

**Industrialized Buildings  
Commission**  
◆ **An Interstate Compact** ◆

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## BULLETIN

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**TO:** All Concerned Parties  
**FROM:** Interstate Industrialized Buildings Commission  
**DATE:** March 18, 2015  
**SUBJECT:** Master Approval Package (formerly *Building Systems Documents*)

On November 14, 1995, the Commission issued a document developed jointly by the Rules Development Committee's third party and manufacturer advisory committees to illustrate how a building system for a typical one- and two-family dwelling "ranch" subsystem would be used by manufacturers. The document was provided to interested inspection and evaluation agencies and manufacturers for informational purposes.

On July 16, 2014, the Commission, as recommended by the Rules Development Committee, approved an updated version of the *Building Systems Documents* – now referred to as a *Master Approval Package*. This new document reflects various clarifications and limitations issued after the release of the original document.

Interested parties should refer to bulletins issued on August 14, 2013 (B08.14.13SD) and September 23, 2009 (B09.23.09) for additional information.

This white paper supersedes Bulletin B11.14.95 *Application of Building Systems Documents*.

The term *Building Systems Documents* has been replaced by *Master Approval Package*.

## **MASTER APPROVAL PACKAGE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

A Master Approval Package (MAP) is a set of documents that provides manufacturers the ability to develop custom plans within established limits and to incorporate various optional features. It eliminates or reduces the need to have each individual plan reviewed and approved by an evaluation agency.

MAPs do not relieve manufacturers from developing required construction details specified under *Model Rules and Regulations* Part V, Section 1(B). Additionally, they cannot be set up in a manner that permits manufacturers to perform structural calculations or design building elements without evaluation agency oversight.

### **DEVELOPMENT**

A MAP for one- and two-family dwelling buildings may contain several subsystems for different building configurations such as ranch, cape, and two-story. The following describes a ranch subsystem to illustrate various – but not all – options that may be included in a MAP.

A typical ranch subsystem could contain a single floor plan that includes standard information such as window and door sizes, minimum light and ventilation requirements, smoke detector and electrical outlet locations, etc. Information would have to be specific where necessary. It would not be permissible to cite or reference codes or code sections as a method to demonstrate compliance.

The package would show or describe various parameters to ensure permitted plan configurations do not exceed the limits of applicable codes and approved calculations. Typical parameters could include, but are not limited to, allowable width, length, height of modules or buildings; maximum live, dead and other loads, maximum wind speeds and exposures, etc.

Any structural and architectural options including restrictions on their use or application would be made part of the approved documents. The set could contain custom charts and tables for various structural members similar to prescriptive joist, header and girder tables provided in building and other codes. Some typical options are identified below:

- A. Optional window and door schedules

- B. Header charts for optional windows, doors and other openings
- C. Mate line girder charts for various spans and loading conditions
- D. Interior and exterior column and stud charts
- E. Optional stair configurations
- F. Optional bath and kitchen configurations including:
  - 1. Island kitchens
  - 2. U-kitchen
  - 3. L-kitchen
  - 4. Half- and full-baths

### **“AS-BUILT” PLAN SUBMITTALS**

Buildings designed using a MAP would be identified on monthly production reports by entering “yes” under the “[MAP/System] Yes/No” column. Manufacturers would file copies of “as-built” documents monthly with the Commission which would generally consist of a cover page, dimensioned floor plans, elevations and cross sections. Additional documents or information would be submitted when necessary to identify or verify the selection of various building elements.

### **MANUFACTURER AND DESIGNATED AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES**

Compliance assurance manual would include relevant internal document controls and identify by title person(s) responsible for developing specific documents from MAPs.

Inspection agencies would be responsible for monitoring manufacturers’ ability to develop specific plans and related designs from MAPs. Manufacturers that are unwilling or unable to develop conforming designs would be required to obtain individual approvals from their evaluation agencies.

Evaluation agencies would be responsible for ensuring MAPs are not overly complex or burdensome on inspection agency inspectors.