New NC Accessibility Code

On August 11, 2009 when the NC state legislature left town, NC began the next phase of accessibility enforcement, moving on to the 2009 NC Bldg Code Ch. 11 and 2003 ANSI A117.1.

For a short period of time until Dec. 31, 2009, the NC Bldg Code Council allowed designers and contractors to have a choice of using either the 2004 NC Accessibility Code or the 2009 NCBC Ch. 11, which references the ANSI A117.1 standard in NCBC 1101.2.

Now that the New Year has come, NC has turned over a new leaf: all projects receiving a permit on or after January 1, 2010 are required to use the 2009 NC Bldg Code Chapter 11 for accessibility along with the referenced standard - 2003 ICC/ANSI A117.1.

Q: Should I buy the Code or the Commentary?

A: The recommendation is to purchase the Commentary for the following reasons: 1) More illustrations, 2) Several examples, and 3) Commentary that is not available otherwise.

Q: Where do I go to order the Commentary?

A: If you go to the Access Update website at: www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/CodeServices/Engineering/CodeServices/Engineerin_g/CodeServices/Engineering/CodeServices/Engineering/CodeServices/Interpretations_Accessibility.asp there is a pdf file under Tech Data that will help you get to the right location to order one.

How the New Requirements Work

Scoping. The main thing to remember is that the scoping requirements for accessibility are in the 2009 Building Code itself. The how-to-do technical requirements are in ANSI.

Scoping Requirements:
- Ch. 10 - Egress
- Ch. 11 - Access and general scoping for other items
- Ch. 3409 – Alterations + Change of use
- 3409.4 - Change of Occupancy
- 3409.7 - Alterations + Disproportionality
- 3409.9 – Alterations for Historic Buildings

It is important to note that Appendix E is adopted as part of the code and are required. While not long, the App. E Sections include:
- E104 – Special Occupancies
- E1025 – Portable Toilets, Laundry Eqmt, Vending Machines, Mail Boxes, ATMs, 2-way Communication Systems
- E110 – Airports
- E111 – Referenced Standards


These requirements may be in addition to the requirements in the main body of the code. Be sure to double-check them and not overlook them just because they are in App. E.
ANSI 604.5.1 Fixed Side Wall Grab Bars

3 Grab Bars:
- 2 side
  - 1 horizontal
  - 1 vertical
- 1 rear

Requirements:
- Side Horizontal Grab Bar
  - 12” max from rear - 54” min
- Side Vertical Grab Bar
  - 18” min in length
  - Bottom of bar: 39-41” AFF
  - Center line of bar between 39 + 41” from rear wall
- Rear Grab Bar
  - See ANSI 604.5.2

Exceptions:
1. In Type A + Type B dwelling units, not required.
2. In Type B unit, when side wall not available for a 42” grab bar, the side wall grab bar shall be permitted to be:
   a. 18 inches min. in length
   b. Located 12” max. from rear wall, and
   c. Extending 30” min. from rear

Self-Closing Doors Required for H/C Stalls

There are multiple types of accessible restrooms or stalls:
- 603.4 - Individual toilet rooms
- 604.8 - Wheelchair accessible stalls
- 604.9 - Ambulatory accessible compartments

A self-closing door is not required for individual toilet rooms.