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ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER



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New Engineering and Codes Website!

The Engineering Division's portion of the new OSFM website was launched recently and is much improved as far as navigation is concerned not to mention much more attractive.

If you have saved links to the previous Engineering and Codes website over the years, you should update those links to direct to the new website.

We are still working out some kinks, and if you run across anything you think is not working properly, or if you discover that something may have been inadvertently removed, please let us know. The link to the Engineering and Codes new home page is http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes.aspx

Updated Plan Review Checklist

The Engineering Division has posted an updated [Plan Review Checklist](#) which addresses the 2012 code editions. Although this design tool is not required to be used, many plan reviewers and designers find it helpful.

The checklist can be incorporated into your plan review or design procedure as is or can be used as a basis for you to develop a checklist that meets your jurisdiction's or firm's needs. Some jurisdictions also use this checklist to meet one of the ISO rating requirements.

You can find all design tools, past and current, available on our website at [http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering and Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code Enforcement - Design Tools&user=Code Enforcement Resources](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code%20Enforcement%20-%20Design%20Tools&user=Code%20Enforcement%20Resources)

New Web Interpretations Posted

We are especially excited about the ease of locating code interpretations on the new Engineering and Codes website. They are found under "[Code Enforcement Resources](#)" on the Engineering and Codes home page. You can now do a word search in the current and past codes that are available on the website by selecting the column year you are interested in or you can pull up all interpretations for a particular code edition for a particular year.

The following interpretations have been posted since the last Engineering Newsletter edition. The link directly to the interpretations webpage is [http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering and Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code Interpretations&user=Code Enforcement Resources](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code%20Interpretations&user=Code%20Enforcement%20Resources)

2012 Building Code

[Section 1022.4](#) Electrical Outlet Penetration of Rated Exit Enclosure Membranes
[Section 1203.4.1.2](#) Above Grade Vent Wall Size Requirements for Natural Ventilation

2012 Residential Code

[Section 0301.0](#) Seismic Design Categories

2012 Admin Code:

[Section 204.3](#) Swimming Pool Barrier Permits

Updated Evaluation Services Documents to Comply with the 2012 Code Posted

Since the last newsletter, additional Evaluation Services documents have been updated to meet the 2012 codes. Those include:

- [2012 Code Considerations for Constructing a Covered Outdoor Space Adjacent to an Existing Restaurant, Bar or Nightclub](#)
- [2012 Process for Submission and Consideration of Alternate Material, Design or Method of Construction or Equipment](#)
- [2012 Photoluminescent Exit Signs](#)
- [2012 Straw-bale Residential Construction](#)
- [2012 Sprinkler Requirements for Nightclubs](#)

Building Code Council Meetings

There will be a meeting of the **Residential Ad-Hoc Subcommittee** at 9:00 November 9th 2012 to discuss permanent rules on Wall Bracing. This meeting will be held at 9:00 am in the HILB conference room at 322 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh, 27603.

Quarterly Meeting

The next NC Building Code Council Public Hearing/Meeting will be held Monday, December 10 at 9:00AM at the McKimmon Center, 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27603.

For the meeting agendas, [click here](#).

An Appeal Hearing will be at 9:00am on December 11 at the OSFM classroom at 322 Chapanoke Rd. Raleigh 27603.

Park Model Trailers: Home or Home Away From Home?

The department has been receiving phone calls regarding small trailers on wheels that are being set up as dwellings. Following are guidelines and links provided by the Manufactured Buildings Division to regulations which are to be utilized by the local inspection jurisdiction when dealing with these structures:

By definition, **Park Trailers, Recreational Vehicles (RV), Park Model** are small “mobile” units (not exceeding than 400 sq. ft. in area) mounted on wheeled axles for mobility. These are designed and constructed to be used as temporary dwellings when traveling or camping and are not intended for permanent use as a dwelling or for commercial uses such as banks, clinics, offices or similar.

These units are not regulated by the NC Dept. of Insurance, Manufactured Building Division, and are not required to comply with either the ***NC Residential Code*** or the ***HUD Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards***. Most park model trailers comply with the ***ANSI A119.5, Standard for Recreational Park Trailers***. Note this is a *voluntary* standard and is *not required*.

A label issued by the **Recreational Vehicle Industry Association (RVIA)** for units that meet the **ANSI A119.5** standard is affixed with adhesive to the exterior of the trailer, usually by the front door. The unit will also have a Vehicle Identification Number (VIN) and title issued by the NC Dept. of Motor Vehicles (DMV) as a recreational vehicle.

These units are permitted to be installed as permanent dwellings *only* if they have been labeled as a manufactured (HUD) home or as an NC labeled modular home. Otherwise, they are simply recreational vehicles and should be treated as such. Manufactured (HUD) homes are required to have a **HUD label** affixed to the *exterior* of the home, and a **Data Plate** affixed on the *interior* of the home. Modular homes will have both a **“State of North Carolina Modular Construction Validating Stamp”** and a **Data Plate** affixed to the *interior* of the home.

These units are required to have the electrical power supply installed in accordance with **Section 552.43** of the **2011 NEC**, but permanent plumbing or mechanical connections are not allowed.

For more detailed information regarding Park Model Trailers refer to the Website link for NCDOI [Manufactured Building Division Memos](#).

From the QBoard

Quarterly Board Meeting

The quarterly meeting of the NC Code Officials Qualification Board was held at 1:00 PM on July 26, 2012 at 322 Chapanoke Road in Raleigh, NC. The next quarterly meeting is scheduled for October 23, 2012 at 1:00 PM. Any schedule changes as well as the agenda for each quarterly meeting can be found on our [website](#).

QBoard System On-Line: Top Ten List

Please visit the new Qualifications Board on-line system at <https://apps.ncdoi.net/f?p=114:1:0> This new computer system streamlines a lot of functions and helps keep all records more accurate and up-to-date, but there is a learning curve on just how to use it. Staff has created the following Top Ten List of items to help you.

10. **Use the on-line system.** Every inspector has an account. Take a few minutes to log-in and look around – the more you try it out, the easier it will become. You may just be surprised by how much information is available to you.
9. **Know your password.** Your director of inspection was provided your log-in password when the system went live because we did not have every inspector's email contact information. If you have not logged-in yet, please get your password from the director. If the director no longer has the password, Q-Board staff can send it to him or her. If you have logged in, there is a password recovery tool on the system in case you forget. **For security reasons, we will no longer provide passwords that have been modified to the director of inspection, only to the inspector.**
8. **Print your own renewal card.** When you log-in to the system, you are able to print your own renewal card for any active certification. You can also print a copy of your certificate if you've spilled coffee on the original.
7. **Applications are all on-line.** We are moving away from paper applications. One of the benefits is that every application (after your first on-line application) will preload the fields – you will just need to update any information that has changed. We've also been able to eliminate the paper exam registration form – all we need is a standard application to seat you for an exam.
6. **Automatic does not mean instant.** Course information is available to you as soon as we have it – but instructors still have up to two weeks to provide it to us. So if you need a class to be able to take an exam, wait to fill out your application until you see the class appear on your "Education" tab. Similarly, we send the applicant an email with exam approvals as soon as we review your application, but it can take 24-48 hours for an exam approval to get from our computers into the system at Pearson VUE. Efficiency in both time and effort has been a focus of our move on-line, but we don't have magic wands (yet).

5. **Print confirmation pages for payment records.** Whenever you make a payment in our system, you get a confirmation page that includes payment amount and confirmation number. This is your receipt – print it for your records.
4. **Tell us when we make a mistake.** If you receive an email or notice intended for somebody else, please let us know so that we can correct the mistake.
3. **Review and actively manage your information.** Every once in a while log-in and check your contact information and education record. If you are a Director of Inspections, log-in and make sure your people are displayed correctly – if somebody retires or quits, make sure to click on the pencil next to their certificate and enter their separation date. Most importantly, make sure your contact information stays up-to-date so that the department can notify you of any news.
2. **Remember to log-in whenever you use the system.** Clicking on the buttons on the main log-in page will create a new ID # and identity within the system – a new identity that does not have your education record attached. If you are a CEO (or ever were a CEO) you need to log-in first, and then fill out an application.
1. **Remember that QBoard staff is here to help.** Individual contact information is listed below, or you can always use QBoard.Support@ncdoi.gov to request assistance. We are happy to help.

Heads Up!

This series of articles is intended to give a “Heads Up!” or reminder to building officials of code requirements or NC laws that the Engineering Division believes may often be overlooked by local building department personnel based on calls and emails to staff related to the requirement.

Foundation Vents vs. Flood Openings NCRC Section 322.2.2 (2.4)

Since 2002, there has been a requirement in the NC Residential Code, currently in Section 322.2.2, that enclosed areas, including crawl spaces, below the design flood elevation have flood openings that, among other stipulations, contain individual openings within the flood opening that are not less than 3” in any direction in the plane of the exterior wall. This requirement is intended to allow the passage of a 3” sphere (or debris) through the opening that the flood water must pass through.

The NC Department of Emergency Management Floodplain staff has pointed out that this requirement is rarely being enforced by building officials across the state. The assumption is that many code officials think that the otherwise required foundation vents meet the requirement for the flood openings and do not check to see that the openings in the vents allow the passage of the 3" sphere.

Heads up! Be sure to study and enforce the requirement of NCRC Section 322.2.2 so that this is not a problem for your citizens and for your building department that only becomes evident when a high water event occurs in your jurisdiction.

Upcoming Seminars and Workshops

- COCO will be hosting the **Law and Administration Codes Continuing Education Training** at the Foothills Higher Education Center in Morganton, NC - October 30, 2012. The cost is \$60. This class will provide CEUs in your choice of several disciplines unless you have already taken the class within the past 3 years. For more information and registration, go to <http://www.ncbia.org/>
- The NC Building Inspector Association's **Winter Education Seminars** are planned and will be advertised in the upcoming COCO newsletter. Watch the NCBIA website for registration information at <http://www.ncbia.org/>
- The National Ready Mixed Concrete Association is sponsoring a seminar in Wilmington in November and is offering free registration to all government employees. The title of the seminar is:
***Adopting Disaster Resilient Construction at the Local Level
Concrete Joint Sustainability Initiative***

For more information on the seminar and to register for it, go to www.nrmca.org/resilience .

Engineering Division Staff News

Laurel Wright, Chief Accessibility Code Consultant with the Engineering Division, has been elected to serve as a Regulatory member on the ANSI A117.1 Committee. This is a national standards committee composed of 48 members representing agencies and organizations such as the American Institute of Architects, American Council of the Blind, Building Owners and Managers Association, National Fire Protection Association, National Association of Home Builders, and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), among others.

The purpose of the committee is to establish criteria to make buildings and sites accessible and usable to people with physical disabilities. The provisions mirror the requirements in the 2010 ADA Standards enforced on a federal level. ANSI A117.1 is incorporated by reference in the NC Building Code and is applicable to all new and remodeled commercial buildings in North Carolina. The standard is also national in scope and is used by most of the states and city and county jurisdictions in the United States.

Feedback and Suggestions

The Engineering Division welcomes your feedback and suggestions. To send your comments, simply respond to the email that directed you to this newsletter on the Engineering and codes Website.

Or if you wish to talk to a particular consultant, the link to the contact information on our website is: http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes.aspx#Directory and the Engineering Division staff are listed at the bottom of the page.