

No. 20/1/2007-Tpt
Government of India
Planning Commission
(Transport Division)

Yojana Bhavan, Sansad Marg,
New Delhi - 110001.
Dated the 6th January, 2009

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: Safe use of glass in buildings through appropriate building byelaws, specifications, etc.

Kindly find enclosed the minutes of the meeting on "Safe use of glass in buildings through appropriate building byelaws, specifications, etc.", held on 12th December, 2008, under the chairmanship of Shri Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission.


(I.S. Negi)
Director (Tpt.)

1. Shri M. Ramachandran
Secretary
Ministry of Urban Development
Nirman Bhavan,
New Delhi.
2. Ms. Kiran Dhingra
Secretary
Ministry of Housing & Poverty Alleviation
Nirman Bhavan,
New Delhi.
3. Shri Sharad Gupta
Director General
Bureau of Indian Standards
Manak Bhavan 9
Bahadurshah Zafar Marg
5th Floor, New Delhi-110002.
4. Shri D.S. Sachdev
ADG (TD)
Central Public Works Department
A Wing, Nirman Bhavan
New Delhi.

5. Shri Ravi Dass
Engineer-in-Chief
Municipal Corporation of Delhi
Room no. 71, First Floor,
Town Hall, Delhi-110006
6. Shri A.K. Sarin
Engineer Member
DDA, 1st Floor,
B Block, Vikas Sadan,
INA, New Delhi -110023
- ✓ 7. Shri Deepak Gahlowt
Convenor
Confederation of Construction Products & Services
G-4, III Floor, Raj Tower-II
Alaknanda Shopping Complex
New Delhi-110019
8. Shri Shashi Kant
Adviser
Confederation of Construction Products & Services
G-4, III Floor, Raj Tower-II
Alaknanda Shopping Complex
New Delhi-110019
9. Shri Harish Chandra, Adviser(HUD)
10. Dr. Renu Parmar, Adviser (Industry)

Minutes of the meeting on "Safe use of glass in buildings through Specifications and Building Byelaws" held under the Chair of Sh. Anwarul Hoda, Member, Planning Commission on 12th December, 2008

The list of participants is at Annexure.

The meeting began with a presentation by Convener, Confederation of Construction Products & Services. It was informed that worldwide increase in use of glass has become a matter of concern, both from human safety and energy point of view. Energy aspect has been taken care of and covered under the Energy Conservation Building Code brought out by the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, in which CCPS was also involved. However, there are no such guidelines/codes/standards, available in India to take care of human safety while using glass in buildings. Safety codes are adopted in other countries and have been made compulsory and mandatory.

Considering the utmost urgency of the subject and following the worldwide accepted practice, it was mentioned that CCPS had brought out the "Guidelines on use of glass in buildings" concerning human safety. A Steering Committee comprising of representatives from M/o Urban Development, Central PWD, State Governments, Local Bodies, practicing engineers & architects, glass manufacturers & processors etc. had been constituted for the purpose. During the presentation, it was emphasized that the purpose of guidelines was not to sell more safety glass but to exhibit the wide choice that exists and allow the use of annealed glass with precautions in order to reduce the risk of accidents.

It was mentioned that various steps had been taken by CCPS for popularizing the guidelines and encouraging its adoption amongst the concerned departments and inclusion in building byelaws/specifications. Some of these included approaching the Ministries, Central and State Urban Development departments, Local Bodies, BIS and conducting 8 training programmes in various parts of the country, but till date no noticeable progress had been achieved in the direction of mandatory adoption of safety norms. Keeping in view that the Indian Building Code was formulated by the BIS, only with the intervention of Planning Commission, CCPS has requested Planning Commission for necessary intervention.

Member, Planning Commission expressed concern at the absence of norms and guidelines on the safety aspects of the use of glass in buildings even though spectacular increase has taken in such use in recent years. He stated that the Municipal bodies are concerned about sanctioning of a

building plan. The safety aspect while using glass in buildings is totally absent. There is a need for urban bodies to include conditionality in Building Byelaws to ensure human safety while using glass in buildings. State Governments should come forward for the implementation of the Byelaws. The Ministry of Urban Development needs to follow up on this issue.

The representative from BIS informed that standards/codes of practices are formulated on various topics which are not mandatory in nature. Provisions/specifications for use of the materials in construction of buildings, as prescribed by BIS can be adopted by the urban Local Bodies of the State-Governments by amending their Building Byelaws.

BIS further stated that as far as the use of glass in buildings is concerned BIS has brought out IS -3548:1998 and IS 10439:1983, IS 2553(Part I) 1990 etc but these do not specifically cover safety issues. It was informed that it has been decided to formulate standards on safe use of glass in buildings covering comprehensive components like structural safety, fire safety, etc. A Working Group under the chair of Chief Engineer (CDO), CPWD has been constituted for preparing the draft in which CCPS is also a member. Hon'ble Member (AH) desired that formulation of these codes should be done in a time bound manner.

CPWD representative informed that guidelines are presently under study.

The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

Annexure

Meeting on "Safe use of glass in buildings through appropriate building byelaws, specifications, etc." held on 12th December, 2008 at 11.30 A.M. in Room No. 136, under the Chair of Member (AH), Planning Commission.

List of Participants

Planning Commission

1. Shri Anwarul Hoda
Member, Planning Commission -in Chair
2. Shri B.N. Puri
Sr. Consultant (Tpt.)
3. Shri Harish Chandra
Adviser (HUD)
4. Ms. Urvashi Sadhwani
Director (Tpt.)

CCPS

1. Shri Deepak Gahlotw
Architect & Convenor
2. Shri Shashi Kant
Adviser
3. Shri K.K. Mutreja
Adviser

BIS

1. Shri A.K. Saini
Head (Civil Engg.)
2. Shri Sanjay Pant
Director (Civil Engg.)

MCD

1. Dr.S. Ramesh
Chief Architect
2. Shri K.P. Sharma
Asstt. Engineer
3. Shri B.L. Jindal
Ex. Engineer

DDA

1. Shri Shekhar Dey
CE (HQ)

CPWD

1. D.S. Sachdev
ADG (TD)
2. Shri V. Sharma
CE (CSQ)