

During three weeks this past October and November, NADRA was able to participate in the 2009 International Code Council Annual Conference and Code Development Hearings in Baltimore, Maryland. Thousands of code change proposals were heard and voted upon by the ICC Committee on both the International Residential Code and the International Building Code.

Hearing Result Highlights:

RB94 – Removal of Seismic example for making ledger attachment. **Disapproved.** The committee's view was that since it is the only example of a ledger attachment currently in the code, it should remain there.

RB90 – Creating a Deck section in Chapter 5. Spoke in support. **Approved.**

RB182 – Appendix R. Adding an index of where to find deck related code, and referencing spans for wet surface use calculations for wood. **Disapproved.** The committee said that they would prefer deck requirements be in the code itself versus in an appendix; fearing that it would not necessarily be then "required". The committee suggested that we use the section just established in Chapter 5 through RB90 to become the index and work with that.

IBC

E101 – IBC 1013.2 Height. Referring to required guards, this proposal modified the 42" guard required in the IBC to allow an exception for type R3 (houses) and type R2 (townhouses) for guards at 36". **Approved.** This brings the IRC and IBC into agreement.

For a summary of NADRA's activities at the recent ICC Code Development Hearings, and

A complete list of the code hearing results may be found at www.iccsafe.org, in the Code Development Section.

We are currently in the Public Comment phase, where interested parties may publish comments in support or against the decisions of the committee. The next round of hearings, the Final Action Hearings, will hear these Public Comments and related testimony. Then the code change proposals will be finally voted upon by the entire voting membership of the ICC in attendance. For this cycle, the Final Action Hearings are to be split into two separate sets, one in May and one in October 2010. Most of the IRC proposals will be heard in May, which puts the Public Comment deadline in early February. Your Codes and Standards Committee will be working on its Public Comments between now and February.

The need to be aware of code development applies to all sectors of the decking industry. The threat to the bottom line may not so much be the competition across the room or alternative materials, but rather the sometimes onerous code requirements, lack of education, and possibly even the concrete industry – i.e. if decks become too complicated for consumers to pursue, they will pour concrete patios or use pavers instead for their backyard living space. NADRA urges its members to be fully aware of what goes on in the deck code arena, and to be watchful even when the code change appears to be indirect to the member's business. Ultimately, deck code affects every one of us.