Survey on Sustainable Construction in Commercial Buildings

COPANT Workshop
St. Lucia
April 23, 2013
Survey Scope

• The Survey attempts to create a fundamental body of knowledge that will serve as a baseline for additional research, enable information exchange and increase dialogue among regulators and business leaders in the COPANT region

• The Survey is organized into four general categories:
  • Policy, Codes and Standards
  • Implementation and Enforcement
  • Evaluation of Green/Sustainable Performance Attributes
  • Green/Sustainable Construction Products

• The Survey was not intended to apply to the retrofitting of existing buildings or to residential buildings
Respondents (Section One)

- 15 of 28 member countries of COPANT responded
- Most respondents work in Standards Development
Technical Regulations, Codes and Standards

Section Two
National Building Code

• 13 of 15 respondents had a national building code or policy for commercial buildings
• The codes were mandatory in 8 countries, voluntary in 2, and mixed in 3
Green/Sustainable Provisions

• 5 of 15 respondents had a code or policy that incorporated green/sustainable provisions, 4 countries have something under development

• Of the 9 countries with provisions in place or under development, the provisions were mandatory in 3 countries, voluntary in 3, and mixed in 3
Components of Green/Sustainable Provisions

• 7 of 15 countries responded to this question
• “Other” components included HVAC-vapor and air ingress, renewable energy, and socio-economic aspects (wellness space)
Use of Referenced Standards for Green/Sustainable Provisions

- 1 mandatory, 3 voluntary, 4 mixed, and 7 none
- 2 respondents reported using international standards and others used a combination of national, regional and international standards
Implementation and Enforcement

Section Three
Promotion of Commercial Building Codes

• 11 of 11 respondents reported using Information Seminars, 2 are also using Media Promotion, and 7 use Printed Materials
Enforcement

- 6 respondents reported Inspections by Government Officials, 3 by Private Organizations, and 5 Not Enforced
Training of Inspectors

• 3 respondents reported that training is carried out through a government course and 3 reported inspectors attending privately held courses
• In 4 cases, individuals meeting the course requirements received “certificates” and in 2 cases, “licenses”
Code Compliance

• 4 respondents reported Monetary Penalties if a building is found not to meet mandatory codes, 3 No Action, and 2 Modifications Required

• Only 2 countries reported more than 10% of commercial buildings conform to green/sustainable codes
Evaluation of Green/Sustainable Performance Attributes

Section Four
Rating or Labeling System (such as LEED)

- 8 respondents reported some use of a Voluntary System and 7 reported no such Rating System
Other Process to Certify Green/Sustainable Aspects

- 6 respondents reported a Voluntary System, 8 reported No Other Process, and 1 reported a Mixed Process
Process to Verify Performance (Commissioning)

- 2 respondents reported a Voluntary System, 10 reported No Verification Process, and 2 reported a Mixed Process
Green/Sustainable Construction Products

Section Five
Components of Green/Sustainable Construction Products

- 12 of 15 countries responded to this question
- “Other” components included HVAC-vapor and air ingress, and provided upon request by private organization
Certification of Green/Sustainable Construction Products

- 1 respondent reported a Mandatory Process, 6 reported a Voluntary System, 7 reported No Process, and 1 reported a Mixed Process.
Measurement of Life Cycle Attributes

- Of 10 respondents, 3 reported using Full Life Cycle Assessments, 2 Life Cycle Inventories, and 5 Manufacturer Certifications.
Trading Green/Sustainable Construction Products

• Results from respondents showed that imports are much more likely to be monitored for green/sustainable aspects than exports
Thank You for Your Attention!

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