

## A Hypothetical Model for a Performance-based Codes System for the United States

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The transition to performance-based codes is well underway in many countries of the world, and several have adopted such. Interest in performance-based codes in the U.S. is high, but the diffuse nature of the codes system here presents some special challenges which will need to be addressed. This paper attempts to highlight these challenges and suggest a possible approach to meeting them.

The U.S. codes and standards development process is described and contrasted to those of some other developed countries which are adopting performance codes. Some of the advantages and disadvantages of hazard-based and risk-based methodologies for determining compliance with performance code objectives are presented. Based on these considerations, a hypothetical model for the development and implementation of a performance-based codes system in the U.S. is discussed. Finally, the roles of a number of organizations who make up the current regulatory system and how these roles might change under a performance-based system are discussed.