Determination of occupant load

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When working with the NMS, specifiers select the sections they want for their project specifications, edit them as needed and add new information permitting them to produce a specification tailored to a particular project. The use of the NMS in this way ensures that project specifications reflect current practices and production techniques, and that requirements are clearly and precisely spelled out.

Both the National Advisory Board and the GMS Policy Committee have reached the conclusion that the future of the NMS program depends on continued federal involvement. Furthermore, retaining the federal government in its current role as guardian of the system will ensure that the NMS continues to serve its original clientele—federal departments and agencies. Continued federal involvement, together with input from the private sector, will also ensure future enhancement of the NMS as a result of technological developments and the requirements of the Canadian construction scene.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW SECRETARY TO ACNBC

Robert A. Kearney has been appointed as the new Secretary to the Associate Committee on the National Building Code of Canada by the National Research Council, succeeding R. Hunter Dunn, who retired recently.

Mr. Kearney was born in Montreal. He was educated at Westmount High School and McGill University, from which he graduated with a BSc degree in 1951.

Robert A. Kearney

Following graduation Mr. Kearney was employed by the Canadian Underwriters' Association in Montreal, where he was responsible for fire protection surveys of a wide range of industrial properties. In 1955 he joined the staff of the Office of the Dominion Fire Commissioner in Ottawa, where he was responsible for the fire protection standards produced by that office.

During his years with the Office of the Dominion Fire Commissioner, he served on a number of technical committees including the ACNBC Standing Committee on Part 6 (Heating, Ventilating and Air-Conditioning), the Canadian Standards Association committees on solid-fuel burning appliances and equipment, the Canadian Gas Association committees on gas-burning appliances and equipment, and the Underwriters' Laboratories of Canada committees on fire alarm systems.

STAFF OPINIONS ON CODE REQUIREMENTS

Staff opinions are published as a service to Code users, but should not be considered as official interpretations of Code requirements. Final responsibility for such interpretations rests with the authority having jurisdiction.

DETERMINATION OF OCCUPANT LOAD

by J.F. Berndt, P.Eng.

The occupant load of a particular area of a building is intended to be determined on the basis of the number of persons for whom the area is designed (see definition of "occupant load" and Clause 3.1.14.1.(1)(c)). This implies that the designer knows the number of people to be accommodated or that the layout and expected use of the space is such that the number of occupants can be anticipated with a reasonable degree of certainty.

Table 3.1.14.A. is intended for use as a set of minimum values when an evaluation of the design does not clearly indicate the number of persons that can be expected. It provides minimum area per person values for those uses which are commonly encountered in buildings. For uses which cannot be clearly identified with one of the entries in the Table, the designer may develop an area per person value by comparison with the values for similar uses in the Table.

By way of illustration, the occupant load of a museum depends to a large extent on the manner in which the public circulates to view the displays. In an art gallery, with art works located at random in an open floor space, the occupant load could be much higher than in a special display museum in which the public is restricted to specific paths of travel by aisles or corridors. The designer should first try to evaluate the intended use of the museum space and develop an appropriate occupant load based on that use. If it is not feasible to determine a design

occupant load on the basis of evaluation, he must then use Table 3.1.14.A. Since the Table does not provide a specific entry for museums, a best-fit value should be established by relating the specific use of the museum to similar uses in the Table.

It should be realized that the values in Table 3.1.14.A. relate to the gross area of the space involved, including the space occupied by furniture or fixtures. If, for example, the Table entry "space with non-fixed seats and tables" were used for the museum, the 0.95 m^2 per person assigned value includes the area occupied by seats and tables and thus, should be applied to the entire room area, including the space occupied by exhibits. (*Mr. Berndt is a Technical Advisor to the Standing Committee on Use and Occupancy.*)

CONFERENCES OF INTEREST

The 4th *Canadian Workshop on Wind Engineering* will be held in Toronto, Ontario from 19 to 20 November, 1984 at the Constellation Hotel.

Some of the topics of the workshop will include component failure in low and high rise buildings; the role of internal pressures on cladding design in low and high rise buildings; properties of glass and specifics of cladding design; load paths on rainscreen walls; and loads on appurtenances.

The aim of the workshop is to provide comprehensive notes on each of these specialty topics, and to provide a forum for stimulating discussion among architects, practicing engineers and the leading authorities in the field. Speakers at the workshop will include Dr. Joe Minor of the Institute of Disaster Research at Texas Tech University; Dr. Hans Gerhardt of Aachen, West Germany; Dr. Alan Davenport of the University of Western Ontario; Dr. Peter Irwin of Morrison Hershfield Limited; Dr. Alan Dalgleish of NRC and Dr. R. Kind of Carleton University.

As a special feature Dr. Bjarni Tryggvason, a member of the executive of the Canadian Wind Engineering Association and one of Canada's first astronauts, will be the banquet speaker. He will give a presentation outlining the history of Canada's role in space exploration, and an outline of the Canadian Astronaut Program and the possible role for Canada in future space exploration and research.

The meeting is being co-sponsored by the Canadian Wind Engineering Association, and the National Research Council of Canada. The cost for the two-day workshop, including lunches, dinner and printed notes will be $190.00. Those interested in attending the workshop should contact Mr. K. Charbonneau, Chief, Conference Services, National Research Council of Canada, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0R6, phone: 613-993-9009.

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The 76th annual meeting of the *Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs* will be held from 19 to 23 August, 1984 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Vancouver, B.C.

The theme of the meeting will be "Fire Management — Problems, Solutions and Future Needs." Attendance at the conference should exceed that of any previous annual meeting, as all Canadian Fire Chiefs, the Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners of Canadian Hospitals, together with over 600 industrial Fire Chiefs and Safety Officers are being invited to participate.

For further information contact Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs, c/o Emile Therien, Executive Director, 1590-7 Liverpool Court, Ottawa, Ontario K1B 4L2, tel: 613-749-3825.

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The 63rd annual conference of the *Canadian Association of Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners* will be held from 8 to 13 July, 1984 at the Charlottetown Inn, Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Additional information may be obtained by contacting Mr. C.R. Kennedy, Provincial Fire Marshal, Department of Community Services, P.O. Box 2000, Charlottetown, P.E.I. C1A 7N8, tel: 902-892-0311 or Mr. J.H.L. Lamarche, c/o Fire Commissioner of Canada, Sir Charles Tupper Building, Confederation Heights, Riverside Drive, Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0M2, tel: 613-998-9678.