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November 11, 2013

RE: SEAU Position Statement Regarding the Acceptance of Adhesive Concrete Anchors under the Provisions of the 2012 IBC

Position Statement:

It is acceptable to use adhesive anchors previously approved for the 2009 International Building Code (IBC) for the 2012 IBC until at least two independent adhesive anchor manufacturers demonstrate compliance with the new 2012 IBC criteria, or until the next edition of the IBC is adopted by the state of Utah (at which time the conditions of acceptance should be re-evaluated).

Reasoning for Statement:

There are currently no adhesives available that are approved for use under the new testing standards referenced in the 2012 IBC. ACI 318-11, as referenced in the 2012 IBC, now references the new testing standard for adhesive anchors, ACI 355.4 (wherein the acceptance criteria for testing adhesive anchors has now been codified). Prior to publishing ACI 318-11, the industry standard for testing and accepting adhesive anchors in concrete was AC-308, developed by the International Code Council Evaluation Services (ICC-ES). AC-308 was recently modified to reflect the new requirements of ACI 355.4 and was not made available to adhesive anchor manufacturers until June 2013. This has caused a delay in the ability of adhesive manufacturers to re-test their products under the new requirements of AC-308. As a result, adhesive anchors do not currently comply with all the requirements of ACI 355.4 and the 2012 IBC.

It is recognized that the new testing criteria for adhesive anchors based on ACI 355.4 may impact the current published capacities of adhesive anchors. However, until testing is complete, it is unknown how much the anchor capacities will be affected. It is anticipated that testing of adhesive anchors by the manufacturer and the subsequent review by ICC-ES may not be completed until January 2015. Therefore, based on the successful use of adhesive anchors under the 2009 IBC, it is proposed that 2009 IBC approved anchors be used in the interim. Additionally, in order to maintain some level of competition in the marketplace, it is also proposed that the 2009 IBC approved anchors be used until at least two adhesive anchor manufacturers have completed the new testing requirements and have published the revised capacities of their adhesive anchors based on the 2012 IBC.