

**Comments of David Karmol, Vice President for Federal and External Affairs,
International Code Council, regarding code provisions addressing tamper-resistant
refrigerant caps.**

March 16, 2009

The International Code Council publishes the model building codes adopted in almost every state and local jurisdiction that has adopted a building code. Once adopted, those codes control the construction of residential and commercial buildings in the U.S. We revise those codes every three years, and we do it with the input of experts, building contractors, manufacturers- and citizens, such as Mona Casey.

Our process allows anyone to come before the committees, and ultimately the code officials responsible for enforcing the building codes with a proposal to make our built environment safer.

In this case, Ms. Casey turned her own grief over the loss of her son, Charles, into positive action. Her effort, to draft and propose a change to the International Residential Code (IRC), and testify both to the committee and then to the final action hearing last October in Minneapolis, insures that as states and local governments adopt the new 2009 IRC, locking, tamper-proof caps will be installed on air-conditioning units, to prevent access to lethal refrigerants by vulnerable children.

We would encourage those who wish to make sure this important provision is added to their local building code to contact local and state officials, and encourage them to update their state or local building code to the provisions in the 2009 International Residential Code. Most states have a regular schedule for adoption, but there are many reasons to encourage early adoption of the 2009 provisions, and this is one of those reasons.

I'll be happy to answer questions.

Information about the ICC family of model building codes, including the International Residential Code, and where that code is adopted, can be found at www.iccsafe.org

