



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE by:
National Conference of States on Building Codes & Standards, Inc. (NCSBCS)

Survey To Report Savings From Application Of Information Technology in Building Codes Administration & Enforcement

HERNDON, VA - January 27, 2005. In February, the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS) and NCSBCS will issue to state and local building departments, a brief survey to capture and document their jurisdiction's return on investment (ROI) in savings of time and manpower resources that are being achieved from the successful application of information technology to their building regulatory processes. The study will consider factors such as reductions in time to apply for and process building permits, online submission and review of building plans, and field inspection activities.

The design of the survey is based upon cost savings reporting methods gathered by the Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age (Alliance). The survey will be provided to building officials and stakeholders in the construction and regulatory communities as a tool to help determine ways in which communities may have benefited from streamlining and applications of technology.

The survey is tentatively scheduled for release February 15, 2005. It will be sent out to jurisdictions involved in regulatory streamlining and will also be available online at the NCSBCS website - www.ncsbcs.org. Jurisdictions have three weeks to complete the survey questions. Then the responses will be processed and analyzed.

An ROI Report will be prepared and provided to participating jurisdictions and will be available online at the NCSBCS website - www.ncsbcs.org. The report will also be shared with Alliance partners, U. S. Conference of Mayors, National Association of Counties and National Governors Association for distribution.

The ROI Survey is a part of a multi-year effort of a national consortium comprised of federal, state and local government and the construction and information technology industries to enhance public safety and improve the economic competitiveness in this nation through regulatory streamlining and effective applications of information technology.

For more information on the survey or on the Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age, please contact Carolyn Fitch at NCSBCS (cfitch@ncsbcs.org or 703 437-0100, ext. 238).

Headquartered in Herndon, Virginia, the Institute for Building Technology and Safety (IBTS) is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) corporation jointly governed by The National Governors Association, Council of State

Governments, National Association of Counties, National League of Cities, and National Conference of States on Building Codes and Standards. IBTS exists to provide impartial evaluations, research and technical assistance to federal, state and local government agencies. The Institute's purpose is to reduce the burden of government and fulfill its needs by improving efficiency and offering technical support.

The Institute provides services in program administration, performance measurement, auditing, quality management, information systems, housing/building regulations, and design and construction contract administration. More information about IBTS can be found at www.ibts.org.

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NCSBCS was founded by the nation's governors in 1967 to promote the development of an efficient, cooperative system of building regulations to ensure the health, safety and welfare of the public within the built environment. NCSBCS provides technical support to the National Governors Association under a 21-year-old executive branch agreement and serves as the Secretariat to the Alliance for Building Regulatory Reform in the Digital Age.