ASHRAE and CIBSE Issue Joint Statement on Climate Change

Continued reductions in emissions, guidelines leading to reduced energy consumption and responsible refrigerant use are encouraged in a new joint statement on climate change issued by the Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE). The statement was signed at ASHRAE’s 2006 Winter Meeting “The use of HVAC&R technologies is an essential element of contemporary life,” said Lee Burgert, ASHRAE president. “Yet, HVAC&R systems contribute to greenhouse gas releases through energy-related effects and through the effect of building design. Together, HVAC&R systems are among the largest emitters of greenhouse gases.”

“Climate change is one of the greatest challenges that we face. The COP15 conference that is currently underway in Copenhagen is a testament to the global momentum that exists for addressing this issue.”

The joint statement makes very clear how our two bodies are determined to use the expertise of our members internationally to address the challenges of climate change and sustainability,” said Donald Lepper, CIBSE president.

"Many more than 12 chapters and 12 regions attained this year’s Research Promotion Full Circle Award. This award honors chapters and regions for the exceptional way they demonstrated their leadership and commitment to ASHRAE through their personal honor roll level investments.stellar performance investigations of refrigerants, and the resultant data paved the way for the incorporation of ASHRAE Standard 34, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, and ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, in their entirety in NFPA 500 — Building Construction and Safety Code™. The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) also includes ASHRAE 90.1 as a compliance path, but an alternate compliance path loosely based on previous and current versions of ASHRAE 90.1 is also part of the IECC.

The ASHRAE Code Interaction Subcommittee (CIS) of the Standards Committee is responsible for submitting relevant ASHRAE standards to national code organizations. The CIS members work closely with ASHRAE standards staff and the relevant international standard committees (SSPC). The new or revised standards are submitted to the IECC and other code authorities to try to make relevant sections closer to ASHRAE standards. We also comment on proposals made by others where those proposals may affect ASHRAE standards. We are active in this process because we believe that ASHRAE has experts who provide an excellent knowledge base for the development of our standards. The process has led to considerable agreement on our part, which we believe is one factor that has contributed to ASHRAE standards being widely adopted and used in ASHRAE standards produces a well-documented net-work.

If an ASHRAE standard is already referenced in an existing code document, ASHRAE generally submits a proposal or works with the code organization to make sure the references to ASHRAE standards are updated to the most current versions. For example, for the 2006 version of the IECC, ASHRAE Standard 90.1 was updated from the 2001 to the 2004 version.

The ASHRAE Handbooks referenced in the IECC were also updated to the most current versions. References to ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 34, Refrigerants, and ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 34, Designation and Safety Classification of Refrigerants, were updated to the 2004 versions in the International Mechanical Code (IMC).

To change the language in a code, ASHRAE submits a proposal to the IECC and other code authorities to try to make relevant sections closer to ASHRAE standards. We also comment on proposals made by others where those proposals may affect ASHRAE standards. We are active in this process because we believe that ASHRAE has experts who provide an excellent knowledge base for the development of our standards. The process has led to considerable agreement on our part, which we believe is one factor that has contributed to ASHRAE standards being widely adopted and used.

ASHRAE works with the International Organization of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO) and the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) in a similar fashion. ASHRAE’s preference is to have relevant ASHRAE standards incorporated in their entirety into national codes. For example, NFPA has included ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1, Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential Buildings, and ANSI/ASHRAE Standard 90.2, Energy Rating of Low-Rise Residential Buildings, in their entirety in NFPA 500 — Building Construction and Safety Code™. The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) also includes ASHRAE 90.1 as a compliance path, but an alternate compliance path loosely based on previous and current versions of ASHRAE 90.1 is also part of the IECC.

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