

**North Carolina Department of Insurance/OSFM  
322 Chapanoke Road, Suite 200, Raleigh, NC 27603**

**Accessibility Code Committee  
September 26, 2007**

**Post BCC Meeting/Building Committee Meeting**

This report comprises the work performed by the Accessibility Committee, chaired by John Hitch, AIA, with Committee members Carol Acquesta, AIA, PE; Mark Humienny, AIA; Ted Partrick, PE; Leslie Young, MS; and Laurel Wright (staff), and one regular guest, Ken Szymanski, AICP.

The Committee met monthly this year on the following dates to review Chapter 11 of the 2006 International Building Code and ICC/ANSI A117.1-2003: February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, and August 21. The purpose of the Committee was to review the aforementioned documents and provide a recommendation to the North Carolina Building Code Council as to what changes, if any, might be necessary prior to their adoption for inclusion into the 2009 North Carolina Building Code in lieu of the current 2002 North Carolina Accessibility Code with 2004 Amendments.

The Committee completed its review and, after discussion and extensive consideration, makes the recommendations noted below.

**THE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS THAT THE FOLLOWING BE ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL FOR THE INCLUSION IN THE 2009 NORTH CAROLINA BUILDING CODE:**

Adopt the following 2006 IBC Chapters and Sections in their entirety:

- Chapter 11 with amendments (see attached below for proposed amendments)
- Section 3409 – Accessibility for Existing Buildings
- Appendix E – Supplementary Accessibility Requirements
- ICC/ANSI A117.1 – (referenced by 1101.2) to be adopted without amendments

Please note that the codes to be adopted will continue to apply to city, county and state-owned buildings as well as commercial structures, and that the requirements in Section 3409 and Appendix E cover areas often not found in the remainder of the code and which are necessary

Proposed revisions to Chapter 11 are as follows:

1. Revise 1103.2.2 to read as follows (with Commentary language revised as shown in the indent):

**1103.2.2 Existing buildings.** Existing buildings shall comply with Section 3409 or the NC Rehab Code.

The second section is a reference to the existing building criteria in Section 3409 for accessibility concerns in existing buildings. The NC Rehab Code may also be used. ~~In accordance with Section 101.2, Exception 2, the International Existing Building Code (IEBC®) could also be used (see commentary, Section 3409).~~

2. Revise 1104.1 and/or 1104.2 to read as follows:

**1104.1 Site arrival points.** Accessible routes within the site shall be provided from public transportation stops; accessible parking; accessible passenger loading zones; and public streets or side walks to the accessible building entrance served. The exterior accessible path of travel shall be fixed, firm, non-slip and minimum 48” inches wide. Where handrails are provided, the measurement shall be between the handrails.

**1104.2 Within a site.** At least one accessible route shall connect accessible buildings, accessible facilities, accessible elements and accessible spaces that are on the same site. The exterior accessible path of travel shall be fixed, firm, non-slip and minimum 48" inches wide. Where handrails are provided, the measurement shall be between the handrails.

3. Revise 1104.3.2 to read as follows:

**1104.3.2 Press boxes.** Press boxes in assembly areas shall be on an accessible route.

**Exceptions:**

- 1) ~~An accessible route shall not be required to press boxes in bleachers that have points of entry at only one level, provided that the aggregate area of all press boxes is 500 square feet (46 m<sup>2</sup>) maximum. An accessible route shall not be required to a press box unless the press box is part of a privately-owned facility of three or more stories in height and a minimum of one of those stories has an area of 3,000 gross square feet or more.~~
- 2) ~~An accessible route shall not be required to free-standing press boxes that are elevated above grade 12 feet (3660 mm) minimum provided that the aggregate area of all press boxes is 500 square feet (46 m<sup>2</sup>) maximum.~~

4. Revise 1104.4 to read as follows:

**1104.4 Multilevel buildings and facilities.** At least one accessible route shall connect each accessible level, including mezzanines, in the following multilevel buildings and facilities.

**Exceptions:**

1. ~~An accessible route is not required to stories and mezzanines above and below accessible levels that have an aggregate area of not more than 3,000 square feet (278.7 m<sup>2</sup>). This exception shall not apply to:~~
  - 1-1. All buildings of State, County or Municipal government, or any government agencies, two (2) stories or more in height;
  - 1-2. Publicly owned schools, colleges, and university buildings two (2) or more stories in height;
  - 1-3. Publicly owned dormitories two (2) or more stories in height;
4. Multiple tenant facilities of Group M occupancies containing five or more tenant spaces;
5. Levels containing offices of health care providers (Group B or I); ~~or~~
6. A terminal, depot or other station used in specified public transportation that is two (2) or more stories in height;
7. Passenger transportation facilities and airports (Group A-3 or B; and
8. All privately-owned buildings three or more stories in height having an area of 3,000 gross square feet (280 square meters) or more per story.

**Exceptions:**

2. 1. In Group A, I, R and S occupancies, levels that do not contain accessible elements or other spaces required by Section 1107 or 1108 are not required to be served by an accessible route from an accessible level.
3. 2. In air traffic control towers, an accessible route is not required to serve the cab and the floor immediately below the cab.
4. 3. Where a two-story building or facility has one story with an occupant load of five or fewer persons that does not contain public use space, that story shall not be required to be connected by an accessible route to the story above or below.

5. Revise 1109.4 to read as follows:

**1109.4 Kitchen and kitchenettes.** Where kitchens and kitchenettes are provided in accessible spaces or rooms they shall be accessible in accordance with ICC A117.1.

- a. A minimum 60" clear turning space shall be provided within the kitchen of a Type A unit.
- b. A maximum 6" (150 mm) deep by minimum 9" (230 mm) high toe space beneath a cabinet shall be permitted to provide part of the 60" clear floor area on one side only.

6. Revise 1107.6.2.1 to read as follows:

**1107.6.2.1 Apartment houses, monasteries and convents.** Type A units and Type B units shall be provided in Group R-2 occupancies in accordance with Sections 1107.6.2.1.1 and 1107.6.2.1.2.

**1107.6.2.1.1 Type A units.** In Group R-2 occupancies containing more than ~~20~~ 11 dwelling units or sleeping units, at least ~~2~~ 5 percent but not less than one of the units shall be a Type A unit. All units on site shall be considered to determine the total number of units and the required number of Type A units. Type A units shall be dispersed among the various classes of units.

**Exceptions:**

- 1) [No change.]
- 2) ~~Existing structures on a site shall not contribute to the total number of units on a site. For sites with more than 100 units, at least 2 per cent of the number of units exceeding 100 shall be Type A units.~~

7. Revise 1110.1 to read as follows:

**1110.1 Signs.** Required accessible elements shall be identified by the International Symbol of Accessibility at the following locations:

- 1) Accessible parking spaces required by Section 1106.1. ~~except where the total number of parking spaces provided is four or less.~~ Location and design of signage shall comply with the requirements of NC General Statute 20-37.6(d) and 136-30 and the NCDOT Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.

End of Report