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Participation in Canada's National Code Development Process

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Canadian Codes Centre



National Research
Council Canada


Conseil national
de recherches Canada



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Outline

- Parties – who
- Process – what actions, when



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Code Participation: Parties

Three partners:


- National Research Council
- provinces and territories
- construction community



Code Participation: Parties - NRC

National Research Council

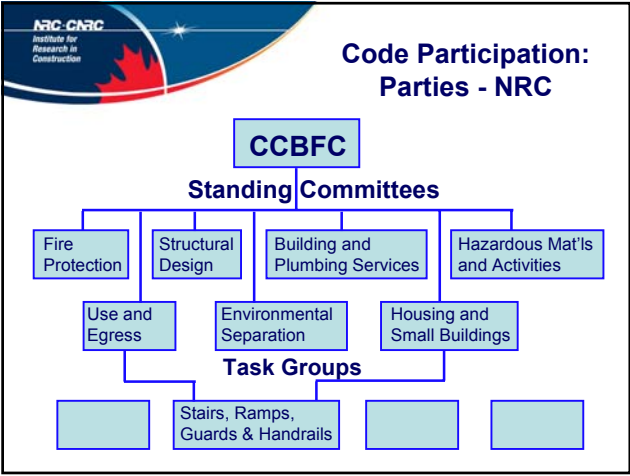

- provides research support to the development of the national model codes
- provides a construction materials evaluation service for industry and the regulatory authorities
- provides administrative support to the CCBFC and PTPACC



Code Participation: Parties - NRC

Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC)

- appointed by NRC (balanced representation from major sectors)
- provides overall governance to the code development process
- approves changes to the national model codes

Code Participation: Parties - PTs

Three partners:

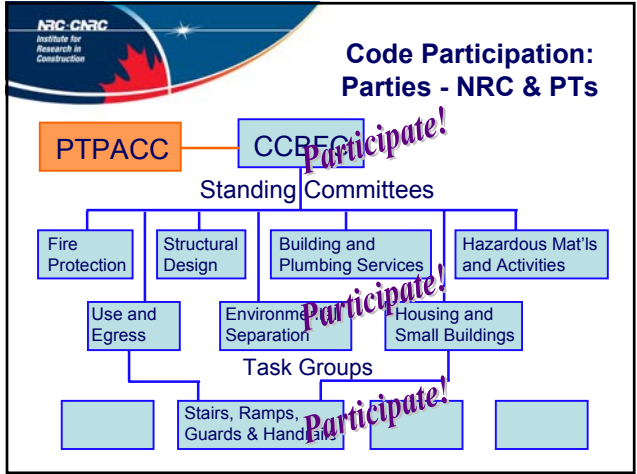
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Code Participation: Parties - PTs

Provincial/Territorial Policy Advisory Committee on Codes (PTPACC)

- created by deputy ministers
- provides policy advice to the CCBFC
- 3 Sub-Committees:
 - Fire
 - Building
 - Plumbing



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Code Participation: Parties - Const'n Community

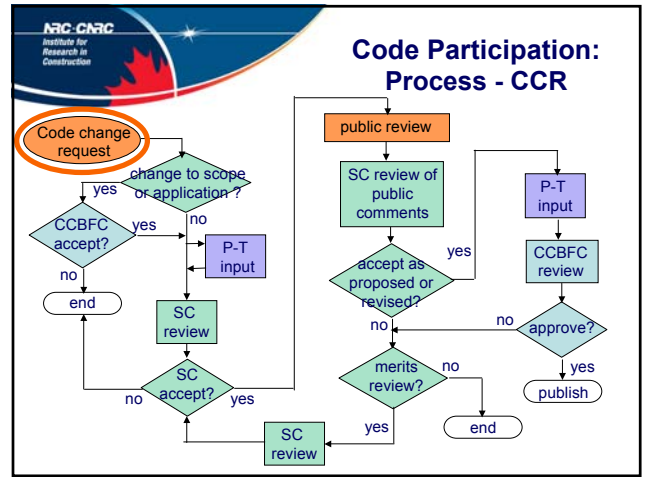
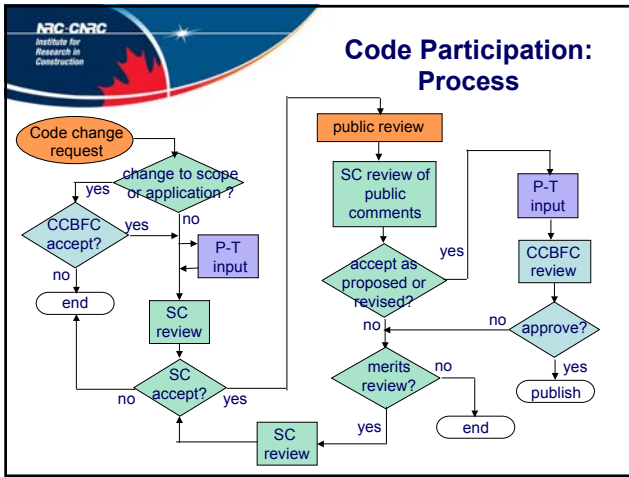
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Code Change Request

- Anyone can request a code change
- Link to request a change
http://www.nationalcodes.ca/request_contact_e.shtml

Code Change Request

- Links to Request a Change
- www.nationalcodes.ca
 - select language
 - select “Request a Code Change” from “Quick Links” menu



Code Change Request: Guidelines


Guidelines for Proposing Changes to the National Code Documents

- Guidelines for Requesting a Change to a Model National Code
- Who Must Be Convinced?
- Supporting Documentation
- Cost/Benefit Analysis
- Enforceability
- Clarity
- Timing
- Objectives
- Issues

Who Must Be Convinced?
 Suggestions for changes to the National Code Documents are welcome from anyone at any time; the Codes must change to keep up-to-date. However, they have a long history of successful use and should only be changed when necessary. The standing committees which deal with proposed changes to the Codes have very limited resources; the committees' support staff in the Canadian Codes Centre has limited resources to ensure that proposals for change are in a form that is appropriate for consideration by a committee. Thinking of submitting a change proposal should bear the following points in mind.

Supporting Documentation
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Cost/Benefit Analysis
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Cost/Benefit Analysis




Objective-Based Code: Scope

“The NBC establishes provisions to address ...

- safety
- health
- accessibility for persons with disabilities
- fire and structural protection of buildings.”

The Code does not address all issues

- examples:
 - aesthetics
 - protection of building contents
 - privacy




Objective-Based Code: Scope

“Code provisions do not necessarily address all the **characteristics** of buildings that might be considered to have a bearing on the Code’s objectives.”

Scope:

- the Code does not address all issues related to safety, health, accessibility for persons with disabilities, or fire and structural protection of buildings (S/H/A/P)
 - psychological health
 - structural protection of the building from vandalism



Objective-Based Code: Application of Scope

“Code provisions do not necessarily address all the **characteristics** of buildings that might be considered to have a bearing on the Code’s objectives.”

Application:

- the Code does not address all issues related to S/H/A/P for all building elements, at all stages or for all persons
 - structural safety of kitchen cabinet installations
 - safety of construction workers



Objective-Based Code: Need to Regulate

Other vehicles

- manufacturers’ information
- standards
- insurance requirements
- design & best practice guides
- consumer information
- provincial & territorial regulations, bylaws
- third party testing, certification, inspection
- training
- trades & professional responsibilities and licensing
- contract law

Canada’s Construction System – the context for model codes
http://www.nationalcodes.ca/ccbf/constructionssystem_e.pdf

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Code Participation

Complying with the Code is the starting point, not the end point, for building good buildings.

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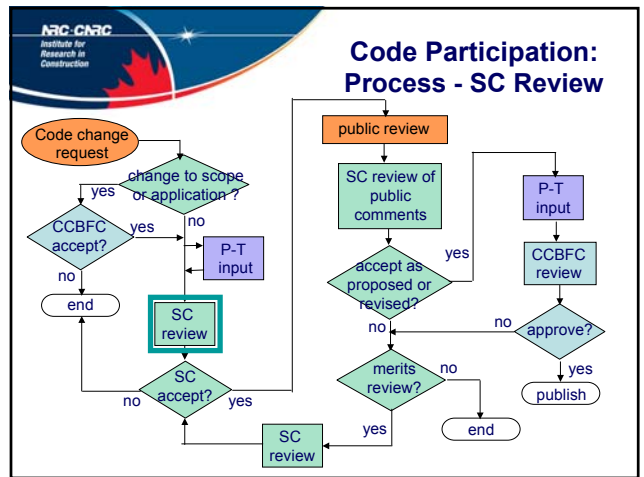
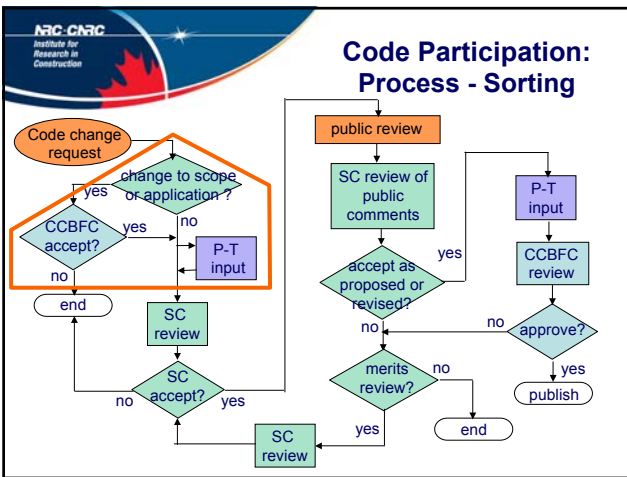
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 - Issues
 - technical
 - widespread

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Cost/Benefit Analysis



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Code Participation: Process - SC Review

- Review of Code Change Requests
 - Need to regulate
 - Specification of minimum acceptable level of performance
 - Cost-benefit
 - Compliance and enforcement

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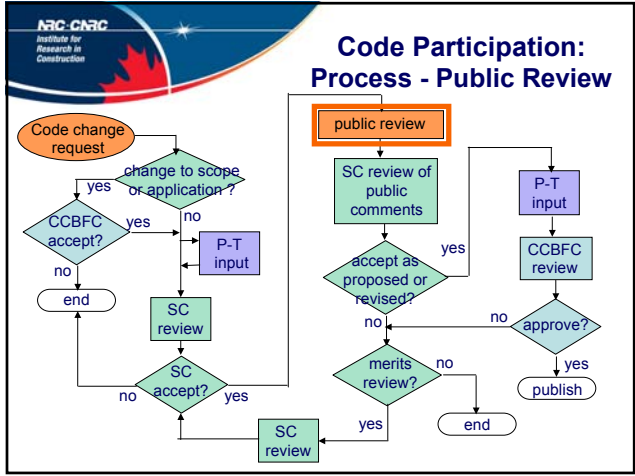
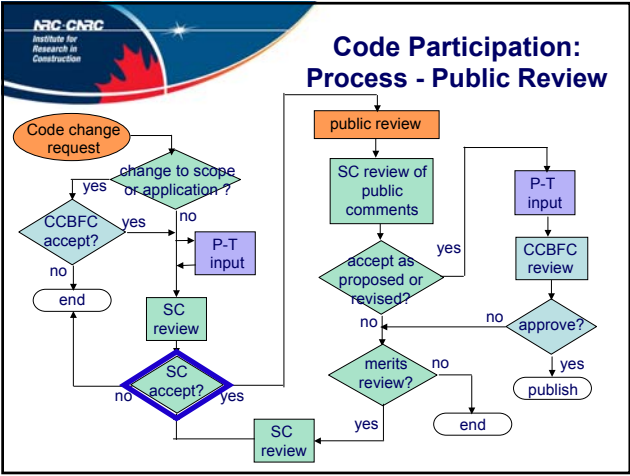
Role of the Code: Minimum - Performance

“... [the Code’s] provisions can be considered as the **minimum** acceptable measures required to adequately achieve the above-listed objectives”

Minimum Performance Levels

- different situations = different criteria ≠ different performance levels

stairs in dwelling units	vs.	stairs not in dwelling units
limited winders		no winders
no minimum number of risers		min. 3 risers
stairs < 1100 mm wide	vs	stairs ≥1100 mm wide
1 hand rail		2 hand rails

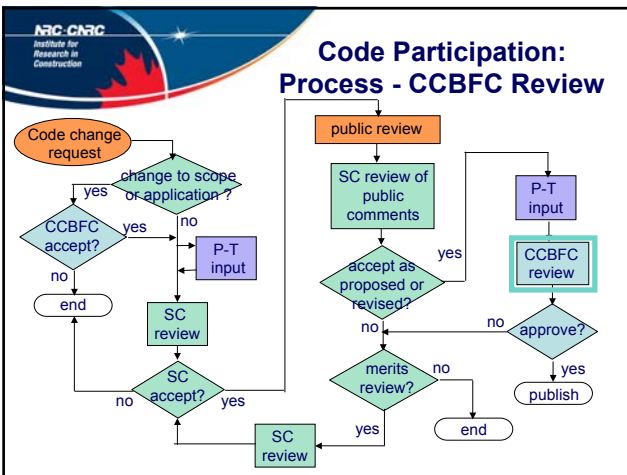
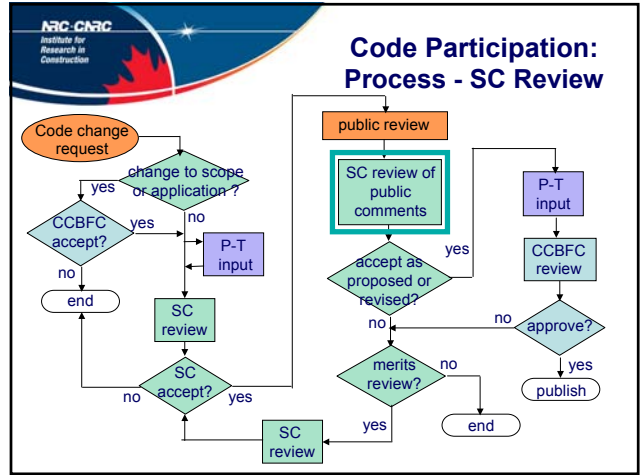


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Code Participation: Process - Public Review

Public Review

- for proposed changes to 1995 model codes
 - technical changes submitted to public review 1300
 - comments received 7000



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Summary

Parties	Process
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CCBFC standing committees task groups provinces & territories construction community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> code change request SC review public review SC review CCBFC review

Participate!

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Questions?



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