

# Construction Code Communicator



State of New Jersey

Richard J. Codey, Acting Governor

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Charles A. Richman, Acting Commissioner

Summer/Fall 2005

## 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Building Safety Conference of New Jersey - 2005

This is the 24<sup>th</sup> year we have been celebrating building safety in New Jersey. The Building Safety Conference of New Jersey was held May 4-6, 2005 in Atlantic City at Bally's Atlantic City. As building safety professionals, we have an ongoing obligation to help make the world a safer place. We are the key players in our efficient and effective enforcement programs throughout the State. This conference gave us an opportunity to highlight the importance of safe buildings, and to recognize the outstanding professionals responsible for making and keeping them that way.

As always, our focus is on education. The Crackerbarrel Roundtables allow our attendees to discuss topics of general interest in the area of building codes and code enforcement. This year, there were 32 roundtables. Additionally, there were 21 seminars that provided up-to-date information on various subjects. An evening reception was also enjoyed by all.

Recognition was given to the following at this year's Awards Luncheon:

- John A. D'Ascensio** -- Fire Inspector of the Year  
Presented by: New Jersey Fire Prevention & Protection Association
- Seymour Goldstern** -- Plumbing Inspector of the Year  
Presented by: New Jersey Plumbing Inspectors Association
- Edward A. Vanderberg** -- Building Inspector of the Year  
Presented by: Building Officials Association of New Jersey
- Alan Wilkins** -- Electrical Inspector of the Year  
Presented by: Municipal Electrical Inspectors Association
- Patricia Famularo** -- Technical Assistant of the Year  
Presented by: New Jersey Association of Technical Assistants

Many favorable comments were received in the evaluations: "Great seminars," "informative and insightful," "good opportunity to meet and greet new and old friends," "speeches were short," "excellent meal," "a great year!"

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Now we look forward to next year. William Williams, Jr., Construction Official for the Village of Tuckahoe in Cape May County, was the lucky person selected to receive a complimentary registration for next year's event. Mark your calendar now for the grand celebration of our 25<sup>th</sup> year for Building Safety, May 3-5, 2006, to be held at Bally's Atlantic City.

Source: Susan H. McLaughlin, Supervisor  
Education Unit



From left to right: James McGlynn, Municipal Electrical Inspectors Association; Alan Wilkins, Electrical Inspector of the Year; William M. Connolly, Director of the Division of Codes and Standards, DCA.

### Air-Conditioning Disconnects

Does Section 110.26 of the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC) apply when an air-conditioning unit is being replaced?

*N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.8(d)2* in the Rehabilitation Subcode excludes Section 110.26 of the 2002 NEC. This applies to working clearance space around electrical equipment. However, Section 440.14 of the 2002 NEC is not excluded under *N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.8(d)5*. This section states that the disconnecting means shall be located within sight of, and readily accessible from, the air-conditioning or refrigerating equipment. The disconnecting means is permitted to be

installed on or within the air-conditioning or refrigerating equipment.

Therefore, the answer is **NO**, Section 110.26 of the 2002 NEC is not applicable to units that are being replaced. Any existing disconnect shall be permitted to remain, provided that the disconnect is in sight of the unit and readily accessible; i.e., nothing has to be moved to access it.

If you have any questions on this matter, you may reach me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Suzanne Borek  
Code Assistance Unit

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*From left to right: Steve Jones, President of the Building Officials Association of New Jersey; Edward A. Vanderberg, Building Inspector of the Year; William M. Connolly, Director of the Division of Codes and Standards, DCA.*



*From left to right: Patricia Famularo, Technical Assistant of the Year; William M. Connolly, Director of the Division of Codes and Standards, DCA.*

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From left to right: Joseph Albanese, New Jersey Plumbing Inspectors Association; Seymour Goldstern, Plumbing Inspector of the Year; William M. Connolly, Director of the Division of Codes and Standards, DCA.



From left to right: Arthur Londensky, President of the New Jersey Fire Prevention & Protection Association; John A. D'Ascensio, Fire Inspector of the Year; William M. Connolly, Director of the Division of Codes and Standards, DCA.

## Barrier Free Subcode: A Few Changes and a Clarification

On June 20, 2005, a few changes to the Barrier Free Subcode were adopted. With a brief explanation for each, they are:

- **ASSISTED-LIVING FACILITIES:** This rule amendment provides that, when an apartment or room that was constructed to be adaptable is made available for respite care (short-term stays), those features required to make that apartment or room accessible be adapted. This will enable people with disabilities to use the services offered by the assisted-living facility.
- **TOWNHOUSES AND MULTISTORY DWELLING UNITS:** The definition of “townhouse” in the Barrier Free Subcode is amended to provide that the townhouse unit must extend from foundation to roof. This eliminates any apparent disconnect between the Barrier Free Subcode and the International Residential Code, and it makes clear that townhouses are side-by-side, attached, single-family dwellings. Other configurations, with shared entrances or units that are stacked one on the other, for example, are multistory dwellings. A cross-reference to the accessibility requirements for multistory dwelling units has been added for clarity.
- **FIREWALLS AND PARTYWALLS:** A reference to “partywall” has been added to the Barrier Free Subcode to ensure that the application of a firewall and a partywall is clearly understood. When counting the number of dwelling units in a single structure, a firewall or a party wall does not designate separate buildings.
- **DORMITORIES:** This rule amendment requires that five percent of newly constructed dormitory rooms must be accessible; the remaining 95 percent must be adaptable. This rule codifies two Federal laws — the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Federal Fair Housing Amendments Act of 1988 — as they apply to dormitories.
- **FINES FOR VIOLATING THE RESTRICTIONS ON AN ACCESSIBLE PARKING SPACE:** The fine for violating the restrictions on an accessible parking space has been changed to reflect the statutory change of P.L. 2003, c. 161, which increased the fine from \$100 to \$250. (See companion article in this newsletter.)
- **ACCESSIBLE HOTEL ROOMS:** This rule provides requirements for an accessible bed in an accessible hotel room. The required bed is on a standard bed

frame, and will allow a guest who uses a lift to transfer to the bed and use the room.

If you have questions about the Barrier Free Subcode, please call the Code Assistance Unit at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Emily Templeton  
Code Development Unit

## Defining Project Classification for Plan Review

A contractor submitted plans and permit applications to a Class 2 Local Municipality for a 21,000-square-foot, Group M drugstore and a 2,300-square-foot, Group A-2 restaurant. The construction official directed the contractor to submit the plans to the Department of Community Affairs' Bureau of Construction Project Review (BCPR) for the plan review. Was the construction official correct in doing so? The answer is “Yes.”

Both projects were to be tenant fit-outs in a 125,000-square-foot, mixed-use shopping center. Although the tenant areas did not exceed the allowables of a Class 2 agency, each fit-out was part of a larger “structure” exceeding the limits as defined in *N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.3A(a)*, (d), and (e). The area of the total structure defines the project classification and not the size of the individual project spaces for review by the local municipality or BCPR.

The contractor then asked if the adjacent Class 1 local enforcing agency could perform the review. The answer is “No.” Only those construction officials and subcode officials appointed by that municipality are allowed to review work for that municipality, per *N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.4*.

Upon submission of a written request by the local construction official with the project plans for review to the BCPR, a “Return to Local” authorization letter may be issued by the BCPR, per *N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.3A(e).1*, to the local enforcing agency allowing them to perform the plan review and issue the permits. A telephone call to the BCPR to inquire about a particular structure or plan review is always welcome.

Source: Emile Kolick, R.A., Supervisor  
Bureau of Construction Project Review  
(609) 633-7461

## Correction

In the Spring 2005 *Construction Code Communicator*, Volume 17, Number 3, the second paragraph of the "What's Your Rating?" article referred to the 2000 National Electrical Code instead of the 2002 National Electrical Code. The sentence should have read, "The National Electrical Code (NEC)/2002, Section 110.9, . . ."

We apologize for any inconvenience.

## Fire Sprinkler Flexible Piping Systems

I have received a number of calls asking about the use of fire sprinkler flexible piping systems. In the event you are not familiar with the system, it is a flexible, braided, leak-tested sprinkler drop with a minimum internal corrugated hose diameter of one inch. The flexible pipe attaches to a branch line at one end and to a fire sprinkler at the other. Hose lengths are from two feet to six feet, with both ½-inch and ¾-inch outlets. The advantage the sprinkler contractor has when using this system is he can place the sprinkler in the desired position by merely bending the flexible pipe. At least one manufacturer's system is UL and FM listed, and intended for use in NFPA 13, 13R and 13D, wet, dry, pre-action, and deluge systems.

Why am I bringing this to your attention? First, to let you know the system can be used. Second and perhaps more importantly, to make you aware of the friction loss. This piping is generally a drop. Friction loss is routinely not calculated for a drop. That's the potential problem. One manufacturer's specifications show a significant friction loss through the flexible pipe. For example, a 2-foot pipe having a ½-inch outlet has an equivalent length of 17 feet, while a 6-foot pipe has an equivalent length of 28 feet. A 2-foot pipe having a ¾-inch outlet has a 9-foot equivalent; and the 6-foot pipe has a 25-foot equivalent length. (Equivalent lengths reflect three bends.) The manufacturer also specifies a minimum bend radius.

If you see this system during plan review or when inspecting a job, you need to make sure the hydraulic calculations take into consideration the equivalent length of pipe. You also need to check the manufacturer's listing to ensure the proper application.

Should you have any questions, I may be reached at (609) 984-7672.

Source: Gerry Grayce  
Office of Regulatory Affairs

## Drilling and Notching Wood Members: Who's Responsible?

Because the Building Subcode [International Building Code (IBC) 2000], the One- and Two-Family Dwelling Subcode [International Residential Code (IRC) 2000], and the Electrical Subcode [National Electrical Code (NEC) 2002] all have requirements for the drilling/boring of holes and notching of wood members, the question has been asked, "Who is responsible for conducting the inspections?" The answer is: both building and electrical inspectors, but for different reasons.

Here's where they are the same: All three subcodes contain the dimension and placement requirements for a hole and notch [IBC/2000 sections 2308.9.10 and 2308.9.11; IRC/2000 section R602.6; and NEC/2002 section 300.4(A), with technical amendment *N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.16(b)5i*]. These are the building inspector's responsibility.

Here's where they are different: NEC/2002 section 300.4(A) requires that any hole or notch be protected against nails or screws by a steel plate that is at least 1/16 inch thick before the building finish is applied. This is the electrical inspector's responsibility.

Note: The steel plates described above appear to be an easy inspection item that the building inspector could check for during his or her framing inspection. However, because not all wiring methods are easily distinguishable and not all wiring methods require steel-plate protection, this portion remains the electrical inspector's responsibility.

Lastly, if the hole or notch penetrates a rated assembly or passes through a space that is to be draftstopped or fireblocked, the materials to fill the void created by the penetration are inspected by the building inspector so that the integrity of the rating, draftstopping, or fireblocking is maintained.

If you have any questions on this issue, you may reach me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Rob Austin  
Code Assistance Unit

## Ducts: Can They Be Submarine Ducts?

Some construction just shouldn't hold water. This statement applies to duct systems in buildings constructed in compliance with the One- and Two-Family Dwelling Subcode [International Residential Code (IRC) 2000, New Jersey edition] and buildings constructed in compliance with the Building Subcode and the Mechanical Subcode [International Building Code (IBC) 2000, New Jersey edition/International Mechanical Code (IMC) 2003] that are in a flood zone. There are a few differences between these. The IRC has a requirement that forbids ducts from being placed below the design flood elevation (Section R-327.1.5), but the IMC permits ducts to be below the design flood elevation as long as these ducts are designed and constructed to prevent water from entering and accumulating within the ducts (Section 603.13). In essence, the duct needs to be constructed as a boat; more specifically, as a submarine. Also addressed in the IMC are identical requirements that address plenums (Section 602.4).

The requirement for the design of the ducts to address hydrostatic and hydrodynamic loadings is interesting. Hydrostatic loading is the pressure applied to the duct or plenum when the water is stationary or static; a hydrodynamic loading is the pressures applied when the water is moving or flowing. Thus, hydrostatic design is for floodwaters that just rise and fall with little horizontal movement, and hydrodynamic design is for floodwaters that

have a horizontal velocity. The intent of these designs is to keep the duct from being torn away during the flooding event. This should explain the submarine analogy. There is also a requirement for the design to address the effects of buoyancy or "will the submerged duct cause the building or part of the building to move due to floating."

These requirements (IRC versus IMC) are not contrary to each other. Each applies to different building types and only to new building construction. The IRC requirement only applies to new one- and two-family buildings. The IMC requirements apply to all new buildings designed using the IBC/IMC combination. If the designer of a new one- or two-family building wants to use a design that has ducts below the design flood elevation, this may be accomplished through a variation. The ducts should be designed and constructed to prevent water from entering and accumulating within the ducts, in accordance with the minimum requirements found in the Mechanical Subcode (IMC 2003). This is prudent because the IMC 2003 has been adopted and contains new technical requirements that were not included in the 2000 IRC, but are included in the 2003 IRC (though not adopted by New Jersey.)

If there are any questions concerning this article, please contact the Code Assistance Unit at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Jeffery Applegate  
Code Assistance Unit

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## Energy – REScheck and COMcheck Internet Links

New releases for both the REScheck and COMcheck energy compliance tools have been added to the United States Department of Energy's web site, <http://www.energycodes.gov>. Included in the latest versions of REScheck, REScheckWeb, and COMcheck-EZ, is the addition of COMcheck-EZ Web. The links are as follows:

**REScheck for Windows**, Version 3.6, Release 2 (*runs on Windows 98, 2000, and XP*)  
\*<http://www.energycodes.gov/rescheck/download.stm>

**REScheck for Macintosh**, Version 3.6, Release 1a (*runs on Mac OS X*)  
\*<http://www.energycodes.gov/rescheck/download.stm>

**REScheck Web**, no download required (*requires Netscape or Internet Explorer*)  
\*<http://energycode.pnl.gov/REScheckWeb/>

**COMcheck-EZ for Windows**, Version 3.0, Release 2a (*runs on Windows 98, 2000, and XP*)  
\*[http://www.energycodes.gov/comcheck/ez\\_download.stm](http://www.energycodes.gov/comcheck/ez_download.stm)

**COMcheck-EZ for Macintosh**, Version 3.0, Release 1a (*runs on Mac OS X*)  
\*[http://www.energycodes.gov/comcheck/ez\\_download.stm](http://www.energycodes.gov/comcheck/ez_download.stm)

**COMcheck-EZ Web**, no download required (*requires Netscape or Internet Explorer*)  
\*<http://energycode.pnl.gov/COMcheckWeb/>

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New Jersey-specific Prescriptive Packages, for one- and two-family detached dwellings and all other residential buildings three stories or less in height only (there are no prescriptive packages recognized for all other buildings), can be found at: [\\*http://www.state.nj.us/dca/codes/energycodes/index.shtml](http://www.state.nj.us/dca/codes/energycodes/index.shtml).

NOTE: Use the 4500 packages for Atlantic, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, and Salem Counties; use the 5000 packages for Burlington, Essex, Hudson, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Union Counties; use the 5500 packages for Bergen, Hunterdon, Morris, Passaic, Somerset, Sussex, and Warren Counties.

If you have any questions on this issue, you may reach me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Rob Austin  
Code Assistance Unit

### Flexible Air Ducts and Flexible Air Connectors

There is still some confusion regarding the difference between a flexible air duct and a flexible air connector. I will try to clear up some of the questions I have been receiving.

Air ducts and air connectors are typically factory-made assemblies. Flexible air ducts and air connectors are generally used in air distribution systems for relatively short runs of duct.

One of the main problems is that a flexible air duct and a flexible air connector can look exactly alike. However, the markings on the material will identify it as either a flexible air duct or a flexible air connector. Both the flexible air duct and flexible air connector must comply with the requirements of UL 181 for Class 0 or Class 1. Flexible air ducts require more extensive testing (flame-penetration, puncture, and impact tests) than flexible air connectors. This difference in testing is what determines the markings on the material and whether or not it is classified as a flexible air duct or a flexible air connector.

The labeling on an air duct is rectangular and states, "LISTED AIR DUCT." The labeling on an air connector is round or oval and states, "LISTED AIR CONNECTOR." Also, the label for an air connector states, "For installation in length not over 14 feet." Because the testing for flexible air connector material is less stringent than for flexible air duct material, the length for a flexible air connector is limited to 14 feet.

International Mechanical Code/2003, Section 603.6.1.1, "Duct Length," states: "Flexible air ducts shall not be limited in length." Therefore, if a flexible air duct were used as a flexible connection, the 14-foot limitation would not apply.

So, it is very important to check the labeling of the flexible duct or connector to determine whether it is an air duct or air connector before making your determination as to whether or not the 14-foot maximum length is required.

Should you have any questions, you may contact me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Thomas C. Pitcherello  
Code Assistance Unit

### Foundation Drains in Residential Crawl Spaces: Are They Needed?

Section 406.1 of the New Jersey Edition of the 2000 International Residential Code requires walls or portions thereof that retain earth, and that enclose interior spaces and floors below grade, to be waterproofed or dampproofed in accordance with Section 406. This applies only when the floor of the crawl space is below the adjacent grade. Assuming there is no hydrostatic pressure condition, Section 406.4 requires dampproofing and also requires a drain to be installed around the foundation perimeter. The requirements for the drain are found in Section 406.4.2. Remember, the drain does not always require a pipe.

So, the short answer to the question "Are foundation drains needed in residential crawl spaces?" is yes. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Code Assistance Unit at (609) 984-7609.

Source: John N. Terry  
Code Assistance Unit

## Handicapped Parking Fines Increased

P.L. 2003, c. 161 increased the fine for violating the restrictions on an accessible parking space from \$100 to \$250. In order for the \$250 fine to be enforceable, the fine amount posted on each sign must be changed to \$250. There are companies (I do not have names) that make stickers that can be put over the existing numbers.

The Handicapped Parking Act, which was passed in 1989, designated the "reserved parking" signs as the required signs and also required the penalty signs. The responsibility for ensuring that the signs are updated is as follows:

- Signs that are posted at parking spaces that serve an accessible building entrance are considered to be "UCC spaces" and the construction official is responsible for ensuring that the amount of the penalty shown on the sign is increased.
- Signs that are posted at spaces on a municipal street are the responsibility of the municipal engineer — or another designated municipal official.
- Signs that are posted at spaces in a municipal parking lot that does not serve a specific building entrance are also the responsibility of the municipal engineer — or another designated municipal official.

If you have any questions about the Barrier Free Subcode, please contact the Code Assistance Unit at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Emily Templeton  
Code Development Unit

## Home Improvement Contractor Registration Deadline Looms Near

As the end of 2005 draws near, so does the Division of Consumer Affairs' registration deadline for all home improvement contractors in the State of New Jersey. Like it or not, December 31, 2005 is the deadline for home improvement contractors to be registered with Consumer Affairs in order to perform work in the State. Additionally, these contractors must be registered prior to the issuance of a construction permit.

Consumer Affairs cannot possibly register all of the contractors in the State during the month of December; therefore, they are requesting that construction departments help them with getting the word out. When a contractor comes to the counter to obtain a construction permit, please remind him or her of the contractor registration requirements.

Applications may be obtained by logging onto <http://www.njconsumeraffairs.com/contractor.htm>, or calling toll-free (888) 656-6225.

Consumer Affairs has published a poster for you to display in your office. If you have not received one, please contact Soraya Westerband by e-mail at [soraya.westerband@lps.state.nj.us](mailto:soraya.westerband@lps.state.nj.us), or by telephone at (973) 504-6543. Thank you for your assistance.

Source: John N. Terry  
Code Assistance Unit

## IRC – Mechanical/Fuel Gas Requirements, Contents Inside

In the case of one- and two-family detached dwellings and townhouses, all three stories or less, have you been citing the mechanical and fuel gas sections (Chapters 12 through 24) of the International Residential Code (IRC) for code compliance? If you have, keep up the good work. For those of you who have been citing the International Mechanical Code (IMC) and International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC) for one- and two-family detached dwellings and townhouses, all three stories or less, please take note of the above. There are some differences between residential applications (IRC) and commercial applications (IMC and IFGC) for mechanical and fuel gas installations, therefore requiring you as the code official to cite the permit applicant the appropriate section.

If you have questions on this matter, you may contact me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Rob Austin  
Code Assistance Unit

## Mortgagors, Mortgagees, and Unfinished Buildings

In 2001, the New Jersey Legislature passed an amendment to the State Uniform Construction Code Act that added a new paragraph c. to *N.J.S.A. 52:27D-131*. This new provision authorizes an enforcing agency to revoke or cancel a construction permit if the project is not completed by the third anniversary of the date of issuance of the construction permit. This provision became operative on the third anniversary of the amendment to the statute, January 14, 2005; an implementing Department of Community Affairs' rule, at *N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.16(f)*, also became operative on that date.

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Both the statute and rule provide for three exceptions to the authority of the construction official to revoke or cancel permits. These exceptions are: (1) permits for construction improvements to the interior of a house in which the permit holder resides that are not visible from the exterior; (2) permits for any building for which the exterior and all required site improvements are complete; and (3) permits for projects under control of a mortgagee in possession.

It has come to our attention that there is some confusion among code officials as to who qualifies as a mortgagee in possession. A mortgagee in possession is a bank or other lender who has foreclosed on a mortgage, accepted a deed in lieu of foreclosure, or otherwise taken control of a property from the borrower, who is also known as the mortgagor.

The **mortgagor** is the property owner who gives a mortgage, which is an interest in real property, to a mortgagee, who is the lender, as security for a loan. Because people commonly speak of "getting a mortgage" from a bank, the terminology is easy to misunderstand. However, it is more accurate to say that what a property owner (mortgagor) **gets** is a loan; what he or she **gives** to the mortgagee to get that loan is a mortgage, which is the right to take ownership of the property in the event of default.

This raises the question as to why that last provision is in the law and therefore in the rule. The answer, quite simply, is that the banks did not want to risk having properties on which they might foreclose be demolished and, not being in the business of finishing houses, they successfully lobbied the sponsor of the bill to exempt them.

Source: Michael Ticktin, Esq.  
Chief, Legislative Analysis

### New Jersey Register Adoptions

**Date:** July 5, 2005  
**Adoption:** 37 N.J.R. 2474(a)  
**Summary:** These adopted amendments to N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.23 tie temporary Certificates of Occupancy to the soil district's Conditional Report of Compliance. In addition, the adopted amendments require Temporary Certificates of Occupancy to include a list of any work that is to be completed before the issuance of a Final Certificate of Occupancy.

**Date:** June 20, 2005  
**Adoption:** 37 N.J.R. 2201(b)  
**Summary:** These adopted amendments to N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.31, 7.3, 7.5, 7.7, 7.9, and 7.10 revise the requirements of the Barrier Free Subcode of the Uniform Construction

Code for assisted-living facilities, townhouses, boarding homes, dormitories, accessible beds in hotel rooms, firewalls and partywalls, accessible entrances, and accessible parking.

Source: Megan K. Sullivan  
Code Development Unit

### New Jersey Association of Technical Assistants Goes National

During this year's Building Safety Conference, held May 4-6 in Atlantic City, the New Jersey Association of Technical Assistants (NJATA) invited a representative from the Washington State Association of Permit Technicians (WSAPT) to speak at our State technical assistants association meeting. Shawna Gossett, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of WSAPT, provided an overview of their association, followed by a question-and-answer period in which we discussed some of our similarities and differences.

This exchange presented a great opportunity for us to build a working relationship with an established organization. We hope to continue to build towards a national conference for "Permit Technicians," as they are known nationally. Shawna took home a lot of information from her visit and we gained some great information from her, as well.

The following is some brief information on the WSAPT. I am including their web address and encourage all of you to browse their web site.

WSAPT was begun in 1995 by a group of people interested in forming an association to provide support for the city and county workers who are commonly referred to as "front-counter staff" from the building, planning, and engineering departments. This group formed an interim board of executive officers and began to work on bylaws. In January 1999, they became an official chapter of the International Council of Building Officials (ICBO). With the merger of the three national model codes into a single international code, the ICBO chapter elected to become a chapter of the International Codes Council (ICC). They are now recognized by the ICC, and are continuing with their educational programs and support for their members.

The WSAPT association is composed of people who currently work for a municipality (which includes city and county governments). Their board consists of a president, 1<sup>st</sup> vice-president, 2<sup>nd</sup> vice-president, recorder, and treasurer. Each of those board members is a liaison to chairs of various WSAPT committees including

Administration, Bylaws, Code Development, Education/Certification, Membership, Newsletter, and Peer.

In the early years, this group's main goal was to establish a Certified Permit Technician test through ICBO. Members of WSAPT have been obtaining this certification since September 1998. Today, Washington has 136 certified members, the second highest number in the country.

We in New Jersey believe there is a lot to learn from such an accomplished group. Many thanks to the WSAPT members for working with us and sharing in our conference. We look forward to continuing our relationship. For more information, please visit <http://www.wabo.org> and click on the WSAPT link.

Source: Dawn M. Neil  
President  
New Jersey Association of Technical Assistants



*From left to right: Shawna Gosset, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the WSAPT; Dawn Neil, President of NJATA; Debbie Timko, Secretary of NJATA; Linda Aiello, VP/Treasurer of NJATA.*



*From left to right: Dawn Neil, President of the NJATA, is presented with WSAPT membership materials from Shawna Gosset, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-President of the WSAPT.*

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## Oh Where, Oh Where Does the Bond Wire Go?

The pool season has done it again! It has brought more questions like, “Does the bond wire get connected to motor control panels or sub-panels?”

Section 680.26(B)(4) of the 2002 National Electrical Code states that metal parts of electrical equipment associated with the pool water circulating system (including pump motors) and metal parts of equipment associated with pool covers (including electric motors) shall be bonded. Where double-insulated pump motors are utilized, the bonding is not required.

Therefore, the answer is **NO**; the bond wire does not get connected to the motor control panel or sub-panel. Unlike the motor, these panels are not associated with the pool water circulating system.

If you have any questions on this matter, you may reach me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Suzanne Borek  
Code Assistance Unit

## Plan Review Authority for Residential Health Care Facilities

On March 14, 2005, Acting Governor Richard J. Codey issued Reorganization Plan No. 002-2005. This plan transfers responsibility for all license, regulatory, and enforcement activities related to free-standing residential health care facilities, as defined in P.L. 1953, c. 212, §1, as amended (C. 30:11A-1), from the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) to the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). This transfer does not apply to residential health care facilities located within, or functioning as part of, another licensed health care facility such as a nursing home, assisted-living facility, or hospital.

Since both free-standing residential health care facilities and boarding houses provide services to similar populations, the Bureau of Rooming and Boarding House Standards (BRBHS) will now be the agency within the DCA with authority over residential health care facilities.

For over 30 years, while the residential health care program was under the DHSS authority, these free-standing facilities were considered “licensed health care facilities.” At that time, per *N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.11(a)8*, plan review for these facilities was reserved to the DCA Health Care Plan Review Unit as the sole plan review agency for health care facilities. With the transfer of authority for free-standing residential health care facilities to the DCA, these facilities

are no longer “licensed health care facilities” and, as such, there is no longer any need for plan review to be reserved to the DCA Health Care Plan Review Unit.

Therefore, appropriately licensed municipalities may now review plans for construction projects within their jurisdiction that involve free-standing residential health care facilities. Municipalities shall apply the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code and its associated adopted standards (IBC, IMC, NSPC, NEC), as appropriate, when reviewing such projects.

Local officials who are unfamiliar with these types of facilities can receive guidance in applying the codes by calling our offices at (609) 984-7850.

Source: David B. Uhaze, RA  
Chief  
Bureau of Construction Project Review

## Purple Wire Connectors

There have been some questions as to whether or not there is a wire connector listed and labeled for connecting aluminum to copper wire. The answer is yes.

The wire connectors that are listed and labeled for this specific use are purple, and can be used only once. They cannot be reused like standard wire connectors due to the antioxidant compound contained within the connector.

There is only one manufacturer at present who has the wire connectors for this purpose; it is a model #65. *Do not confuse these with standard purple wire connectors!*

If you have any questions on this matter, you may reach me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Suzanne Borek  
Code Assistance Unit

## Shop Drawing Revisited

Over the past few years, code officials have handled the submittal of documents for engineered lumber in a multitude of ways. The following are three separate scenarios that are intended to provide direction as to how design documents or shop drawings should be handled.

In the first scenario, the design professional of record has provided sufficient detail on the original design documents to determine compliance with the requirements of the code for the engineered wood product. If the design

professional provides sufficient specification and detail (depth, width, joist series, on-center spacing), there is no need for a shop drawing to be submitted by the manufacturer. Any additional information that is needed to determine compliance with the code should be requested of, and provided by, the design professional of record.

In the second scenario, the design professional of record does not provide sufficient information on the design documents to determine compliance with the requirements of the code. When the design professional of record does not include detail on the original design documents, signed and sealed shop drawings are required. As per *N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.15(e)1xi*, any deferred submittal must be reviewed and accepted by the design professional of record.

In the third scenario, engineered wood products are used in place of other specified products. In this instance, the documents submitted by the engineered wood product manufacturer are required to be signed and sealed. This is a deviation from the original design and must be approved by the design professional of record.

These three scenarios should guide you in determining the need for your documents to be signed and sealed, as well as by whom. If you have further questions on this matter, please feel free to contact the Code Assistance Unit at (609) 984-7609.

Source: John N. Terry  
Code Assistance Unit

### Supporting Recessed Lighting Fixtures

Article 410, Part IV of the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC/2002), specifically Sections 410.15 and 410.16, contains the requirements for the support of lighting fixtures. When installing *recessed lighting fixtures* in a suspended ceiling, Section 410.16(C) and Section 410.15(A) of the NEC/2002 contain specific requirements for the means of support.

**Section 410.16(C):** The framing members of a suspended ceiling may support recessed lighting fixtures as long as the fixtures are fastened by mechanical means (i.e., screws, rivets, and/or listed clips) to the framing members. The framing members shall be fastened together and attached to the building structure appropriately.

**Section 410.15(A):** This section is key. The suspended ceiling framing members can be properly attached to the building structure and the recessed lighting fixtures properly attached to the suspended ceiling; but, *if*

*the weight of the fixtures is not accounted for*, the ceiling could fail. To help prevent failure, the building subcode official shall verify the design specifications for the maximum weight allowance of the ceiling assembly with all lighting fixtures installed.

If you have any questions on this issue, you may reach me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Rob Austin  
Code Specialist

### Which Way Does It Go? . . . The Emergency Lighting Branch Circuit

The question keeps arising: "On which branch circuit is the emergency lighting required to be installed?"

Section 700.12(E) of the 2002 National Electrical Code states that the branch circuit for unit equipment, such as an exit sign with battery-powered backup, shall be the same branch circuit as that serving the normal lighting in the area and is to be connected ahead of any local switches. The branch circuit that feeds the unit equipment shall be clearly identified at the distribution panel.

This means that, wherever the emergency lighting unit equipment is installed, it is required to be on the normal lighting circuit in the area. The overcurrent protective device has to be clearly identified in the panel that is feeding the unit equipment.

If you have any questions on this matter, you may reach me at (609) 984-7609.

Source: Suzanne Borek  
Code Assistance Unit

### Your Service . . . and Stucco?

That's right . . . the latest and greatest stylish thing to do to your house is stucco! Does this mean that the service may be encapsulated or covered in its entirety by stucco? The answer is no.

Section 230.6 of the 2002 National Electrical Code (NEC/2002) states that service conductors shall be considered outside of the building where they are installed under 2 inches or more of concrete; where they are installed within a building in a raceway that is encased in concrete or brick that is 2 inches thick; where they are installed in a vault that meets the construction requirements of Article

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450, Part III; or where they are installed in conduit and under not less than 18 inches of earth beneath a building.

Section 110.3(B) of the NEC/2002 states that listed or labeled equipment shall be installed and used in accordance with the instructions included in the listing or labeling.

Service conductors *are not* considered outside of the building when they are contained within a building finish. The listing and labeling of the service conductors is not approved for being installed in stucco. And, just like painted service conductors, Underwriter's Laboratories, Inc. has not tested the conductors under these conditions.

Therefore, service conductors shall not be installed in or behind stucco.

If you have any questions on this matter, you may reach me at (609) 984-7609.

Source:           Suzanne Borek  
                      Code Assistance Unit

# ***NOTES***

FIRST-CLASS MAIL

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