

CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS

The existing definition of Building Designer in the ANSI/TPI-1 Standard:

Building Designer: Owner of the Building or the person that contracts with the Owner for the design of the Framing Structural System and/or who is responsible for the preparation of the Construction Documents. When mandated by the Legal Requirements, the Building designer shall be a Registered Design Professional.

The proposed definition of Building Designer in the ANSI/TPI-1 Standard, which is being discussed at the 2/27/12 meeting of the AIBD Regulatory and Legislative Advocacy meeting:

Building Designer: Owner of the Building, or their authorized agent, ~~or the person that contracts with the Owner for the design of the Framing Structural System and/or~~ who is responsible for the preparation of the Construction Documents. When mandated by the statutes of the jurisdiction in which the project is to be constructed, ~~Legal Requirements,~~ the Building designer shall be a Registered Design Professional.

When the definition of “Building Designer” as it exists in TPI-1 was proposed for the IRC during in the 2007/2008 code cycle, it caused a great degree of consternation both with NAHB’s membership and with the American Institute of Building Designers, with whom NAHB has a close relationship. Our members were primarily concerned that the reference to “the design of the Framing Structural System” suggested the Building Design should be developed by a structural engineer, regardless of local statutes, and could be taken to disallow use of the IRC prescriptive provisions without the involvement of an engineer. AIBD was concerned that the last sentence could still permit a local code official to “legally require” the use of an architect or engineer, rather than an AIBD Certified Professional Building Designer, even without a specific law on the books. The revised formulation of the RDP language is similar to that currently used in the IRC.