

# **BUILDINGENERGY BOSTON**

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## **Moving the ‘Masses’ toward Taller Timber Construction: Codes, Design Steps & Environmental Impacts**

**August 13, 2020 · 9:15-10:45am**

### **Presenters:**

**Ricky McLain (WoodWorks), Alexandra Davis  
(Thornton Tomasetti), & Matthew Tonello (Consigli  
Construction)**

# BUILDINGENERGY BOSTON

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Ricky McLain



Alexandra Davis



Matthew Tonello



# Learning Objectives

- **Understand** benefits and potential uses of mass timber for high performance buildings
- **Compare** the environmental impact of mass timber construction as opposed to traditional concrete or steel, and the principles of procurement to harvest this resource sustainably
- **Discuss** barriers to mass timber construction in the Northeast and the tactics to overcome them
- **Identify** key stakeholders, organizations, and commitments which others have taken on to encourage the development of sustainable mass timber applications in the Northeast region

# BUILDINGENERGY BOSTON

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Ricky McLain



Alexandra Davis



Matthew Tonello





# Tall Timber Construction: New Code Provisions and Design Steps





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## FUNDING PARTNERS

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## MARKET DEVELOPMENT PARTNERS

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# WHAT IS MASS TIMBER?



Heavy Timber  
Photo: Benjamin Benschneider



Mass Timber  
Photo: John Stamets



# GLULAM



Photos: APA

# 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







Office

Wythe Ave Buildings, NY | Flank Architecture + Development



Hospitality

Lark Hotel, Bozeman | Thinktank Design | Photo: Dan Armstrong



Multi-family

Carbon 12, Portland | Path Architecture | Photo: Andrew Pogue



Industrial

StructureCraft Plant, Abbotsford, BC



# Mass Timber Projects In Design and Constructed in the US (June 2020)



**380+ Built**

**530+ In Design**

State	Stage	# of Projects	State	Stage	# of Projects
AK	In Design	1	MT	In Design	4
AL	Construction Started / Built	5	WI	Construction Started / Built	8
AR	In Design	10	NC	In Design	24
AZ	Construction Started / Built	5	ND	Construction Started / Built	24
CA	In Design	7	NE	In Design	24
CO	Construction Started / Built	88	NH	Construction Started / Built	1
CT	In Design	11	NJ	Construction Started / Built	1
DC	Construction Started / Built	15	NM	In Design	1
DE	In Design	1	NV	Construction Started / Built	1
FL	Construction Started / Built	17	NY	In Design	1
GA	In Design	28	OH	Construction Started / Built	20
HI	Construction Started / Built	11	OK	Construction Started / Built	4
IA	In Design	1	OR	In Design	9
IL	Construction Started / Built	4	PA	Construction Started / Built	20
IN	In Design	4	RI	Construction Started / Built	4
KS	Construction Started / Built	11	SC	In Design	1
KY	In Design	12	SD	Construction Started / Built	1
LA	Construction Started / Built	4	TN	In Design	4
MA	Construction Started / Built	4	TX	Construction Started / Built	20
MD	In Design	4	UT	In Design	44
ME	Construction Started / Built	21	VT	Construction Started / Built	5
MI	In Design	27	VA	In Design	5
MN	Construction Started / Built	2	WA	Construction Started / Built	7
MO	In Design	9	WV	In Design	9
MS	Construction Started / Built	2	WY	Construction Started / Built	1
MT	In Design	18			
NC	Construction Started / Built	9			
ND	In Design	9			
NE	Construction Started / Built	9			
NH	Construction Started / Built	1			
NJ	Construction Started / Built	1			
NM	Construction Started / Built	1			
NV	Construction Started / Built	1			
NY	Construction Started / Built	1			
OH	Construction Started / Built	20			
OK	Construction Started / Built	4			
OR	In Design	9			
PA	Construction Started / Built	20			
RI	Construction Started / Built	4			
SC	In Design	5			
SD	Construction Started / Built	1			
TN	In Design	5			
TX	Construction Started / Built	20			
UT	In Design	44			
VT	Construction Started / Built	5			
VA	In Design	5			
WA	Construction Started / Built	7			
WV	In Design	9			
WY	Construction Started / Built	1			

**Considering mass timber for a project?  
Ask us anything.**

For free project support, contact:  
[help@woodworks.org](mailto:help@woodworks.org)  
[woodworks.org/project-assistance](http://woodworks.org/project-assistance)





Photo: Nordic Structures

**JOHN W. OLVER DESIGN BUILDING** | UNIVERSITY OF MASSACHUSETTS, AMHERST, MA



Image: Fennick McCredie Architecture

**MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL AIRPORTS** | VARIOUS LOCATIONS, MA





Image: Fennick McCredie Architecture

**MASSACHUSETTS REGIONAL AIRPORTS | VARIOUS LOCATIONS, MA**





Image: LineSync Architects

**MOUNT SNOW BASE LODGE** | WEST DOVER, VT





Photo Credit: David Sundberg and Gray Organschi Architecture

**COMMON GROUND HIGH SCHOOL | NEW HAVEN, CT**





Photo Credit: David Sundberg and Gray Organschi Architecture

**COMMON GROUND HIGH SCHOOL | NEW HAVEN, CT**





Photo Credit: DeStafano & Chamberlain, Inc.

**PORTLAND INTERNATIONAL JETPORT | PORTLAND, ME**





Photo Credit: John Horner

**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN - NORTH HALL | PROVIDENCE, RI**





Photo Credit: John Horner

**RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL OF DESIGN - NORTH HALL | PROVIDENCE, RI**





Photo Credit: WoodWorks

PEASE ARBORETUM | NEWINGTON, NH





PEASE ARBORETUM | NEWINGTON, NH





Photo Credit: DeStefano & Chamberlain

**STAMFORD MEDIA CENTER** | STAMFORD, CT



# GLOBAL TALL WOOD CIRCA 2019

## 18-24 STORIES



Photo: Moelven Limtre



Photo: naturally:wood

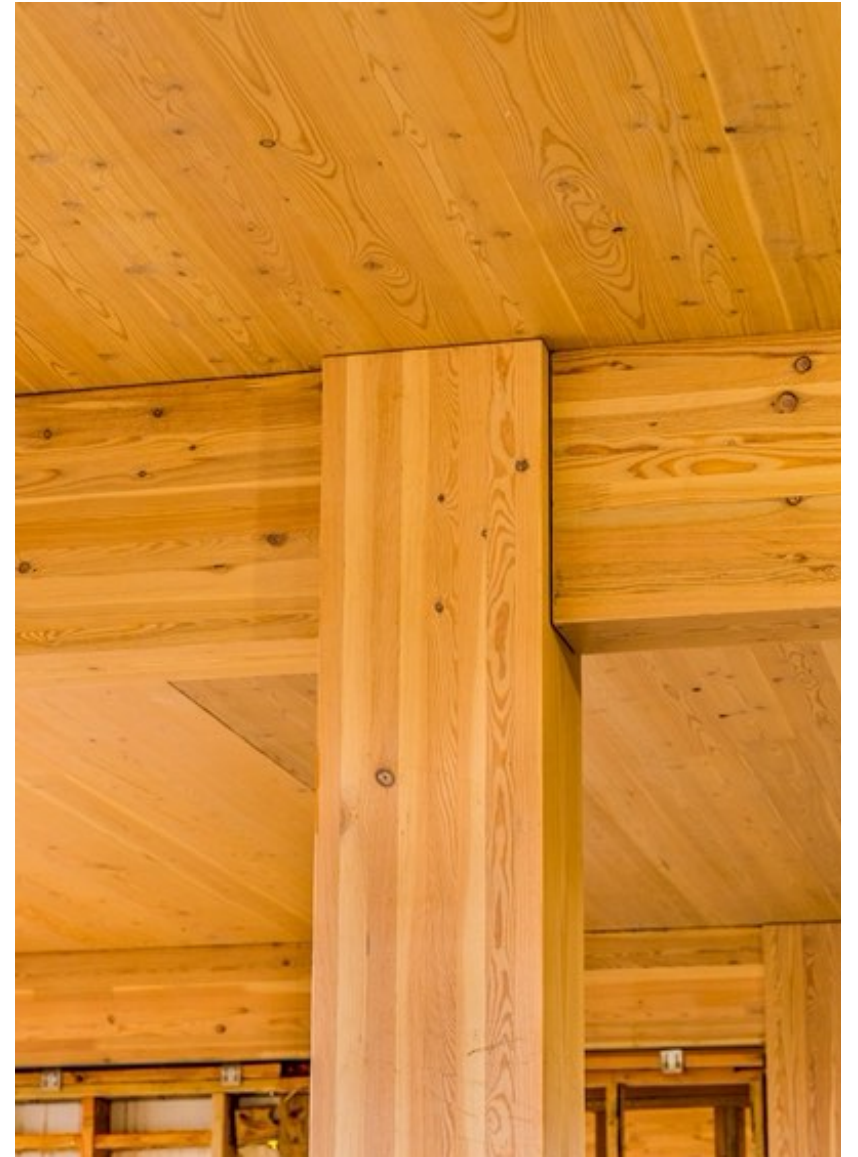


Photo: Rudiger Lainer + Partner



# TALL WOOD IN THE US CIRCA 2019

# 8 STORIES



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





# TALL WOOD IN THE U.S.



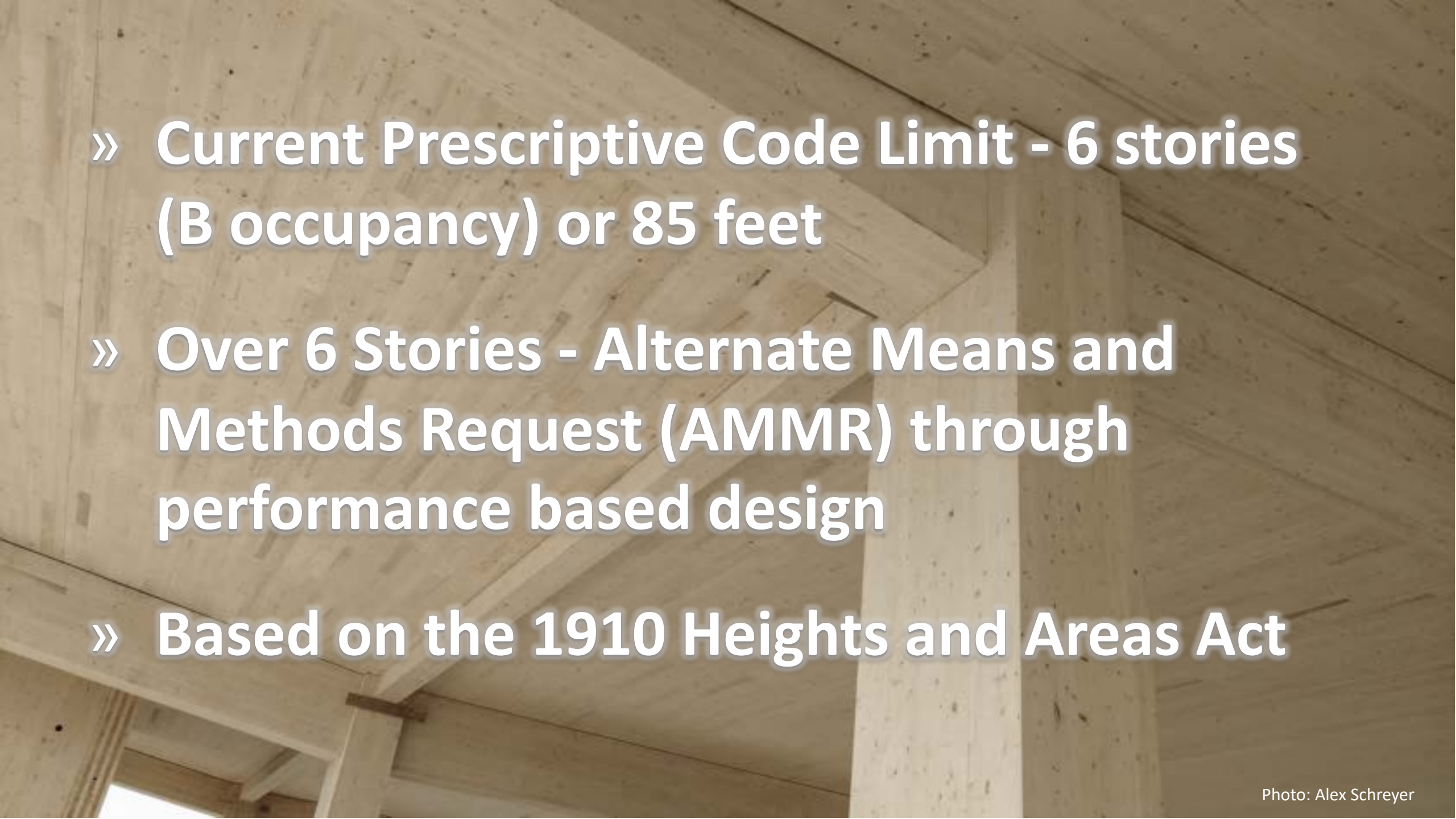
- 
- » **Current Prescriptive Code Limit - 6 stories (B occupancy) or 85 feet**
  - » **Over 6 Stories - Alternate Means and Methods Request (AMMR) through performance based design**
  - » **Based on the 1910 Heights and Areas Act**





Photo: Blaine Brownell



Photo: Christian Columbres



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



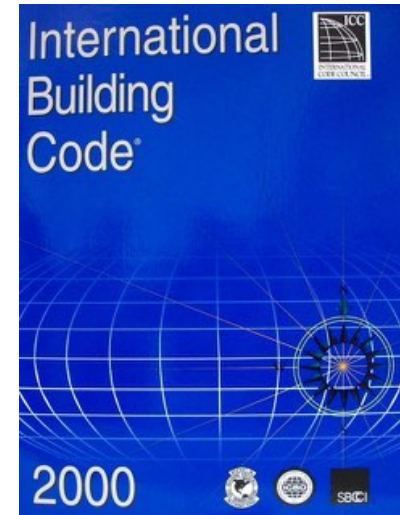
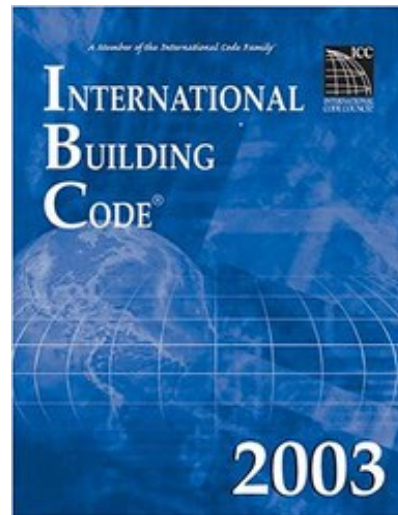
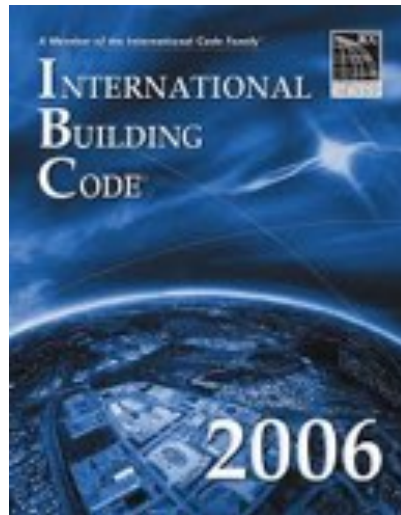
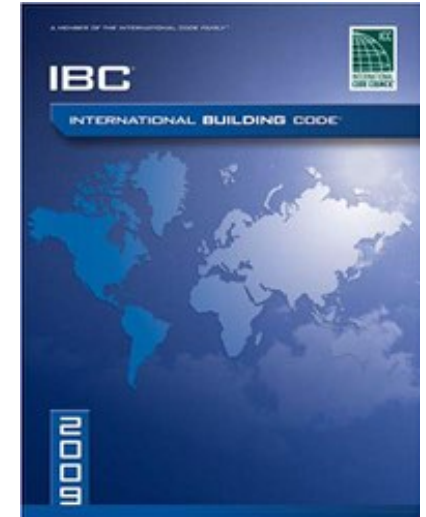
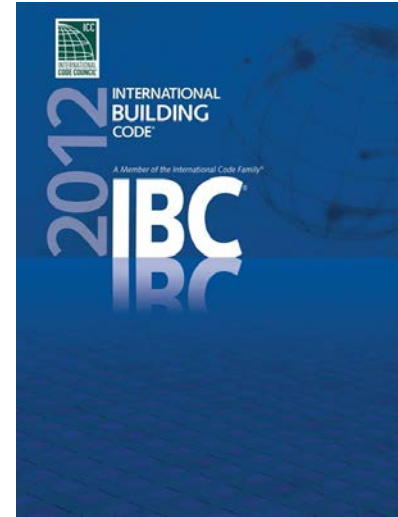
Photo: Swinerton





INTERNATIONAL  
CODE  
COUNCIL®

# 3 YEAR CODE CYCLE





## 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



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

Photo: Seagate Mass Timber Inc  
Pollux Chang Photographer

## 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.





Photo: LendLease



Photo: LendLease





Photo: LendLease



Photo: LendLease





Photo: LendLease



Photo: LendLease



# 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

# 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





# New Building Types



18 STORIES  
 BUILDING HEIGHT 270'  
 ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 972,000 SF  
 AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

**TYPE IV-A**



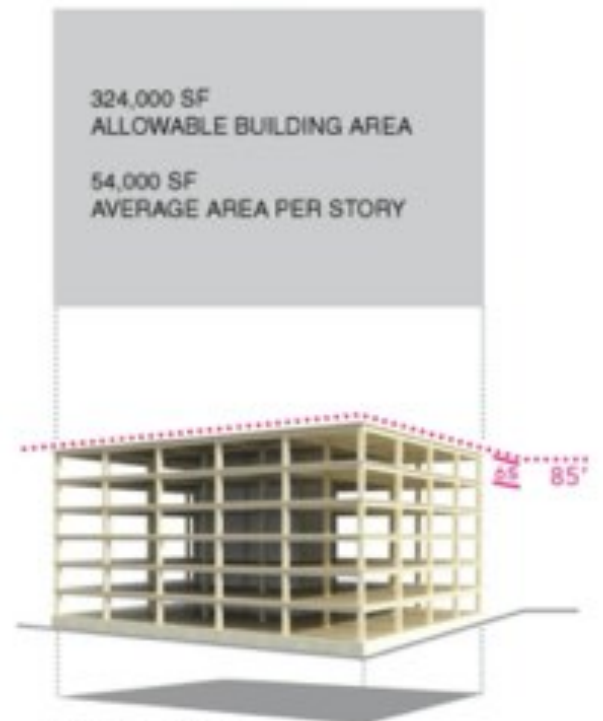
12 STORIES  
 BUILDING HEIGHT 180 FT  
 ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 648,000 SF  
 AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

**TYPE IV-B**



9 STORIES  
 BUILDING HEIGHT 85'  
 ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 405,000 SF  
 AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 45,000 SF

**TYPE IV-C**



6 STORIES MAXIMUM  
 85'-0" MAXIMUM BUILDING HEIGHT  
 324,00 SF MAXIMUM AREA

**TYPE IV- HT**

**IBC 2015**

**IBC 2021**

## BUSINESS OCCUPANCY [GROUP B]

\*BUILDING FLOOR-TO-FLOOR HEIGHTS ARE SHOWN AT 12'-0" FOR ALL EXAMPLES FOR CLARITY IN COMPARISON BETWEEN 2015 TO 2021 IBC CODES.

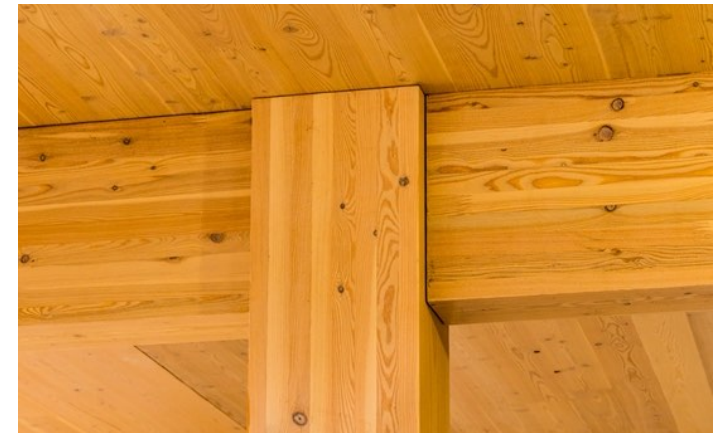


# Type IV-C



9 STORIES  
BUILDING HEIGHT 85'  
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 405,000 SF  
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 45,000 SF

TYPE IV-C



Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Photos: Baumberger Studio/PATH  
Architecture/Marcus Kauffman

# Type IV-C Protection vs. Exposed



9 STORIES  
BUILDING HEIGHT 85'  
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 405,000 SF  
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 45,000 SF

TYPE IV-C



Credit: Kaiser+Path, Ema Peter

**All Mass Timber surfaces may be exposed**

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

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



# Type IV-C Height and Area Limits



9 STORIES  
 BUILDING HEIGHT 85'  
 ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 405,000 SF  
 AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 45,000 SF

TYPE IV-C

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 1 stories permitted due to enhanced FRR**

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

# Type IV-B



12 STORES  
BUILDING HEIGHT 180 FT  
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 645,000 SF  
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-B

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



Credit: LEVER Architecture





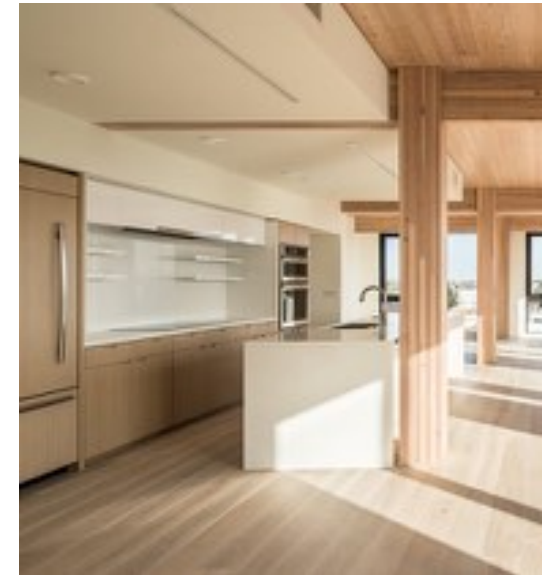
# Type IV-B Protection vs. Exposed



12 STORES  
BUILDING HEIGHT 180 FT  
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 648,000 SF  
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-B

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



12 STORES  
 BUILDING HEIGHT 180 FT  
 ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 648,000 SF  
 AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-B

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**



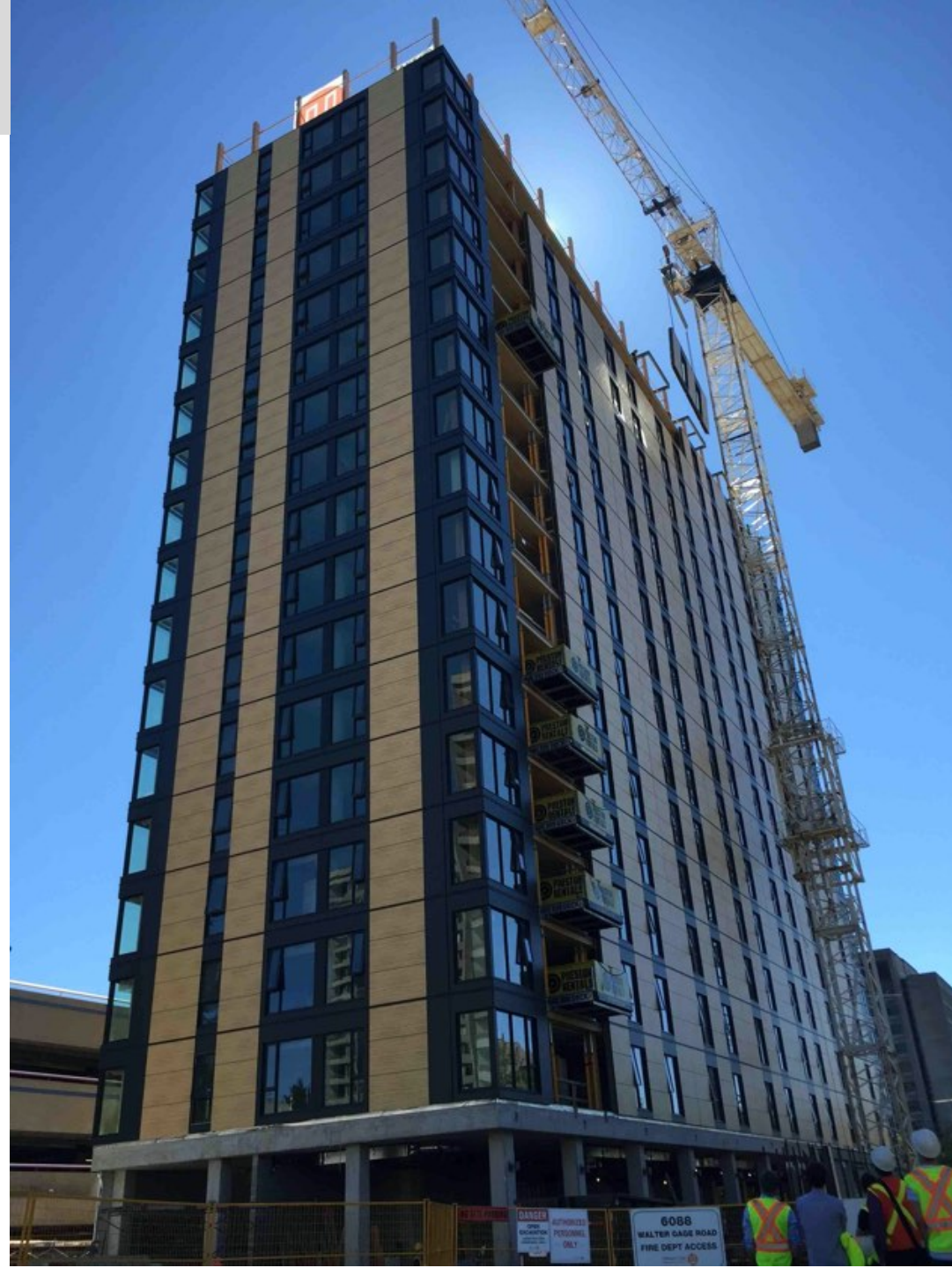
# Type IV-A



18 STORIES  
BUILDING HEIGHT 270'  
ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 972,000 SF  
AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

TYPE IV-A

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones



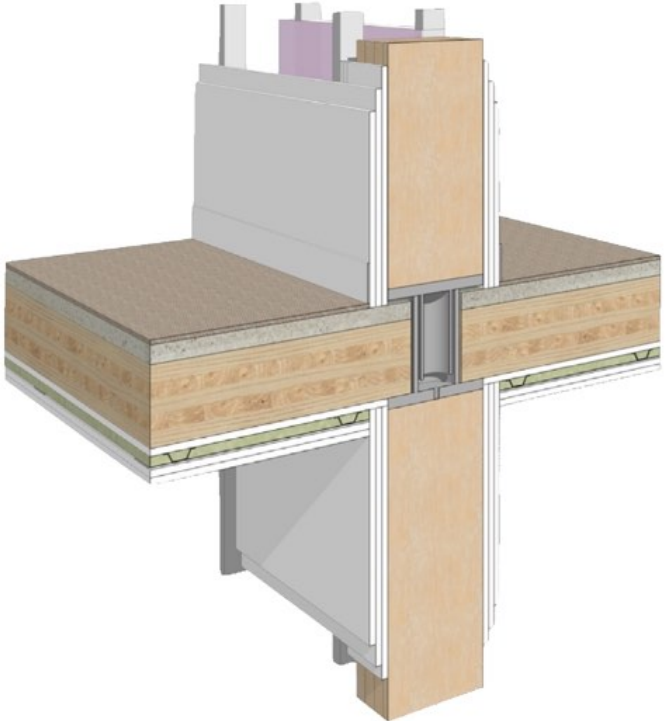
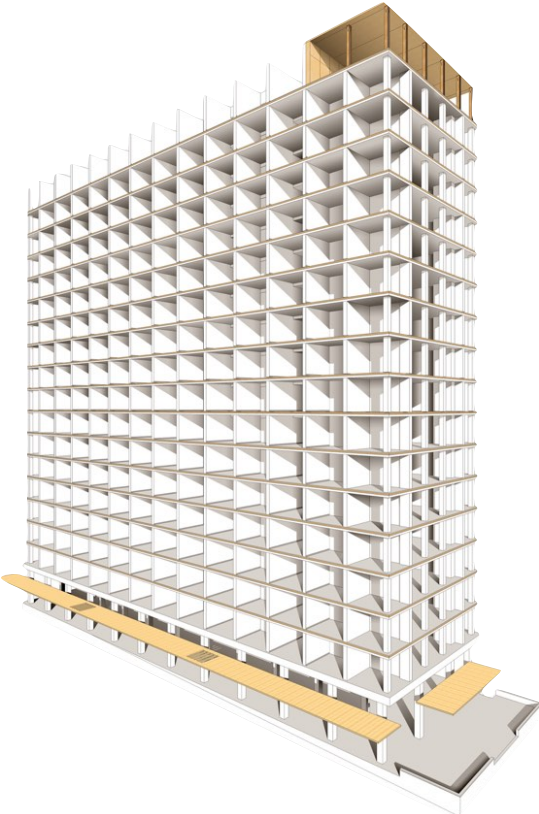
Photos: Structurlam, naturally:wood, Fast + Epp, Urban One



# 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



# Type IV-A Height and Area Limits



18 STORIES  
 BUILDING HEIGHT 270'  
 ALLOWABLE BUILDING AREA 972,000 SF  
 AVERAGE AREA PER STORY 54,000SF

**TYPE IV-A**

Credit: Susan Jones, atelierjones

Occupancy	# of Stories	Height	Area per Story	Building Area
A-2	18	270 ft	135,000 SF	405,000 SF
B	18	270 ft	324,000 SF	972,000 SF
M	12	270 ft	184,500 SF	553,500 SF
R-2	18	270 ft	184,500 SF	553,500 SF

Areas exclude potential frontage increase

**In most cases, Type IV-A height & story allowances = 1.5 \* Type I-B height & story allowances**

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

# Tall Wood Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

## FRR Requirements for Tall Mass Timber Structures (hours)

Building Element	IV-A	IV-B	IV-C
Primary Frame	3	2	2
Exterior Bearing Walls	3	2	2
Interior Bearing Walls	3	2	2
Roof Construction	1.5	1	1
Primary Frame at Roof	2	1	1
Floor Construction	2	2	2

Source: 2021 IBC Table 601



# Noncombustible Protection (NC)

**Where timber is required to be protected, NC must contribute at least 2/3 FRR**

## Required Noncombustible Contribution to FRR

FRR of Building Element (hours)	Minimum from Noncombustible Protection (minutes)
1	40
2	80
3 or more	120

*Source: 2021 IBC Section 722.7*

# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)



## IBC 722.7

The fire resistance rating of the mass timber elements shall consist of the fire resistance of the unprotected element (MT) added to the protection time of the noncombustible (NC) protection.



**= FRR**

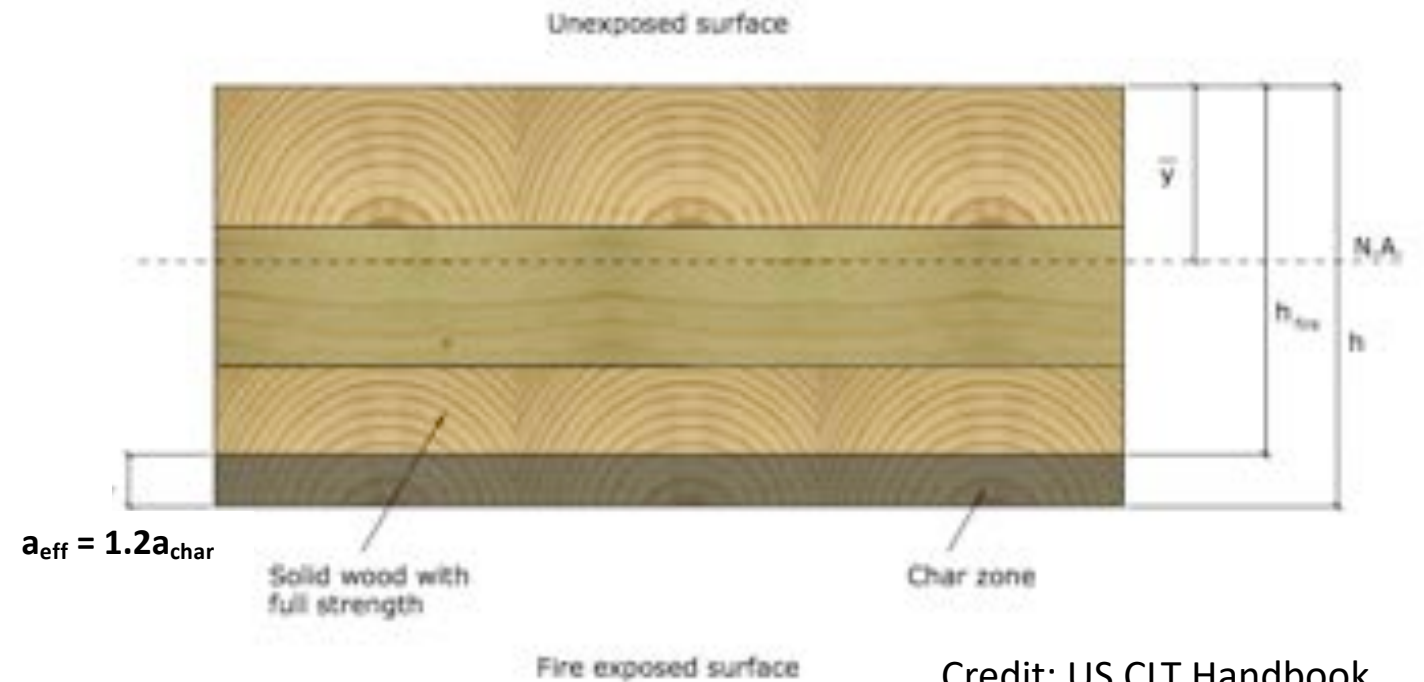


# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

How do you determine FRR of MT?

2 Options:

1. Calculations in Accordance with IBC 722 → NDS Chapter 16
2. Tests in Accordance with ASTM E119



# Type IV-B Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-B

## Primary Frame (2-hr) + Floor Panel (2-hr)

Minimum 1" noncombustible material

Mass timber floor panel

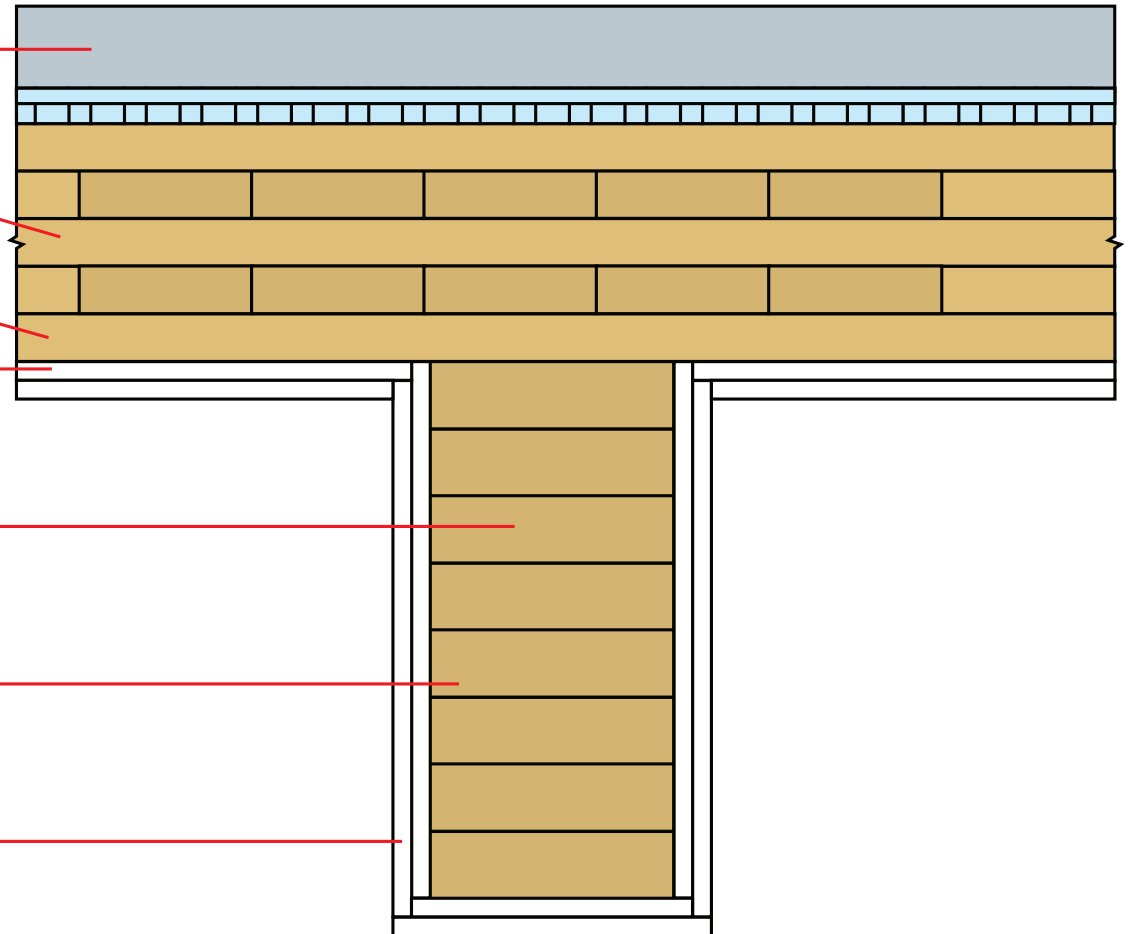
40 minutes of MT FRR

2 layers 5/8" Type X gypsum

Glulam beam (primary structural frame)

40 minutes of MT FRR

Two layers 5/8" Type X gypsum





# Type IV-B Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

IV-B

## Primary Frame (2-hr) + Floor Panel Example (2-hr)

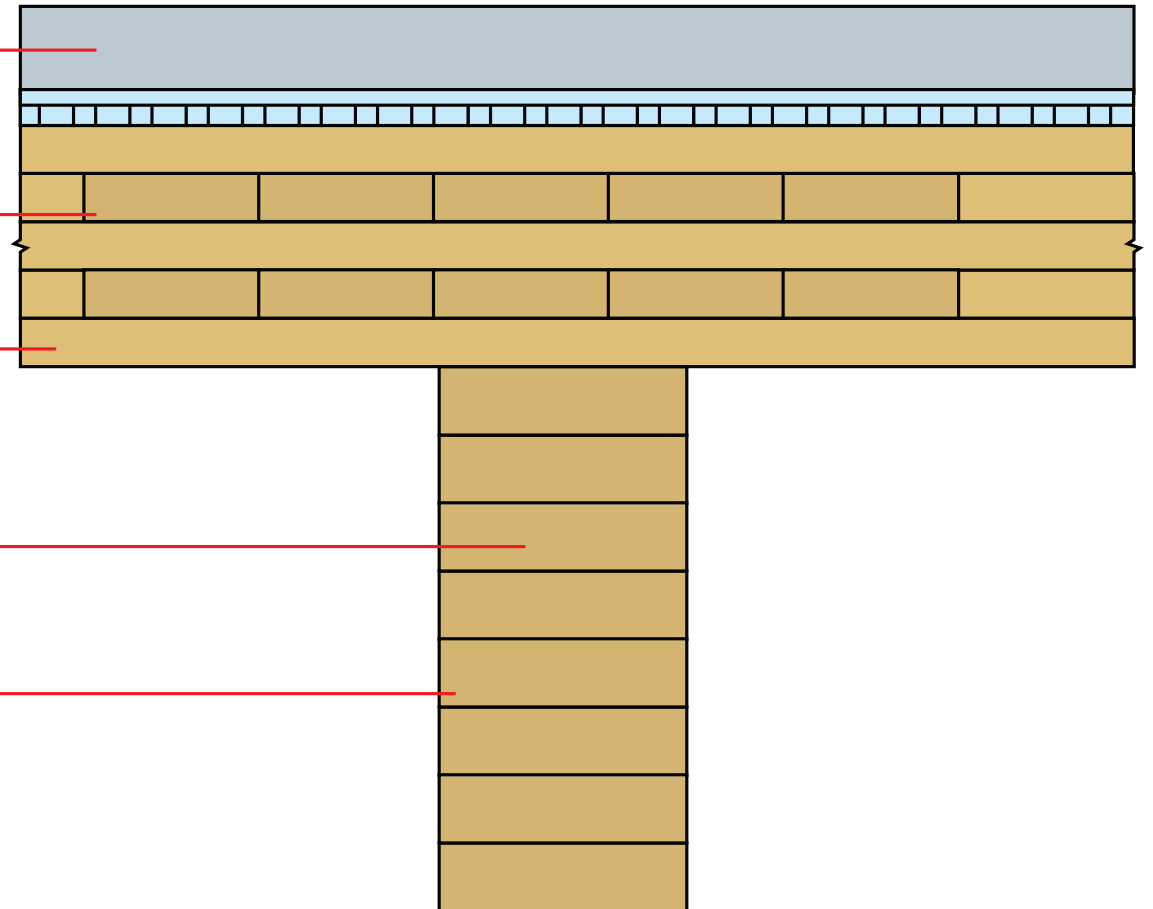
Minimum 1" noncombustible material

Mass timber floor panel

2-hr of MT FRR;  
noncombustible material not required

Glulam beam (primary structural frame)

2-hr of MT FRR;  
Noncombustible material not required



# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)



## Fire-Resistive Design of Mass Timber Members

Code Applications, Construction Types and Fire Ratings

Richard McLain, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • WoodWorks  
Scott Zimmerman, PhD, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • WoodWorks

For many years, exposed heavy timber framing elements have been permitted in U.S. buildings due to their inherent fire-resistance properties. The predictability of wood's char rate has been well-established for decades and has long been recognized in building codes and standards.

Today, one of the exciting trends in building design is the growing use of mass timber—i.e., large solid wood panel products such as cross-laminated timber (CLT) and nail-laminated timber (NLT)—for floor, wall and roof construction. Like heavy timber, mass timber products have inherent fire resistance that allows them to be left exposed and still achieve a fire-resistance rating. Because of their strength and dimensional stability, these products also offer a low-carbon alternative to steel, concrete, and masonry for many applications. It is this combination of exposed structure and strength that developers and designers across the country

are leveraging to create innovative designs with a warm yet modern aesthetic, often for projects that go beyond traditional norms of wood design.

This paper has been written to support architects and engineers exploring the use of mass timber for commercial and multi-family construction. It focuses on how to meet fire-resistance requirements in the International Building Code (IBC), including calculation and testing-based methods. Unless otherwise noted, references refer to the 2018 IBC.

### Mass Timber & Construction Type

Before demonstrating fire-resistance ratings of exposed mass timber elements, it's important to understand under what circumstances the code currently allows the use of mass timber in commercial and multi-family construction.

A building's assigned construction type is the main indicator of where and when all wood systems can be used. IBC Section 602 defines the main options (Type I through V) with all but Type IV having subcategories A and B. Types III and V permit the use of wood framing throughout much of the structure and both are used extensively for modern mass timber buildings.

**Type III IBC 602.3** – Timber elements can be used in floors, roofs and interior walls. Fire-retardant treated wood (FRTW) framing is permitted in exterior walls with a fire-resistance rating of 2 hours or less.

**Type V IBC 602.5** – Timber elements can be used throughout the structure, including floors, roofs and both interior and exterior walls.

**Type IV IBC 602.4** – Commonly referred to as 'Heavy Timber' construction, this option



Cardello | Portland, Oregon  
Interior Design | Fab Architecture  
Munro Structure Engineering

## Mass Timber Fire Design Resource

- Code compliance options for demonstrating FRR
- Updated as new tests are completed
- Free download at [woodworks.org](http://woodworks.org)

Credit: WoodWorks



# MT Fire Resistance Ratings (FRR)

## Inventory of Fire Tested MT Assemblies

Table 1: North American Fire Resistance Tests of Mass Timber Floor / Roof Assemblies



CLT Panel	Manufacturer	CLT Grade or Major & Minor Grade	Ceiling Protection	Panel Connection in Test	Floor Topping	Load Rating	Fire Resistance Achieved (Hours)	Source	Testing Lab
3-ply CLT (114mm x 4.213 in)	Nordic	SPF 16/50/FB 1.5E MBR x SPF #3	2 layers 1/2" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 34% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 1)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (101mm x 4.213 in)	Structulam	SPF #1-#2 x SPF #1-#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 71% Moment Capacity	1	1 (Test 2)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	Nordic	EL	None	Top-side Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	2	NRC Fire Laboratory March 2016
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	Nordic	EL	1 layer of 1/2" Type X gypsum under Z-channels and furring strips with 3.5.3" aluminum batts	Top-side Spline	2 staggered layers of 1/2" cement boards	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	3	NRC Fire Laboratory Nov 2014
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	Nordic	EL	None	Top-side Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypsum over Mass on acoustical mat	Reduced 10% Moment Capacity	0.5	3	UL
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	Nordic	EL	1 layer 5/8" normal gypsum	Top-side Spline	3/4 in. proprietary gypsum over Mass on acoustical mat or proprietary sound board	Reduced 10% Moment Capacity	2	4	UL
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	Nordic	EL	1 layer 5/8" Type X Gyp under Resilient Channel under 7.70" furring with 1.52" Mineral Wool Insulation batts	Half-Lap	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	21	Intertek 8/24/2012
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	Structulam	ELM3 MBR 2100 x SPF #2	None	Top-side Spline	1-1/2" Maxxon Cyp-Dura 2000 over Maxxon Reinforcing Mesh	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2.5	6	Intertek, 2/22/2016
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	DR Johnson	VI	None	Half-Lap & Top-side Spline	2" gypsum topping	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	7	SwRI (May 2016)
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	Nordic	SPF 19/0/FB MBR x SPF #3	None	Half-Lap	None	Reduced 39% Moment Capacity	0.5	1 (Test 3)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	Structulam	SPF #1-#2 x SPF #1-#2	1 layer 5/8" Type X gypsum	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 100% Moment Capacity	2	1 (Test 6)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (245mm x 8.85")	Structulam	SPF #1-#2 x SPF #1-#2	None	Half-Lap	None	Unreduced 100% Moment Capacity	2.5	1 (Test 7)	NRC Fire Laboratory
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	SmartLam	SL-V4	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" ply wood with furring	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 8)	Western Fire Center 10/26/2016
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	SmartLam	VI	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" ply wood with furring	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 9)	Western Fire Center 10/28/2016
3-ply CLT (171mm x 8.71")	DR Johnson	VI	None	Half-Lap	nominal 1/2" ply wood with furring	Loaded, See Manufacturer	2	12 (Test 8)	Western Fire Center 11/01/2016
3-ply CLT (114mm x 4.213 in)	K118	CV3M1	None	Half-Lap & Top-side Spline	None	Loaded, See Manufacturer	1	18	SwRI

# Tall Wood Buildings in the 2021 IBC

## *Up to 18 Stories of Mass Timber*

Scott Brneman, Ph.D., SE, WoodWorks – Wood Products Council • Matt Timmers, SE, John A. Martin & Associates  
• Dennis Richardson, PE, CDR, CASp, American Wood Council

In January 2018, 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 (Brneman 2013, Timmers 2015). Around the world there



# WoodWorks Tall Wood Design Resource

[http://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood\\_solution\\_paper-TALL-WOOD.pdf](http://www.woodworks.org/wp-content/uploads/wood_solution_paper-TALL-WOOD.pdf)

Via Cenni	Milan, Italy	8	2013
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**TECHNICAL BRIEF**

# Demonstrating Fire-Resistance Ratings for Mass Timber Elements in Tall Wood Structures

Richard McLain, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director – Tall Wood, WoodWorks

Changes to the 2021 International Building Code (IBC) have created opportunities for wood buildings that are much larger and taller than prescriptively allowed in past versions of the code. Occupant safety, and the need to ensure fire performance in particular, was a fundamental consideration as the changes were developed and approved. The result is three new construction types—Type IV-A, IV-B and IV-C—which are based on the previous Heavy Timber construction type (renamed Type IV-HT), but with additional fire protection requirements.

One of the main ways to demonstrate that a building will meet the required level of passive fire protection, regardless of structural materials, is through hourly fire-resistance ratings (FRRs) of its elements and assemblies. The IBC defines an FRR as *the period of time a building element, component or assembly maintains the ability to confine a fire, continues to perform a given structural function, or both, as determined by the tests, or the methods based on tests, prescribed in Section 703.*

FRRs for the new construction types are similar to those required for Type I construction, which is primarily steel and concrete.<sup>1</sup> (See Table 1.) They are found in IBC Table 601, which includes FRR requirements for all construction types and building elements; however, other code sections should be checked for overriding provisions (e.g., occupancy separation, shaft enclosures, etc.) that may alter the requirement.



Image: Korb + Associates Architects

Ascent | Milwaukee, WI  
 Architect: Korb + Associates Architects  
 Structural Engineer: Thornton Tomasetti

**TABLE 1:  
 FRR Requirements (Hours) for Tall Mass Timber Construction Types and Existing Type I**

Building Element	I-A Unlimited stories,	IV-A Max. 18 stories,	I-B Max. 12 stories,	IV-B Max. 12 stories,	IV-C Max. 9 stories,
Interior bearing walls	3	3	4	4	4
Roof Deck	1.5	1.5	2	2	2

# Tall Timber Fire-Resistance Design

**TECHNICAL BRIEF**

# Shaft Wall Requirements in Tall Mass Timber Buildings

*Richard McLain, PE, SE • Senior Technical Director • Tall Wood, WoodWorks*

The 2021 International Building Code (IBC) introduced three new construction types—Type IV-A, IV-B and IV-C—which allow tall mass timber buildings. For details on the new types and their requirements, see the WoodWorks paper, *Tall Wood Buildings in the 2021 IBC – Up to 18 Stories of Mass Timber.* This paper builds on that document with an in-depth look at the requirements for shaft walls, including when and where wood can be used.

## Shaft Enclosure Requirements in the 2021 IBC

A shaft is defined in Section 202 of the 2021 IBC as “an enclosed space extending through one or more stories of a building, connecting vertical openings in successive floors, or floors and roof.” Therefore, shaft enclosure requirements apply to stairs, elevators, and mechanical/electrical/plumbing (MEP) chases in multi-story buildings. While these applications may be similar in their fire design requirements, they tend to differ in terms of their assemblies, detailing, and construction constraints.

Shaft enclosures are specifically addressed in IBC Section 713. However, because shaft enclosure walls must be constructed as fire barriers per Section 713.2, many shaft wall requirements reference provisions for fire barriers found in Section 707.

## Allowable Shaft Wall Materials

Provisions addressing materials permitted in shaft wall



*Generative Architecture and Technologies • MIT – John Klein*

A relatively new category of wood products, mass timber can

# Shaft Enclosure Design in Tall Timber

utilizing construction Types IV-A, IV-B, or IV-C is that they

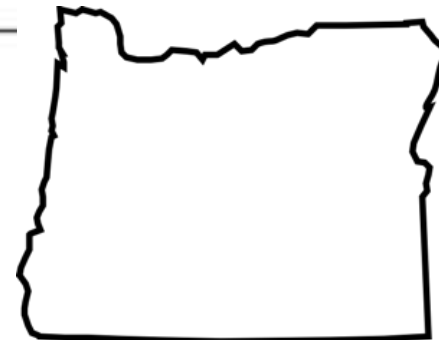
Structural elements of Type IV construction primarily of



An aerial photograph of a tall building under construction, showcasing a complex wooden frame. The structure consists of numerous vertical studs and horizontal beams, all made of light-colored wood. The building is surrounded by other urban structures and greenery. A semi-transparent white banner with bold, dark brown text is centered across the middle of the image. The text reads "EARLY TALL WOOD CODE ADOPTION".

# 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 BUILDING CODE



CHAPTER 51-50 WAC

## INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE 2015 Edition

Includes adoption of and amendments to  
the 2015 International Existing Building Code  
and  
ICC/ANSI A117.1-2009



Credit: State of Washington

TABLE 504.3  
ALLOWABLE BUILDING HEIGHT IN FEET ABOVE GRADE PLANE\*

Occupancy Classification	See Footnotes	Type of Construction										
		Type I		Type II		Type III		Type IV				
		A	B	A	B	A	B	A	B	C	HT	
A, B, E, F, M, S, U	NS <sup>b</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	65	65	65	65
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	270	180	85	85	85
H-1, H-2, H-3, H-5	NS <sup>d,e</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	120	90	65	65	65
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	140	100	85	85	85
H-4	NS <sup>d,e</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	65	65	65	65
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	140	100	85	85	85
I-1 Condition 1, I-3	NS <sup>d,e</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	65	65	65	65
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	180	120	85	85	85
I-1 Condition 2, I-2	NS <sup>d,e,f</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	65	65	65	65
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	180	120	85	85	85
I-4	NS <sup>d,e</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	65	65	65	65
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	180	120	85	85	85
R	NS <sup>f</sup>	UL	160	65	55	65	55	65	65	65	65	65
	S13R	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60	60
	S	UL	180	85	75	85	75	270	180	85	85	85

\*See 504.3.1 for additional information.

# Denver Adopts Tall Mass Timber Codes

 milehighcre — January 6, 2020

On December 23, the [City of Denver](#) voted to adopt the 2019 Denver Building Code, which includes the tall mass timber code provisions approved for the 2021 International Building Code (IBC).

As part of the adoption of the new code, there will be a four-month period where new projects can use either the 2016 Denver Building Code or the newly-adopted 2019 version. After four months, all building and fire code permits will be processed under the 2019 Denver Building Code.

"We congratulate the City of Denver on incorporating mass timber into its building codes, and recognizing the potential of this new category of wood products to revolutionize the way America builds," said [American Wood Council](#) president & CEO Robert Glowinski. "Mass timber offers the strength of historic building materials with lower weight, and, in the rare event of a fire, has inherent fire resistance. Beyond the aesthetic qualities of mass timber that building owners and designers are seeking, wood is among the most energy-efficient and environmentally friendly of all construction materials, storing carbon from the atmosphere for long periods of time."

The adopted proposal to recognize mass timber in the new code was submitted by Dr. Gregory R. Kingsley on behalf of the [Structural Engineers Association of Colorado](#). The American Wood Council provided technical assistance to the city in support of the proposal.

The 2019 Denver Building Code will now recognize three new types of construction that also are included in the 2021 IBC:



## AMENDMENTS TO THE BUILDING AND FIRE CODE FOR THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

### The 2019 Denver Building and Fire Code includes the following codes except as amended herein.

#### APPENDIX U TALL WOOD BUILDINGS

##### SECTION U101 GENERAL

**U101.1 Purpose.** The purpose of this appendix is to provide criteria for three new mass timber construction types: Type IV-A, Type IV-B, and Type IV-C. These building types expand the allowable use of mass timber construction to larger areas and greater heights than allowed for Type IV-HT construction.

**U101.2 Scope.** The provisions in this appendix are in addition to or replace the sections in the 2018 *International Building Code* where Types IV-A, IV-B, and IV-C construction are used. Where building Types IV-A, IV-B, or IV-C are not used, this appendix does not apply.

##### SECTION U102 AMENDMENTS TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

(Under use of this appendix chapter, the following sections shall be modified or added as follows and shall supersede the corresponding sections in the International Building Code or Denver amendments to the International Building Code)





## H.B. 54 Building Construction Amendments

Bill Text

Status

Enrolled

H.B. 54

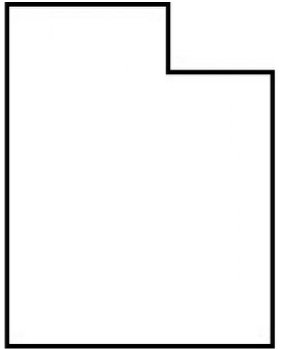
Printer Friendly

1 **BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AMENDMENTS**

2

3 2020 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH



58 (5) "Utah Code" means the Utah Code Annotated (1953), as amended.

59 Section 2. Section **15A-2-101** is amended to read:

60 **15A-2-101. Title -- Adoption of code.**

61 (1) This chapter is known as the "Adoption of State Construction Code."

62 (2) In accordance with Chapter 1, Part 2, State Construction Code Administration Act,

63 the Legislature repeals the State Construction Code in effect on July 1, 2010, and adopts the

64 following as the State Construction Code:

65 (a) this chapter;

66 (b) Chapter 2a, Tall Wood Buildings of Mass Timber Construction Incorporated as

67 Part of State Construction Code;

68 ~~[(b)]~~ (c) Chapter 3, Statewide Amendments Incorporated as Part of State Construction

69 Code; ~~[and]~~

70 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) Chapter 4, Local Amendments Incorporated as Part of State Construction

71 Code~~[-];~~ ~~and~~

72 (e) Chapter 6, Additional Construction Requirements.

73 Section 3. Section **15A-2-102** is amended to read:

74 **15A-2-102. Definitions.**

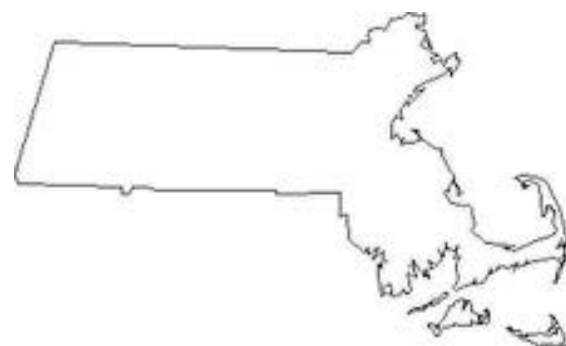
75 As used in this chapter ~~[and]~~, Chapter 2a, Tall Wood Buildings of Mass Timber

76 Construction Incorporated as Part of State Construction Code, Chapter 3, Statewide

77 Amendments Incorporated as Part of State Construction Code, and Chapter 4, Local

78 Amendments Incorporated as Part of State Construction Code:

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Division of Professional Licensure**  
Office of Public Safety & Inspections  
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710- Boston MA 02118



## *Proposed Tenth Edition Building Code*

Join Our List

Join Our Mailing List!

Ladies and Gentlemen -

This message is sent to inform you that members of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) have decided to take a different path with regard to the tenth edition building code.

Initially, BBRS members intended to use the 2018 International Codes as the basis for the tenth edition, targeting an implementation date of January, 2020. For numerous reasons, they have decided to redirect efforts and, instead, plan to develop the tenth edition code using the 2021 International Codes as a template, with an effective date of January 1, 2021.

This effort **does not** affect promulgation of new energy code requirements based on the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) scheduled to become effective on January 1, 2020. (Massachusetts General Law Chapter 143, Section 94(a) requires BBRS members to advance energy provisions on a particular cycle.)



# QUESTIONS?

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