

Workshop Themes
IRCC Meeting - Japan

Workshop 2

“Building Products in Building Codes and Inspection”

13th MAY – (1 pm – 5 pm)(Open Workshop Session to Japan Invitees & IRCC Members)

Introduction

Building Codes commonly require building products to meet certain building product standards. When the actual construction is undertaken however, what product certification scheme is used and what inspection verification system is employed becomes a key question. While products certification schemes seem to be reasonably in place in some countries, a system of inspection verification during construction is a more difficult issue to address. How a construction inspector identifies and verifies that products meet the requirements in the design specifications and plan during construction is becoming increasingly difficult as new technologies are employed and imported products become more prevalent. Japan is interested in how the other countries are addressing the product certification and inspection verification during the construction of a structure.

There are many issues related to these two questions and the following are some of the points to consider:

1. If there is some “Mark” (eg, CE mark) on products, is it easier for the inspector (and contractor) to identify at a construction site? Some products (eg. Structural steel) which was manufactured as standard/certified products have some identification tied to the manufacturer and a national material specification. But during the processing/trading/installation stage, the identification or “Mark” may be unreadable by the inspector or contractor. In that case, how can an inspector judge product’s conformity to the building code (or to the design specifications) at a construction site? Do the building code requirements take into account the issues in advance? If so, how?
2. Even if there is a “Mark” or any other identification on the products, how is one to determine whether these are correct or false information? Is there some kind of product traceability that can be provided to ascertain product acceptability for compliance with the specifications required by the building codes? How can we ensure a products traceability and how is this covered in the building code?
- 3) In cases where a standard/certification of products allows some variation, how are

these variations addressed? Are product substitutions allowed during construction and how are they handled by the contractor and the inspector? Does a design specification designate a specific method for the variation in general? If there is no information in design specification, how can an inspector understand the variation is conforming to the standards/certification of products?

Workshop 2 Agenda

Workshop Moderator – (Bill Dodds)

1 pm – 1:30 pm

Welcome to workshop by Japan Host

Japan Presentation

1:30 pm – 2 pm

Australian Experience (Mike Balch)

2 pm – 2:30 pm

United States Experience (Rick Okawa)

2:30 pm – 3 pm

Singapore Experience (Ong See Ho)

3 pm – 3:15 pm

Break

3:15 pm – 3:45 pm

European Experience (Riener Mutikus)

3:45 pm 4:15 pm

Netherlands Experience (IJsbrand van Stralen)

"Product Certification and Inspection Verification of CE-marking - The Dutch Situation compared with the French, German and UK Situations"

4:15 pm – 5 pm

General Discussion (Moderator – Bill Dodds)