

Code Change No: G12-19 Part II

Original Proposal

Section(s): IRC: [RB]202

Proponent: Don Scott, Representing National Council of Structural Engineers Association, representing National Council of Structural Engineers Association (dscott@pcs-structural.com)

THIS IS A TWO PART PROPOSAL. PART I WILL BE HEARD BY THE IBC-STRUCTURAL COMMITTEE. PART II WILL BE HEARD BY THE IRC-BUILDING COMMITTEE. PLEASE CHECK THE RESPECTIVE HEARING AGENDAS.

2018 International Residential Code

[RB] WINDBORNE DEBRIS REGION. Areas within *hurricane-prone regions* located in accordance with one of the following:

1. Within 1 mile (1.61 km) of the ~~coastal~~ mean high-water line where an Exposure D condition exists upwind at the waterline and the ultimate design wind speed, V_{ult} , is 130 mph (58 m/s) or greater.
2. In areas where the ultimate design wind speed, V_{ult} , is 140 mph (63.6 m/s) or greater; or Hawaii.

Reason: Significant confusion has arisen in hurricane-prone regions in trying to determine windborne debris regions because the term "coastal mean high waterline" is not a mapped or defined term. Due to this lack of definition, some jurisdictions have incorrectly interpreted areas within one mile of the mean high waterline along narrow inland tidal waterways to be in windborne debris regions. The primary intent behind paragraph No. 1, is that within one mile of the coast, hurricane wind speeds will be governed by the wind speed over the open water, i.e. an Exposure Category D rather than an inland Exposure Category C situation on which the basic wind speed and paragraph No. 2 are based. This CCP clarifies that the waterline has to be classified as an Exposure D in order for paragraph No. 1 to apply. It also deletes the word "coastal" since wind speed increases could occur at large inland waterways in hurricane-prone regions as well. Also, NOAA maintains a database of the "mean high waterline" values in the US, which can be used in conjunction with this definition.

Cost Impact: The code change proposal will not increase or decrease the cost of construction. This code change proposal is location dependent on its impact on construction costs, however by providing a definition of the windborne debris zone, it will eliminate confusion as to where to apply the windborne debris protection requirements.

Report of Committee Action Hearings

Committee Action:

Approved as Submitted

Committee Reason: Provides for exposure D in hurricane prone regions and areas where there is water. Outside of coastal areas you are out of hurricane prone regions. The committee agrees with removal of the word "coastal" as it is not a mapped or defined term. This more clearly indicates that we are talking about the water line and exposure D at the water line. (Vote: 8-3)

Assembly Action:

None

Final Action

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