



ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR WINDOW WELLS

AC337

Approved October 2005

Effective November 1, 2005

PREFACE

Evaluation reports issued by ICC Evaluation Service, Inc. (ICC-ES), are based upon performance features of the International family of codes and other widely adopted code families, including the Uniform Codes, the BOCA National Codes, and the SBCCI Standard Codes. Section 104.11 of the *International Building Code*® reads as follows:

The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any materials or to prohibit any design or method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved. An alternative material, design or method of construction shall be approved where the building official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

Similar provisions are contained in the Uniform Codes, the National Codes, and the Standard Codes.

This acceptance criteria has been issued to provide all interested parties with guidelines for demonstrating compliance with performance features of the applicable code(s) referenced in the acceptance criteria. The criteria was developed and adopted following public hearings conducted by the ICC-ES Evaluation Committee, and is effective on the date shown above. All reports issued or reissued on or after the effective date must comply with this criteria, while reports issued prior to this date may be in compliance with this criteria or with the previous edition. If the criteria is an updated version from the previous edition, a solid vertical line (|) in the margin within the criteria indicates a technical change, addition, or deletion from the previous edition. A deletion indicator (→) is provided in the margin where a paragraph has been deleted if the deletion involved a technical change. This criteria may be further revised as the need dictates.

ICC-ES may consider alternate criteria, provided the report applicant submits valid data demonstrating that the alternate criteria are at least equivalent to the criteria set forth in this document, and otherwise demonstrate compliance with the performance features of the codes. Notwithstanding that a product, material, or type or method of construction meets the requirements of the criteria set forth in this document, or that it can be demonstrated that valid alternate criteria are equivalent to the criteria in this document and otherwise demonstrate compliance with the performance features of the codes, ICC-ES retains the right to refuse to issue or renew an evaluation report, if the product, material, or type or method of construction is such that either unusual care with its installation or use must be exercised for satisfactory performance, or if malfunctioning is apt to cause unreasonable property damage or personal injury or sickness relative to the benefits to be achieved by the use of the product, material, or type or method of construction.

Copyright © 2005

ACCEPTANCE CRITERIA FOR WINDOW WELLS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Purpose: The purpose of this acceptance criteria is to establish requirements for window wells to be recognized in an ICC Evaluation Service, Inc. (ICC-ES), evaluation report under the 2003 *International Building Code*[®] (IBC) and the 2003 *International Residential Code*[®] (IRC). Bases of recognition are IBC Section 1025 and IRC Section R310.

1.2 Scope: This acceptance criteria includes requirements for window wells used with basement emergency escape and rescue windows.

1.3 Codes and Referenced Standards: Where standards are referenced in this criteria, these standards shall be applied consistently with the code (IBC or IRC) upon which compliance is based.

1.3.1 2003 *International Building Code*[®] (IBC), International Code Council.

1.3.2 2003 *International Residential Code*[®] (IRC), International Code Council.

2.0 BASIC INFORMATION

2.1 General: The following information shall be submitted:

2.1.1 Product Description: Complete information concerning unit dimensions, configuration, material specifications, and manufacturing process. The information shall include dimensioned scaled drawings.

2.1.2 Installation Instructions: Installation instructions and details, including limitations, fastening methods, joint treatments, and surface treatments.

2.1.3 Packaging and Identification: A description of the method of packaging and field identification of the window well. Identification provisions shall include the evaluation report number and the name or logo of the inspection agency.

2.1.4 Field Preparation: A description of the methods of field-cutting, application, trimming or forming, and treatment of cut edges.

2.2 Testing Laboratories: Testing laboratories shall comply with Section 2.0 of the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Test Reports (AC85) and Section 4.2 of the ICC-ES Rules of Procedure for Evaluation Reports.

2.3 Test Reports: Test reports shall comply with AC85.

2.4 Product Sampling: Sampling of the window wells for tests under this criteria shall comply with Section 3.1 of AC85.

3.0 TEST AND PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

3.1 General: Minimum dimensions of window wells shall be in accordance with Section 1025.5.1 of the IBC and Section R310.2 of the IRC. Ladders or steps shall be provided in accordance with Section 1025.5.2 of the IBC and Section R310.2.1 of the IRC.

3.2 Window Well Retaining Wall: Calculations in accordance with the applicable code shall be submitted for the retaining wall forming the window well. The calculations

shall clearly define the allowable soil load and, if applicable, allowable surcharge load. The calculations shall be signed and sealed by the design professional of record.

3.3 Ladder Rungs: Details of affixed ladder rungs, including attachment of the ladder rungs to the window well retaining wall, shall be submitted. Calculations in accordance with the applicable code for the design of the ladder rungs shall be submitted. Ladder rungs shall be designed for a minimum load of 300 pounds applied on a maximum 4-inch-wide section located at the center of the ladder rung and the edge of the ladder rung. The ladder rungs need not be designed for both loads occurring simultaneously. The calculations shall be signed and sealed by the design professional of record.

3.4 Window Well Opening Covers: Window wells shall be provided with an opening cover. The cover shall be designed in accordance with the applicable code to support a minimum live load of 40 pounds per square foot. The cover shall be operable from within the window well without the use of tools or special knowledge, and shall require no more than 30 pounds of force to fully open.

3.5 Durability: All components and materials from which the window well is constructed shall be corrosion-resistant. Evidence shall be submitted establishing the corrosion resistance. Additionally, evidence of the durability of the materials that are in direct contact with soil shall be submitted. Where the components and materials are in compliance with a referenced standard for corrosion resistance, evidence can be in the form of documentation demonstrating compliance with said standard. Where there is no referenced standard, a proposed test program shall be submitted to ICC-ES for review prior to testing.

4.0 QUALITY CONTROL

4.1 The products shall be manufactured under an approved quality control program with inspections by an inspection agency accredited by the International Accreditation Service (IAS) or otherwise acceptable to ICC-ES.

4.2 A quality control manual complying with the ICC-ES Acceptance Criteria for Quality Control Manuals (AC10) shall be submitted.

5.0 EVALUATION REPORT RECOGNITION

The evaluation report shall include the following information:

5.1 A condition of use requiring the window well to be provided with drainage.

5.2 The evaluation report shall indicate whether or not the window associated with the window well is part of the evaluation.

5.3 A condition of use indicating that the use of window wells with accessible dwelling units and sleeping units or Type A dwelling units and sleeping units in accordance with Section 1107.2 of the IBC is beyond the scope of the report. ■