



*Public Security &
Individual Rights
The National Security
Code for Buildings*

*John Archer
Institute for Research in
Construction*



Why a National Security Code for Buildings?

The “Fateful Day”

- Visit from the RCMP after September 11th 2001
- Deja vu all over again?

Deja Vu All Over Again?

National Building Code

- Public health / safety versus private property rights

National Security Code for Buildings

- Public security versus individual rights

Deja Vu All Over Again?

1867 – British North America Act

- Building regulation a provincial power
- Conflagration, epidemics and the public interest
- Public health / safety versus private property rights

By the 1930s

- Patchwork of municipal bylaws
- Social and economic impact of the Great Depression
- Failure of national programs to achieve goals

Why the National Research Council?

In 1939 the Federal Government came to NRC

- We need a model building code to administer our national programs
- The construction industry needs a model building code to improve productivity and effectiveness and national harmonization

National Building Code Development

How do we balance public health and safety with rights to private property

- Independent governance body
- Technical committees that can only recommend
- Each stage open to public scrutiny and there are regular public consultation phases
- Explicit goal of achieving a minimum intervention

National Security Code for Buildings

2001 – Once again the federal government has come to NRC

- We need a model national code to help us administer our national security programs
- The security industry needs a model national code to increase productivity, effectiveness and national harmonization

National Security Code for Buildings

Where are we now?

- Phase I confirmed need and support
- Phase II established objectives, scope, development process and costs
- Phase III will develop the code

National Security Code for Buildings

As a proposed component of the Government Security Policy, the NSCB is being developed:

- For use by the Government of Canada in its real estate procurement and management activities
- For possible adoption / adaptation by provincial / territorial governments and the private sector

Development Assumptions

Only “reasonable” security risks are addressed.

- Reasonable is defined through an asset / threat risk assessment process.

Development Assumptions

But not extraordinary security incidents such as:

- Detonation of thermo-nuclear devices
- Military action involving assault with tanks, missiles, etc.
- Aerial bombardment.

But it does address planes being used as missiles.

Development Assumptions

The NSCB has a framework of response to security hazards:

1. Minimize the risk that a security incident can take place.
2. Minimize the impact of a security incident that does take place
3. Facilitate recovery afterward.

Objectives of the NSCCB

Overall, the objectives of the code are to protect the:

- Security of Persons
- Security of Assets
- Security of Building Systems

from security hazards

How do you find the balance?

Parallel to the National Model Code Development System

- Stated focus on minimum requirements
- Each requirement evaluated for economic and social impact
- Balanced committee membership

How do you find the balance?

Parallel to the National Model Code Development System

- Governance independent of “regulators”
- The process fully accessible to public scrutiny, with regular public consultations
- Effective long-term administrative and research support

At What Stage is the Work?

Next phase awaits Federal Funding

- \$10 to \$20 000 000

In the meantime a “test drive”

- Development of acoustic security requirements