

# **Actions of Massachusetts Structural Advisory Committee**

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The Massachusetts Structural Advisory Committee (SAC) has been very active over the last several months. This committee serves the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) and is responsible for developing and recommending to the BBRS front end, Massachusetts amendments to the International Building Code, which is the basis of the Massachusetts State Building Code (MSBC). The current edition of the MSBC includes many front end amendments, many of these carried forward without great discussion or scrutiny from earlier versions of the MSBC.

The BBRS is interested in minimizing the number of front end amendments and charged its advisory committees to review all amendments, especially those that might add cost to construction. The SAC completed its review and reported its recommendations to the BBRS in early January. A brief summary of the code changes that are likely to result later this year is summarized below:

## **Chapter 16**

- 1604.11 – The wind speeds and ground snow loads in Table 1604.11 will be modified to more closely align with the values mapped in ASCE7-05. A new column will be added to this table listing a minimum flat roof snow load for each community equal to the value in the MSBC 6<sup>th</sup> Edition.
- 1605.3.1 – This special load combination will be deleted.
- 1607.1 – The design live load for classrooms will be changed to match ASCE7-05.
- 1607.9.1.6 and 1607.9.1.7 – These restrictions on use of live load reduction will be deleted.

## **Chapter 34**

- 101.10, 606.2.1, 606.3.1 and modifications to Tables A1-A, A1-B, A1-F and A1-G – The BBRS voted in October 2011 to delete the Massachusetts amendments to these sections and tables. A subcommittee of the SAC developed a new proposal that will bring forward concepts included in the MSBC 6<sup>th</sup> Edition to take their place. The proposed provisions are contained in the following article by Mike Fillion.