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**Public Works for a Better Government**

December 22, 2014

Sri Sunil Soni (IAS), Director General  
Bureau of Indian Standards  
Mank Bhavan  
9 Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg  
New Delhi 110 002

Dear Director General Soni:

The purpose of my letter today is to apprise you of the progress of efforts to work with the National Building Code of India. Our work is underway and will be for several months, but I thought you might appreciate a status report. You will find the current “alpha” working version on the Internet at the following location:

<https://law.resource.org/pub/in/bis/S03/is.sp.7.2005.alpha.svg.html>

As currently marked, the text has the following features:

- The entire National Building Code of India was rekeyed into a valid XHTML file using the “double-key” method. You will note that this includes laborious and sophisticated formatting of 534 tables, as well as complex mathematical expressions.
- 202 of the diagrams and formulas have been converted into the “SVG” vector format. An additional 677 diagrams and formulas are currently in the “JPG” bitmap format and are being converted to “SVG” and should be ready shortly.
- 2,261 references to other Indian Standards have been hot-linked to the actual documents resident on our servers at law.resource.org. These references encompass 1,707 unique Indian Standards.

- In addition to the external links, all internal clauses, sections, tables, and figures have been given 8,179 unique IDs and any references to those items have been provided with 4,594 internal crosslinks.
- For each contributor to the National Building Code, a hotlink to the organizational URL has been provided.

The internal naming scheme is documented in the comments at the head of the file. For example, to refer to Table 8 (“External Pressure Coefficients ( $C_{pe}$ ) for Pitched Roofs of Rectangular Clad Buildings”) in Part 6, Section 1 (“Loads, Forces and Effects”), one can refer to:

<https://law.resource.org/pub/in/bis/S03/is.sp.7.2005.alpha.svg.html#p6s1tab8>

Likewise, one can directly reach the Clause 3.2 (“Orientation of Building, Basic Zones”), or List of Standards of Part 8, Section 1 (“Lighting and Ventilation”):

<https://law.resource.org/pub/in/bis/S03/is.sp.7.2005.alpha.svg.html#p8s1cl3.2>

<https://law.resource.org/pub/in/bis/S03/is.sp.7.2005.alpha.svg.html#p8s1list>

As part of the process of creating hotlinks to Indian Standards referenced in the Building Code, we have discovered 37 references to standards that are inactive and no longer available from the Bureau. Those standards are listed in Appendix A to this letter. In addition, there are a large number of instances of standards that have been superseded by a newer version or by a replacement standard. In each case, we leave the text as-is in the Building Code but link to the current standard and mark in [red] the newer indication. Throughout the code, any *ultra vires* additions we have made (such as labeling a standard as inactive or indicating a newer year for a standard) are marked as such so there is no doubt that the materials were added *ex post facto*.

It will take several more months to continue this work on the Building Code. When complete, our goal is to place the Building Code and all referenced standards on a USB thumb drive and dispatch copies of this data to campuses in India and to government officials directly involved in the process of emergency management, disaster recovery, or other aspects of public safety. We have found some very nice 16-gbyte thumb drives, a photograph of which is attached as Appendix B to this letter.

Our hope is that this data will be useful for educational purposes and the maintenance and enhancement of public safety. We also hope that this information will be increasingly useful to those practicing the professions as the Indian Standards are a valuable source of information for many trades, small businesses, and in the practice of agriculture. And, as so aptly noted by the Honorable Minister, Sri Ram Vilas Paswan, adherence to Indian Standards is a crucial plank in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's "MAKE IN INDIA" initiative.

I have dispatched to you under separate cover copies of the **Petition to the Honorable Ministry** however have not received confirmation of receipt. May I trouble you or your staff to confirm that our request is under consideration? As stated in previous letters, I very much hope we can discuss these important issues in person and that the Bureau of Indian Standards can make use of some of the work we have accomplished in our efforts to make these crucial government documents more usable and more widely available.

In closing, may I wish you a Happy New Year and express my hope that 2015 will be the year that Indian Standards establish an even broader profile in India for the important work you and your colleagues do.

With best regards,



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o=Public.Resource.Org,  
ou,  
email=carl@media.org,  
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Carl Malamud

Public.Resource.Org

cc: Sri Kishan Pal, Under Secretary (BIS), Department of Consumer Affairs

**Appendix A**  
**Table of Invalid (Inactive) References to Indian Standards in**  
**National Building Code of India (2005)**

**Part 5, Building Materials**

849 : 1994	Specification for cold setting case in glue for wood (first revision)
1826 : 1961	Specification for venetian blinds for windows
1777 : 1978	Specification for industrial luminaire with metal reflectors (first revision)
2206 (Part 2) : 1976	Specification for flameproof electric lighting fittings: Fittings using glass tubes
2206 (Part 4) : 1987	Portable flame-proof handlamps and approved flexible cables
3287 : 1965	Specification for industrial lighting fittings with plastic reflectors
4012 : 1967	Specification for dust-proof electric lighting fittings
4013 : 1967	Specification for dust-tight electric lighting fittings
423 : 1961	Specification for plastic wood, for joiner's filler (revised)
5411 (Part 1) : 1974	Specification for plastic emulsion paint: For interior use (first revision)
5411 (Part 2) : 1972	Specification for plastic emulsion paint: For exterior use
775 : 1970	Specification for cast iron brackets and supports for wash basins and sinks (second revision)
1700 : 1973	Specification for drinking fountains (first revision)
3489 : 1985	Specification for enamelled steel bath tubs (first revision)
8718 : 1978	Specification for vitreous enamelled steel kitchen sinks
8727 : 1978	Specification for vitreous enamelled steel wash basins
3486 : 1966	Specification for cast iron spigot and socket drain pipes
3076 : 1985	Specification for low density polyethylene pipes for potable water supplies (second revision)
773 : 1988	Specification for enamelled cast iron water-closets railway stock type (fourth revision)
4516 : 1968	Specification for elliptical mild steel tubes
<b><u>PART 7 CONSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES AND SAFETY</u></b>	
2439 : 1963	Specification for metal hand rollers (fixed-weight type)
4656 : 1968	Specification for form vibrators for concrete

<b>Appendix A</b> <b>Table of Invalid (Inactive) References to Indian Standards in</b> <b>National Building Code of India (2005)</b>	
<b><u>Part 8, Section 2, Electrical and Allied Installations</u></b>	
1777 : 1978	Industrial luminaire with metal reflectors (first revision)
2206 (Part 2) : 1976	Flameproof electric lighting fittings:
3287 : 1965	Industrial lighting fittings with plastic reflectors
4012 : 1967	Specification for dust-proof electric lighting fittings
4013 : 1967	Dust-tight electric lighting fittings
1913 (Part 1) : 1978	General and safety requirements for luminaires: Part 1 Tubular fluorescent lamps (second revision)
<b><u>PART 9 PLUMBING SERVICES, Section 1 Water Supply, Drainage and Sanitation</u></b> <b><u>(Including Solid Waste Management)</u></b>	
3076 : 1985	Specification for low density polyethylene pipes for potable water supplies (second revision)
773 : 1988	Specification for enamelled cast iron water-closets railway coaching stock type (fourth revision)
775 : 1970	Specification for cast iron brackets and supports for washbasins and sinks (second revision)
1700 : 1973	Specification for drinking fountains (first revision)
3489 : 1985	Specification for enamelled steel bath tubs (first revision)
8727 : 1978	Specification for vitreous enamelled steel washbasins
9076 : 1979	Specification for vitreous integrated squatting pans for marine use
<b><u>PART 9 PLUMBING SERVICES, Section 2 Gas Supply</u></b>	
4784 : 1968	Specification for low pressure regulators for use with butane gases
4785 : 1968	Specification for low pressure regulators for use with propane gas

**Appendix B**  
**USB Thumb Drives For Distribution of a**  
**Fully Expanded National Building Code of India (2005)**

