

I would like to comment on the subject of availability of codes and standards. I do believe the codes themselves should be available for free or at least subject only to reasonable minor printing/copying costs. Standards as they currently exist are financially unattainable to most ordinary citizens. The NFPA for example charges a fee of \$82 for the basic NFPA 1 book. If I want to understand Sprinkler Systems I need to get NFPA 13 for yet another \$82. This is excessive.

In most locations homeowners are allowed to perform certain repairs and renovations to their homes without hiring professionals. It is in the best interest of the government and society as a whole that people who undertake efforts like this do so armed with a full understanding of the rules/laws they are expected to comply with. Not to mention giving them knowledge of the standards for their own safety and technology available to meet those standards. If we all conduct ourselves in accordance with these standards the burden on government to deal with the aftermath of non-compliance is reduced. (i.e., less fires to put out, etc)

A reasonable compromise may be to provide the codes themselves for free but allow standards developers like NFPA to continue to charge their exorbitant fees for their interpretive guides. Although I still feel this is inappropriate on their behalf, it seems that interpretive guides would fall under copyright protection jurisdiction.

Regards,

Robert Tess