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Introduction

Feature Articles

Status of Emergency Rule Concerning Low-Emissivity Glazing for One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses

At the Tuesday, June 10 Quarterly Building Code Council Meeting, the Building Code Council approved an emergency rule to allow glazing with higher SHGC values than the code requires under certain conditions. At the September 18, 2014 Rules Review Commission Meeting, the Low-Emissivity Emergency Rule was declined. The full text of the emergency rule, and subsequent letter of declination, is available on the NCDOT Temporary and Emergency Rule website link below:

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Codes -
_Temporary_Rules&user=State_Building_Codes](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Codes_-_Temporary_Rules&user=State_Building_Codes)

The original Emergency Rule is titled:

140610 Residential Low-E Glazing Effective July 2, 2014.pdf

The subsequent Rules Review Commission declination letter is titled:

140909 Residential Low-E Glazing – Expired September 22, 2014.pdf

An e-mail notification went out 7/2-2014 to subscribers of the Engineering Newsletter informing subscribers of the Low-Emissivity Glazing Emergency Rule, and another e-mail notification went out 9/23-2014 after the decision of the Rules Review Commission ruling on this emergency rule. The email address of the originating sender is included next if you wish to search your e-mail records:

Engineering Updates <ncdoi_engineering@lists.ncmail.net>

In summary, the Emergency Rule has been declined by the Rules Review Commission, and it is expected that the task force (joint Residential and Energy Committees along with certain stakeholders) will have a recommendation for a permanent rules for the December 2014 BCC meeting.

Other Approved Rules

Please refer to the list of “D-Items” from the June 2014 Minutes. There were 10 D-Items, and 9 of these were adopted at this quarterly meeting. Assuming they pass through Rule Review Commission, the adopted rules will be placed in the “2012-2015 Approved Cumulative Amendments” pdf document on the NCDOT Engineering website. Please refer to the following link to review the list of D-Items at from the March 2014 Building Code Council Meeting:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/BCC_Minutes/2014%2006%2014~June%2010,%202014_.pdf

The compilation of previously approved rules is located in the document “2012-2015 Approved Cumulative Amendments”. See Cumulative Supplements article under the Engineering Department section for link.

Department Notes

Engineering Department

New Code Interpretations Posted

Since the last Engineering Newsletter was posted, the following web interpretations have been posted to the interpretations webpage, at the following link:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code_Interpretations&user=State_Building_Codes

NC Plumbing Code 0504.6 - Water Heater Discharge.doc

NC Plumbing Code 0801.2 - Residential Bin-type Icemakers.doc

NC Plumbing Code 0312.5 - Testing at Working Pressure.doc

NC Plumbing Code 403.1 - Minimum Fixture Counts and Periodic Use.doc

NC Building Code 426.1.2 -Two Means of Egress Required for Child Day Care Rooms and Spaces rev1.doc

NC Building Code 1007.7 - Exterior Area for Assisted Rescue Separation Requirements.doc

NC Energy Code 101.4.3 - House Bill 201 Impact to the Application of the 2012 NC Energy Conservation Code.doc

NC Fuel Gas Code 310.1.1 - CSST Bonding Requirements for Contractors and Code Official.doc

NC Mechanical Code 403.3 - Hookah Lounge Ventilation.doc

NC Mechanical Code 403.3 - Vapor Lounge or Bar Ventilation.doc

Cumulative Supplements

Cumulative code changes and their adoption dates can be found on the DOI website at

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Codes_-_Current_and_Past&user=State_Building_Codes

You may have to scroll down on the screen that is accessed at the above link to see another link to the “2012-2015 Approved Cumulative Amendments.”

NC Building Code Training

The inspector associations of the state are at various stages of assembling and fine-tuning continuing education classes for fall and this coming winter and spring. The NC Fire Marshal’s Association has published the schedule for their fall workshops.

Please refer to the following link:

http://ncfma.com/training_education1

The course topic is CS3069: CO Alarm and Detection Systems

The NC International Association of Electrical Inspectors has also published a list of topics and workshops for this fall and winter, and the application form is available at the following link:

<http://nciaei.org/>

The NC Plumbing Inspectors Association, Mechanical Inspectors Association and Building Inspectors Association will have their offering published soon. Please refer to their respective websites:

<http://ncpia.us/>

<http://ncmia.com/>

<http://www.ncbia.org/>

The most current schedule of all Qualification Board-approved courses are available for viewing at the following link:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code_Education_-_Student_Main&user=Code_Education_Resources

Once the web page is accessed, click the "FIND A CLASS" button to refine your search.

Qualifications Assurance Section – COQB, HILB & Pyro

We are now several months into our "mash-up" of engineering personnel who support three separate certification and licensing activities (COQB, HILB, & Pyro) into one team. Please email mike.hejduk@ncdoi.gov with your comments, questions or concerns. Below is an update of what we've been doing.

Both the Code Officials and Home Inspector Licensure Boards have responded to surveys in response to [Session Law 2013-413](#) SECTION 10.(a) that directed study of Occupational Licensing Board Agencies to evaluate their structure, organization and operation. The study is to include 1) consideration of the feasibility of establishing a single State agency to oversee the administration for all or some of the boards, 2) whether greater efficiency and cost-effectiveness can be realized by combining the administrative functions of the boards while allowing the boards to continue performing the regulatory function, and 3) whether the total number of boards should be reduced by combining and/or eliminating some boards. The results of the study are expected in January 2015.

Code Officials Qualifications Board

COQB - Our first priority was to successfully implement 15 new exams for code officials by July 1st with our new vendor PSI Services, LLC under a five year contract and reduced exam fee of \$125.00. Subsequently an additional 15 exams were implemented September 1st to allow alternate questions for retakes. The initial task also coincided with the annual deadline for code official certificate renewals on June 30th [and end of the Fiscal Year]. Last year, jurisdictions were advised that due to the implementation of the internet based COQB Information Management System, "Q'board" staff would no longer mail out invoices for renewal payments. This appears to have delayed some certificate renewals. Since there are approximately 4,000 code officials working for 500 local government jurisdictions, it quickly became apparent that the database was missing nearly 800 email addresses for active code officials. Renewal reminders were sent via email to 3,200 code officials and a LISTSERVE has now been established to facilitate communication between the Engineering Division and code officials. Staff is currently contacting local jurisdictions to collect emails for the 500 remaining active code officials without email addresses. Code officials are encouraged to use the [SYSTEM LOG-IN](#) to check their records. It has also become apparent that there is substantial "migration" of code officials among jurisdictions, especially fire officials. This presents an ongoing challenge to

keep data current. REMINDER – all code officials are asked to keep their Certificates of Employment and contact information current when changing jobs.

Home Inspector Licensure Board

HILB – Staff serves over 1,000 licensed home inspectors in North Carolina. All home inspector licenses expire annually on September 30th. The annual license renewal and continuing education (CE) period begins October 1st. Unlike code officials, home inspectors must earn all required CE by September 10 each year as there is a “blackout” period through the end of the month renewal deadline to allow education sponsors sufficient time to report credits earned. Home inspectors licenses are set to expired status annually if not renewed but may be renewed late within one year without retesting. This year marks the end of a three year, 48 hour education program required by [Session Law 2009-509](#) SECTION 1.2 for all licensed home inspectors that required 16 hours of CE each year since October 1, 2011. Home inspector CE requirements will be reduced from 16 hours to 12 hours CE beginning October 1, 2014. Of these, 8 hours are elective courses and 4 hours are a Board-developed update course. This also coincided with the “sunset” of the associate home inspector program and the establishment of pre-licensing education and training as an alternate means to qualify to register for the state exam. Recently Effective September 1, 2013, the NC Licensed Home Inspectors Standards of Practice, Board Rule .1110(d) Electrical, was amended to require reports to include the presence or absence of permanently installed carbon monoxide alarms in any homes with fuel fired appliances or attached garages, and operate their test function in addition to smoke detectors.

Pyrotechnic Licensure

Pyro – Pyrotechnic tragedies such as the Station night club fire in 2003 in Rhode Island, and fireworks truck explosion on Ocracoke Island, NC in 2009, were instrumental in creating [Session Law 2009-507](#) entitled, “An Act to Improve Pyrotechnics Safety in North Carolina.” This law authorized the State Fire Marshal to establish pyrotechnic safety guidelines through NC Gen. Stat. § 58-82A that provided for testing, licensing and training of operators and assistants. These requirements apply to both outdoor fireworks displays and indoor “proximate” entertainment commonly associated with live music or theater performances. Currently there are about 3,200 active licenses. Licenses are valid for three years. Licensees must earn 12 hours continuing education credit each period. There are many venues throughout the state at all times of the year that involve pyrotechnics in addition to the 4th of July. The annual NC State Fair, entertainment events at the PNC Arena, New Year’s Eve celebrations in major cities, as well as professional and collegiate football games, just to name a few. The 2012 North Carolina State Fire Prevention Code, Chapter 33 Explosives and Fireworks, includes provisions for storage, permits and inspection prior to the use of fireworks.