



EXCERPT

Support Growing for Referencing ICC 700 in National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year 2015 is bedrock legislation for structuring the United States' defense programs, including military construction, and has been enacted by Congress for over 50 consecutive years. The Senate version of the NDAA FY 2015 ([S.2410](#)) includes a new reference to ANSI/NAHB/ICC 700 National Green Building Standard that would allow any residential buildings funded, planned, remodeled, or authorized by the NDAA that will be designed and constructed to meet an above code green building standard or rating system to use ICC 700 or an equivalent protocol which has been developed using a voluntary consensus standard. The reference to the standard does not create any new requirements, and instead serves to clarify that ICC 700 may be used. This bipartisan provision was included in the bill at the request of Senators Roger Wicker (R-MS), Mazie Hirono (D-HI), the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB), and ASHRAE, among others.

Earlier this year it was [announced](#) that ASHRAE will become a cosponsor for the 2015 edition of ICC 700.

The House version of the NDAA ([H.R.4435](#)) does not reference ICC 700, as the bill passed the House while discussions in the Senate were still occurring. ASHRAE and NAHB government affairs staff have been working with Senators Wicker and Hirono, and members of the House and Senate Armed Services Committees to increase awareness of and support for the reference to ICC 700 in the Senate bill, and encourage its inclusion in the final version that is enacted by Congress. While there are not guarantees in Congress, there is hope, as these meetings have been generally positive.

The timeline for action on the NDAA is uncertain, and largely dependent upon the results of the November elections and other issues clamoring for attention. If years past are any guide, the NDAA will likely be enacted sometime this December.