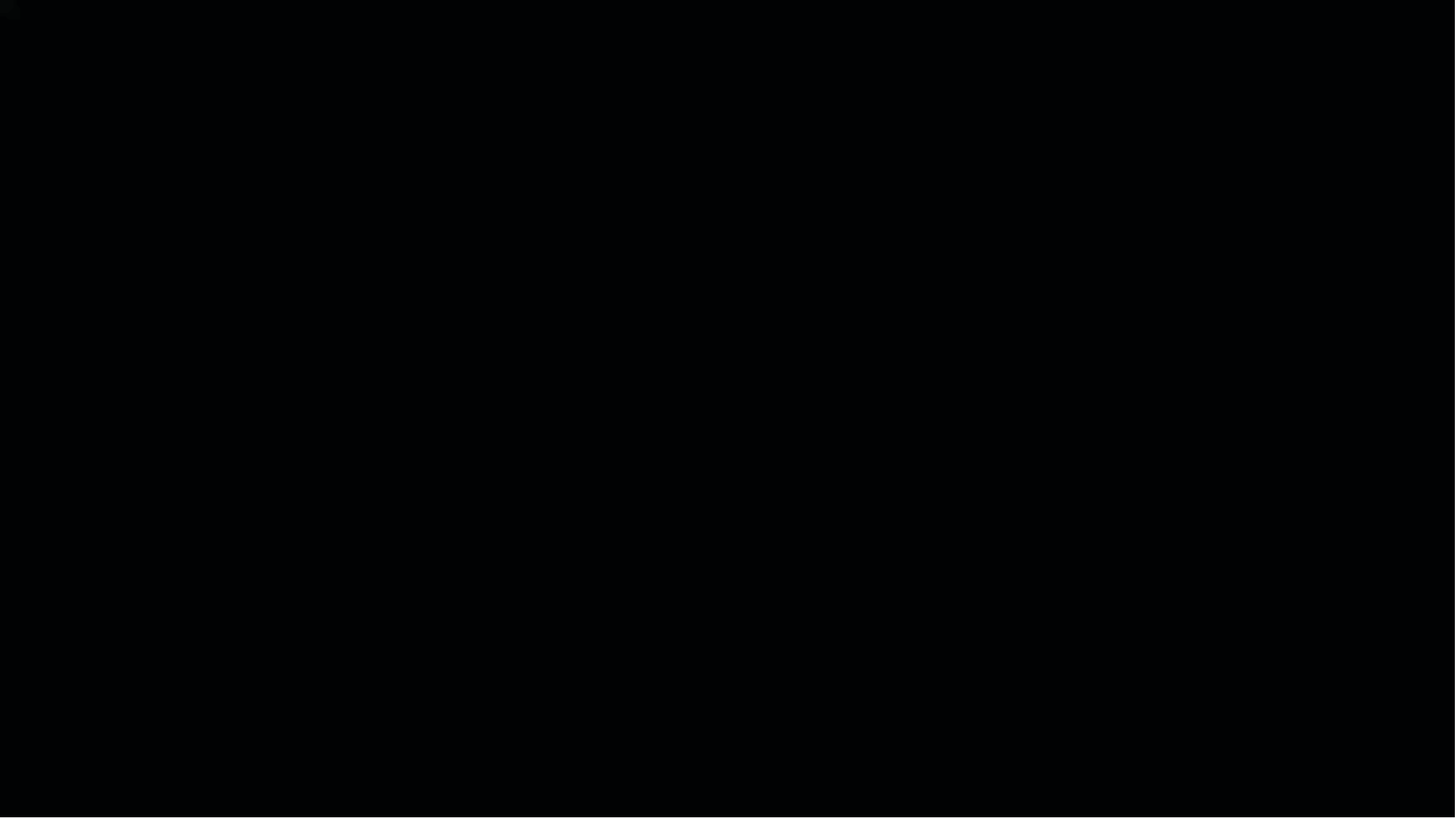
Photo: LendLease



Photo: LendLease



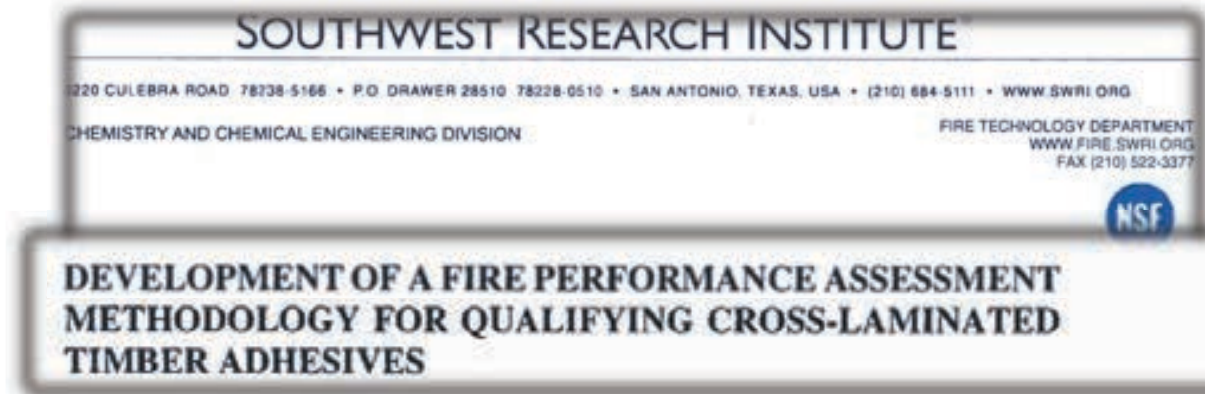
Photo: LendLease



Although not directly affiliated with the TWB AHC, other mass timber and tall wood testing & research was occurring, the results of which the AHC included in their final decisions



Fire Safety Challenges of Tall Wood Buildings – Phase 2: Task 5 – Experimental Study of Delamination of Cross Laminated (CLT) Timber in Fire



WESTERN FIRE CENTER, INC.

2204 Parrott Way, Kelso, Washington 98626
Phone: 360-423-1400 | Fax: 360-423-5003

Fire Resistance Testing of CLT Floor/Ceiling
Assemblies to Establish Contribution of
Gypsum Protection

U.S. BUILDING CODES

DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES

ICC TWB Ad Hoc Committee Group A proposals consisted of the following 14 parts

Requirements for the new Types of Construction:

- IBC Section 602.4 – Type of Construction (G108-18)
- IBC Section 703.8 – Performance Method for Fire Resistance from Noncombustible Protection (FS5-18)
- IBC Section 722.7 – Prescriptive Fire Resistance from Noncombustible Protection (FS81-18)
- IBC Section 703.9 – Sealants at Edges (FS6-18)
- IBC Section 718.2.1 – Fire and Smoke Protection (FS73-18)
- IBC Section 403.3.2 – High-Rise Sprinkler Water Supply (G28-18)
- IBC Section 701.6 – Owners' Responsibility (F88-18)
- IFC Section 3308.4 – Fire Safety During Construction (F266-18)

Allowable building size limits:

- IBC Table 504.3 – Building Height (G75-18)
- IBC Table 504.4 – Number of Stories (G80-18)
- IBC Table 506.2 – Allowable Area (G84-18)

Housekeeping changes:

- IBC Section 3102 – Special Construction (G146-18)
- IBC Appendix D – Fire Districts (G152-18)
- IBC Section 508.4 and 509.4 – Fire Barriers (G89-18)

U.S. BUILDING CODES

DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES



2018 TIMELINE:

- Step 1: January 8 – Final Proposed Language submitted to ICC
- Step 2: February 28 – Changes are posted for Public Viewing
- Step 3: April 15-25 – Committee Action Public Hearing – Columbus, OH



Tall Mass Timber Building Code Changes Pass First Hurdle

The highly-anticipated International Code Council (ICC) Tall Mass Timber Building code changes passed a first hurdle in April with approval by the ICC code changes committee responsible for this part of the process. By wide margins a series of 14 proposals was each approved. The Hearings brought together code and fire officials, along with engineers, architects, builders, and other construction professionals as part of the first public step in approving code change proposals for the 2021 set of ICC codes. The proposals submitted by the ICC Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings (TWB), once officially approved by year-end, would allow mass timber buildings to be constructed up to 18 stories in height. AWC had a significant number of staff in attendance at the Hearings who spoke in support of the Ad Hoc Committee proposals. For more information see www.awc.org/tallmasstimber.

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U.S. BUILDING CODES

DEVELOPMENT AND CHANGES



2018 (& BEYOND) TIMELINE:

Step 4: May 30 – Committee Action Hearing results posted

Step 5: June 1 - July 16 – Public Comments Sought on Committee Action Hearing Results

Step 6: August 31 – Public Comments Posted

Step 7: October 24-31 – Public Comment Hearing and Vote

Step 8: November 19 – December 7 Final Online Vote

Step 9: Fall 2020 – New Edition is Published

FS5-18

MOTION

AS

ENDED

89.05% (187)



Support

10.95% (23)



Oppose

G108-18

MOTION

AM

ENDED

68.11% (220)



Support

31.89% (103)



Oppose

ICC Public Comment Hearing Voting Results on Tall Wood Changes, October 2018

G28-18

MOTION

AS

ENDED

97.3% (216)



Support

2.7% (6)



Oppose

G84-18

MOTION

AS

ENDED

85.22% (173)



Support

14.78% (30)



Oppose

TALL WOOD APPROVED!

Unofficial results posted Dec 19, 2018

Final votes ratified Jan 31, 2019

AWC: Tall Mass Timber code changes get final approval

Dec 19, 2018

LEESBURG, VA. – The International Code Council (ICC) has released the unofficial voting results on code change proposals considered in 2018, including passage of the entire package of [14 tall mass timber code change proposals](#). The proposals create three new types of construction (Types IV-A, IV-B and IV-C), which set fire safety requirements, and allowable heights, areas and number of stories for tall mass timber buildings. Official results are expected to be announced during the first quarter of 2019. The new provisions will be included in the 2021 *International Building Code* (IBC).

"Mass timber has been capturing the imagination of architects and developers, and the ICC result means they can now turn sketches into reality. ICC's rigorous study, testing and voting process now

ICC Online Governmental Consensus Voting Results, Ratified January 2019

Tall Wood Code Changes as submitted by TWB Ad Hoc Committee

Code Change	Final Action	CAH Results	PCH Results	OGCV Results/Final Action										Required Majority
					PCH	OGCV	TOTAL			PCH	OGCV	TOTAL		
FS5-18	AS	AS	AS	AS	186	479	665	88.8%	D	23	61	84	11.2%	Simple Majority
FS6-18	AMPC 1	AS	AMPC 1	AMPC 1	219	479	698	91.4%	D	6	60	66	8.6%	2/3 Majority
FS73-18	AS	AS	AS	AS	214	480	694	91.2%	D	8	59	67	8.8%	Simple Majority
FS81-18	AM	AM	AM	AM	183	485	668	91.6%	D	5	56	61	8.4%	Simple Majority
F266-18	AMPC 1	AM	AMPC 1	AMPC 1	211	455	666	89.9%	D	13	62	75	10.1%	Simple Majority
G28-18	AS	AS	AS	AS	215	514	729	94.1%	D	6	40	46	5.9%	Simple Majority
G75-18	AM	AM	AM	AM	161	386	547	69.0%	D	40	206	246	31.0%	Simple Majority
G80-18	AS	AS	AS	AS	160	382	542	67.9%	D	62	194	256	32.1%	Simple Majority
G84-18	AS	AS	AS	AS	172	383	555	71.8%	D	30	188	218	28.2%	Simple Majority
G89-18	AM	AM	AM	AM	177	482	659	88.7%	D	9	75	84	11.3%	Simple Majority
G108-18	AM	AM	AM	AM	219	471	690	70.6%	D	103	184	287	29.4%	Simple Majority

% of Vote in Favor of Code Change

% of Vote Req'd for Code Change Approval

SO WHAT'S CHANGED??



Since its debut, IBC has contained 9 construction type options

5 Main Types (I, II, III, IV, V) with all but IV having sub-types A and B

TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV	TYPE V	
A	B	A	B	A	B	HT	A	B

Three Main Categories:

1. Noncombustible (Types I and II)
2. Light-Frame (Types III and V)
3. **Heavy/Mass Timber (Type IV)**

Although use of mass timber products in low- to mid-rise in types III and V is very common

2021 IBC Introduces 3 new tall wood construction types:

IV-A, IV-B, IV-C

Previous type IV renamed type IV-HT

BUILDING ELEMENT	TYPE I		TYPE II		TYPE III		TYPE IV				TYPE V	
	A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	HT	A	B

New Building Types



16 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA
ALLOWED AVERAGE AREA PER STORY

TYPE IV-A



10 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA
ALLOWED AVERAGE AREA PER STORY

TYPE IV-B



6 STORIES
BUILDING HEIGHT
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA
ALLOWED AVERAGE AREA PER STORY

TYPE IV-C



10 STORIES BUILDING HEIGHT
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA
ALLOWED AVERAGE AREA PER STORY

TYPE IV-HT

IBC 2015

BUSINESS OCCUPANCY (GROUP B)

REMARK: FLUKE 16 FLOOR HEIGHTS ARE SHOWN AT 10 FT FOR ALL EXAMPLES FOR CLIMATE ZONE 3-5. HEIGHTS BETWEEN 10 FT TO 16 FT ARE 10 FT.

Type IV-A



THE BUILDING
IS A CORRELATION
ALL THROUGH THE TIME'S AREA
BUILDING WITH THE CITY

TYPE IV-A

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

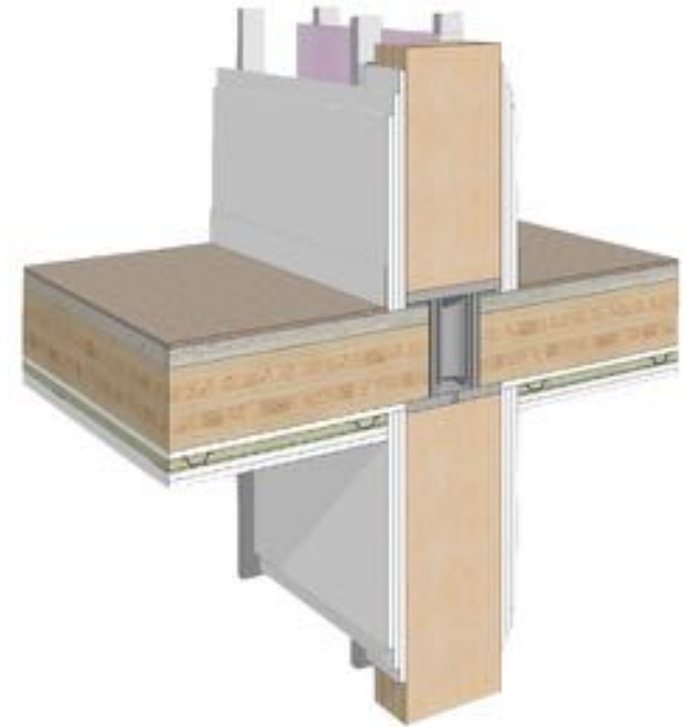
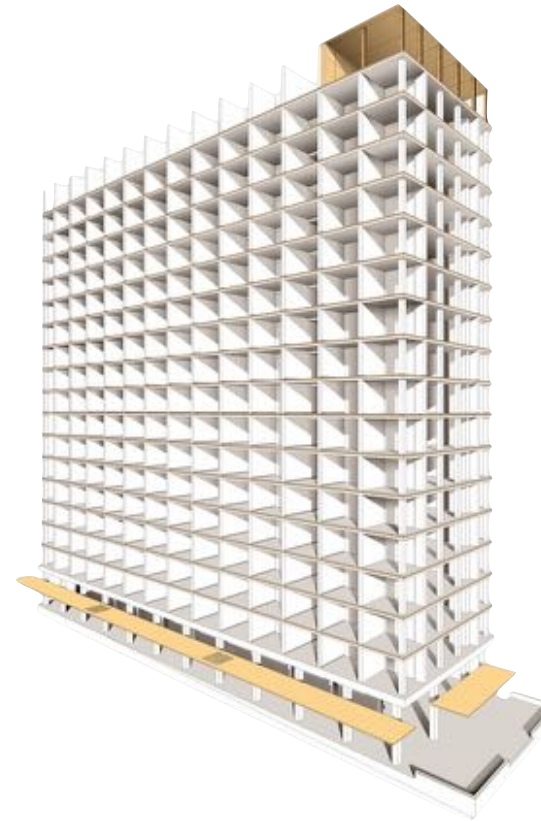


Photos: Structurlam, naturally:wood,
Fast + Epp, Urban One

Type IV-A Protection vs. Exposed



Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



**100% NC protection on all surfaces of
Mass Timber**

Credit: Acton Ostry Architects, Fast + Epp

[illegible]

Areas exclude potential frontage increase

Type IV-A area = 3 * Type IV-HT area

Type IV-B



Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



Credit: LEVER Architecture



Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed



Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



Credit: Kaiser+Path

NC protection on all surfaces of Mass Timber except limited exposed areas
~20% of Ceiling or ~40% of Wall can be exposed, see code for requirements

Type IV-B Height and Area Limits



Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	12	180 ft	90,000 SF	270,000 SF
B	12	180 ft	216,000 SF	648,000 SF
M	8	180 ft	123,000 SF	369,000 SF
R-2	12	180 ft	123,000 SF	369,000 SF

Areas exclude potential frontage increase

In most cases, Type IV-B height & story allowances = Type I-B height & story allowances

Type IV-B area = 2 * Type IV-HT area

Type IV-C



Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



Photos: Baumberger Studio/PATH
Architecture/Marcus Kauffman



Type IV-C Protection vs. Exposed



Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

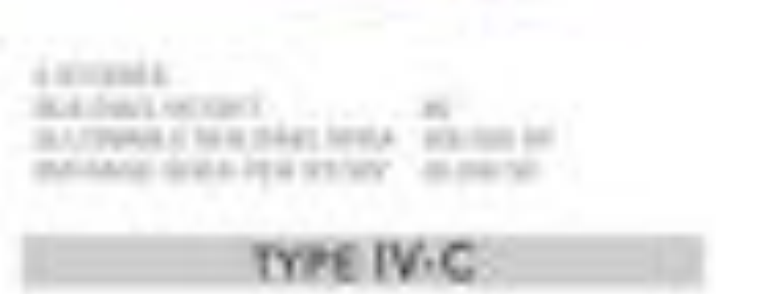


Credit: Kaiser+Path, Ema Peter

All Mass Timber surfaces may be exposed

Exceptions: Shafts, concealed spaces, outside face of exterior walls

Type IV-C Height and Area Limits



Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	6	85 ft	56,250 SF	168,750 SF
B	9	85 ft	135,000 SF	405,000 SF
M	6	85 ft	76,875 SF	230,625 SF
R-2	8	85 ft	76,875 SF	230,625 SF

Areas exclude potential frontage increase

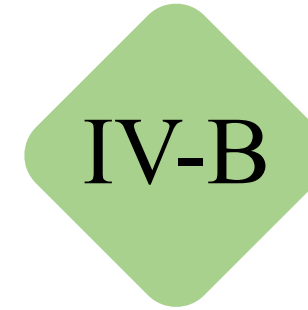
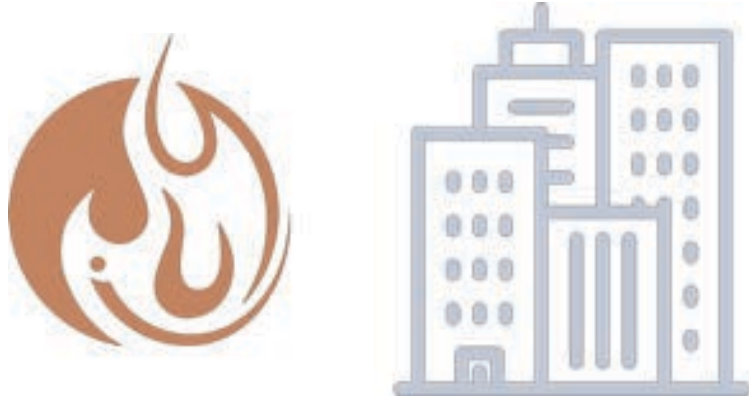
In most cases, Type IV-C height allowances = Type IV-HT height allowances, but add'l stories permitted due to enhanced FRR

Type IV-C area = 1.25 * Type IV-HT area

Tall Wood Building Size Limits

	Construction Type (All <u>Sprinklered Values</u>)						
	I-A	I-B	<u>IV-A</u>	<u>IV-B</u>	<u>IV-C</u>	IV-HT	III-A
Occupancies	Allowable Building Height above Grade Plane, Feet (IBC Table 504.3)						
A, B, R	Unlimited	180	<u>270</u>	<u>180</u>	<u>85</u>	85	85
	Allowable Number of Stories above Grade Plane (IBC Table 505.4)						
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	12	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>6</u>	4	4
B	Unlimited	12	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>9</u>	6	6
R-2	Unlimited	12	<u>18</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>8</u>	5	5
	Allowable Area Factor (At) for SM, Feet² (IBC Table 506.2)						
A-2, A-3, A-4	Unlimited	Unlimited	<u>135,000</u>	<u>90,000</u>	<u>56,250</u>	45,000	42,000
B	Unlimited	Unlimited	<u>324,000</u>	<u>216,000</u>	<u>135,000</u>	108,000	85,500
R-2	Unlimited	Unlimited	<u>184,500</u>	<u>123,000</u>	<u>76,875</u>	61,500	72,000

Tall Wood Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)



Primary Frame or Brng Wall FRR

Floor Construction FRR

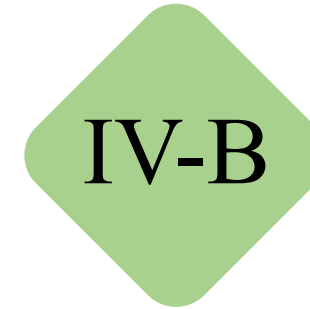
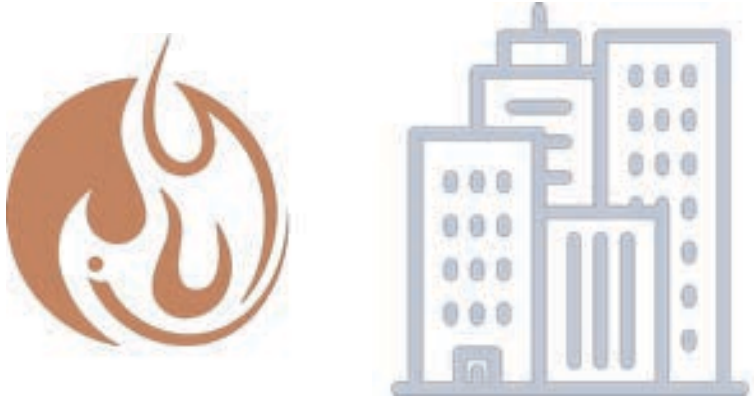
Roof Construction FRR

Floor Surface Protection

Roof Construction Protection

3 HR (2 HR at Roof)	2 HR (1 HR at Roof)	2 HR (1 HR at Roof)
2 HR	2 HR	2 HR
1.5 HR	1 HR	1 HR
1 inch of NC protection	1 inch of NC protection	No protection req'd
2 layers 5/8" type X gyp on inside face	2 layers 5/8" type X gyp on inside face	No protection req'd unless concealed space

Tall Wood Materials & Protection



Exterior Walls

Structural Materials

Concealed Spaces

Gypsum Protection

Mass Timber, exterior surface protected with 1 layer 5/8" type X gyp

Mass Timber or NC

Permitted, requires NC protection on MT surfaces

**All MT is protected
3 HR: 3 layers 5/8"
type X gyp
2 HR or less: 2 layers
5/8" type X gyp**

**Same as IV-A for
protected MT. Limited
exposed MT
permitted, FRR still
applies**

**All MT permitted may
be exposed except as
noted**

Tall Wood Buildings in the 2021 IBC *Up to 18 Stories of Mass Timber*

Scott Brannen, PhD, SE, WoodWorks – Wood Products Council • Matt Timmer, SE, John A. Martin & Associates
• Dennis Richardson, PE, CBO, CAGS, American Wood Council

In January 2019, the International Code Council (ICC) approved a set of proposals to allow tall wood buildings as part of the 2021 International Building Code (IBC). Based on these proposals, the 2021 IBC will include three new construction types—Type IV-A, IV-B and IV-C—allowing the use of mass timber or noncombustible materials. These new types are based on the previous Heavy Timber construction type (renamed Type IV-HT) but with additional fire-resistance ratings and levels of required noncombustible protection. The code will include provisions for up to 18 stories of Type IV-A construction for Business and Residential Occupancies.

Based on information first published in the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAC) 2018 Conference Proceedings, this paper summarizes the background to these proposals, technical research that supported their adoption, and resulting changes to the IBC and product-specific standards.

Background: ICC Tall Wood Building Ad Hoc Committee

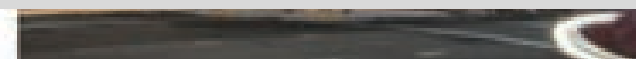
Over the past 10 years, there has been a growing interest in tall buildings constructed from mass timber materials (Brannen 2013, Timmer 2015). Around the world there



WoodWorks Tall Wood Design Resource

http://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-TALL-WOOD.pdf

Val Camm	Milan, Italy	8	2013
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An aerial photograph of a tall building under construction, showcasing a mass timber frame. The structure consists of numerous vertical wooden columns and horizontal beams, creating a grid-like pattern. The building is situated in an urban environment, with other buildings and greenery visible in the background. A semi-transparent white banner with dark brown text is overlaid across the center of the image.

EARLY TALL WOOD CODE ADOPTION



Statewide Alternate Method No. 18-01 Tall Wood Buildings – Background

Statewide Alternate Method (SAM) Number 18-01 provides prescriptive path elements for Tall Wood Buildings of mass timber construction. This alternate path includes scientific conclusions established by the International Code Council's Ad Hoc Committee on Tall Wood Buildings that were incorporated into fourteen national proposals and utilizes concrete, steel or masonry for the vertical elements of the seismic force-resisting system.

The provisions detailed in the SAM are crafted to coincide with the *2014 Oregon Structural Specialty Code* (OSSC) when selected for use.

Three new types of construction are introduced under this method, all three of which are organized under Type IV construction, typically referred to as heavy timber.

The new types of construction are:

- Type IV A
- Type IV B
- Type IV C

Washington state to allow mid and high-rise mass-timber buildings



State is first in the nation to alter building codes in support of a new generation of engineered wooden building materials with exciting properties of strength, durability and beauty. With mass timber, architects and builders acquire a new material to create with and rural areas gain the prospect of new high-skilled, high-paid jobs.

NEWS PROVIDED BY

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Dec 05, 2018, 10:07 ET

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SEATTLE, Dec. 5, 2018 /PRNewswire/ -- The Washington State Building Code Council (SBCC) has approved code changes that will allow for the structural use of mass timber in buildings as tall as 18 stories. This makes Washington the first state in the nation to allow tall mass timber buildings into its building code, without pursuing an alternate method.



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SEATTLE MASS TIMBER TOWER

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SEATTLE MASS TIMBER TOWER

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- 12 Stories
- 135,000 SF
- Type IV-B Construction – 2 HR FRR (1 HR at Roof)
- 14 ft Floor to Floor
- 12.5 ft x 42 ft Structural Grid
- Retail on 1st level; 5 floors of office; 192-key hotel

QUESTIONS?

This concludes The American Institute
of Architects Continuing Education
Systems Course

Woodworks.org

help@woodworks.org





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