

ACI 318-14 Building Code Out for Public Discussion

After nearly a decade, dozens of meetings, and scores of ballots, the completely reorganized ACI 318-14, “Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete,” nears completion. Among the final steps in ACI’s rigorous standardization procedure is the 45-day public discussion period.

Standardization is the most rigorous consensus process used by ACI, providing the widest input and the highest overall quality assurance for a document. Following the ACI Technical Activities Committee’s (TAC) approval of ACI 318-14 at the ACI Spring 2014 Convention, the Code was given procedural review by the ACI Standards Board. Upon review of the Code’s balloting history, the Standards Board approved opening the Code for public discussion.

Code users are invited to read and provide comment on the draft of ACI 318-14 which is available for download during the 45-day public discussion period, May 1 - June 17, 2014. The [ACI Upcoming Standards Page \(http://www.concrete.org/Publications/TechnicalDocuments/UpcomingStandards.aspx\)](http://www.concrete.org/Publications/TechnicalDocuments/UpcomingStandards.aspx) includes links to the draft Code and comment form. When opening the document, the user will be prompted to enter the license key that will be listed on the Standards Page.

After reviewing the code, comments should be emailed to discussion@concrete.org. Comments must be received by June 17. Due to the volume of comments received, all comments must be submitted via the Comment Form to be considered by the committee.

After public comment closes on June 17, 2014, ACI Committee 318 must prepare and ballot a response to all comments received during the public discussion period. After the closure is prepared, it must be approved by the committee. The committee approved closure is submitted for review and approval by TAC. Upon TAC approval, the closure balloting results are forwarded to the Standards Board.

Balloting of the closure will be given procedural review by the ACI Standards Board. Upon Standards Board agreement that ACI’s procedures have been followed, the Standards Board releases the discussion and closure for publication on the ACI website and recommends publishing the standard as an ACI Standard. Upon publication of the closure and any approved revisions, ACI 318-14 will be complete. When the Standards Board releases the standard for publication, it is officially adopted.

ACI 318-14 is expected to be published in Fall 2014, and will be referenced in the 2015 edition of the International Building Code. The document will be finalized for publishing in hardcopy and electronic formats in both U.S. Customary and S.I. units. Official versions of the document will be published in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

The 2014 organization of the code includes consistency of language and style in phrases, tables, equations, lists and notations; a more intuitive layout; and ultimately increases the confidence of designers that they are in full compliance with provisions applicable to their designs.

Contractors will be primarily affected by the contents of Chapter 26, which is a compilation of the provisions relating to contractor responsibilities. Chapter 19 will also be of interest. As noted above, comments must be submitted via email using the comment form provided on the ACI web site. Your comment is more likely to be considered and accepted if you suggest alternate language to improve or replace provisions on which you comment. This procedure allows contractors’ voices to be heard when Code requirements affecting them are revised. It also helps to familiarize you with any changes in Code-related contractor responsibilities.