Understanding the New Tall Wood Building Codes

Course Description

In January 2019, the International Code Council (ICC) approved a set of proposals to allow tall wood buildings as part of the 2021 International Building Code (IBC). The 2021 IBC will include three new construction types – IV-A, IV-B and IV-C – which will allow mass timber structures as tall as 18 stories. Several local State and City jurisdictions (Washington, Oregon, Denver) have adopted the new provisions in advance of the adoption of the 2021 IBC, so architects have an urgent need to educate themselves on the new building systems. The new construction types are based on the previous Heavy Timber construction type (renamed Type IV-HT) with additional fire-resistance ratings and levels of required noncombustible protection. This presentation will introduce the new code provisions and some methods of addressing the new requirements.

Learning Objectives

1. See an overview of mass timber products and systems that form the basis of the new tall wood code provisions.
2. Understand the three new tall wood construction types – IV-A, IV-B, and IV-C – in the 2021 IBC, their allowable areas, heights, and fire resistance ratings
3. Understand code compliant options for exposing mass timber in tall wood buildings
4. Review additional code provisions that affect tall wood buildings such as sprinklers, concealed spaces, protection of connections, and penetrations.

Bio

Gregory R. Kingsley, PhD, PE, is the president and CEO of KL&A Inc., Engineers and Builders in Golden, Colorado, a firm of over 90 that includes structural engineers, civil engineers, land surveyors, steel detailers, and construction managers. He enjoys working with design architects on innovative structures, especially in wood.

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