

April 2010

ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER



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2009 NC State Building Code Amendments

The NC Building Code Council has amended the 2009 NC Codes at its quarterly meetings. These amendments have an effective date of January 1, 2011, with a few exceptions for immediate application. The NC Code Cumulative Amendments that have been adopted by the BCC and approved by the Rules Review Commission are posted at

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering_bcc_codes_2009_approved.asp .

2012 Edition of the NC State Building Codes Update

The NC Building Code Council has begun the adoption process for the 2012 Edition of the NC State Building Codes. The June meeting order will be different from the normal schedule. Please note that there will not be a work session on Monday June 14th. The only order of business on Monday June 14th will be an appeal hearing. The Public Hearing for the 2012 NC Codes is scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on June 15th. The BCC Meeting will begin at 3:00 pm also on June 15th. This meeting will be at the McKimmon Center at 1101 Gorman Street, Raleigh, NC 27606. The proposed 2012 NC Code amendments will be posted on the website prior to May 17th. The official link to those amendments will be provided in the next newsletter.

International Code Council Hearing Schedule

The ICC Final Action Hearings will be held in Dallas, TX (May 15-23) and in Charlotte, NC (October 23-31). These hearings will determine the final technical content for the 2012 I-Codes that will likely become the 2015 NC Codes. The proposed schedule and proposed amendments will be posted at www.iccsafe.org . The ICC Annual Business Meeting will also be held during the Charlotte hearings. This is an excellent opportunity for you to be involved in or observe the ICC code development process.

Two New ESS Evaluations Posted

The Evaluations Services Section has completed and posted the following evaluations on the OSFM Website.

- *Cross Laminated Timber Construction*
- *Spray Polyurethane Foam Insulation in Attic, Crawl Space and Roofing Applications (Residential)*

The evaluations can be found at

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/engineering_evaluations.asp

DOI Evaluations are designed to be tools for the Building officials or anyone else who is looking for guidance on how to determine if a method or material is code compliant and can be approved for their projects. The utilization of the evaluation is at the discretion of the user as appropriate for their situation.

Your questions or comments on the evaluations are welcome. Please send them to susan.gentry@ncdoi.gov .

Code Officials Qualification Board Meeting Notice

The next Code Officials Qualification Board meeting will be April 27th at 1:00 at the State Fire Marshal's office, 322 Chapanoke Road, Raleigh. An agenda will be posted on the website approximately 2 weeks from the day of the meeting. See http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/COQB/engineering_coqb_agendas.asp for the agenda.

From the Home Inspector Licensure Board Director...

NCGS 143-151.51(c) provides that engineers, architects and general contractors licensed in the state of North Carolina possess sufficient education and experience to sit for the NC Home Inspector Licensure Board (NCHILB) examination. In addition, NC code enforcement officials with certifications in Building, Mechanical, Plumbing and Electrical codes (all 4 areas) are deemed qualified to sit for the Home Inspector's exam.

The home inspector exam consists of 200 questions designed to test practical knowledge of home systems and components in the following areas: site grading and drainage, structural, electrical, mechanical, plumbing, exterior, interior, insulation and ventilation, roofs and built-in kitchen appliances. The exam also includes questions on the Laws and Rules regulating licensed home inspectors in the state - especially the requirements of home inspection reports Standards of Practice.

Before accepting the position of the NCHILB Executive Director, I've practiced as a professional engineer and a certified code official in all five disciplines. Take it from me, the comprehensive exam tests applicant's knowledge in all areas of the house. The exam fee is currently \$75 - you certainly get your money's worth!

The trend toward larger new homes has been going on for years with much of the systems and components more technical than they've ever been. However, there are still many "older inventory" homes on the market. We've all seen one of those emails with photos of outrageous or potentially dangerous electrical wiring, kooky plumbing drains or dead rodents in electrical panels or air handlers. Google "Home Inspector Horror Stories" for something really scary. Who wouldn't want to know such conditions exist in a house they are considering purchasing?

The 2010 census is now underway. When complete it will likely indicate something like 4.5 million households in the State of North Carolina for a statewide population of approximately 9.4 million residents. The NC Association of REALTORS® says that 81,000 existing homes were sold in NC in 2009 - and this in a recession. There are currently only 1,392 active home inspectors and associate inspectors.

Looks like plenty of work out there to me! If you have any questions about becoming a licensed Home Inspector, please call 919-6624480.

Mike Hejduk, PE

Is Your Jurisdiction Ready for Fourth of July Fireworks Permits?

New North Carolina Laws in Effect February, 2010 What You Need to Know Right Now!

July 4th fireworks are just around the corner and many jurisdictions have special events between now and then that may involve pyrotechnics. As a result of last year's tragic event in NC with a fireworks display, the 2009 legislature enacted requirements (NCGS 14-410) that anyone who discharges or operates outdoor pyrotechnics or proximate (indoor) pyrotechnics must attend a training course and earn a pyrotechnics operator permit from the Office of State Fire Marshal before conducting a display in NC. The last thing you need is to get to the day of the event and learn that there are new laws that affect your ability to issue a permit for the event and no time left for compliance.

It is important to note that these new laws work in conjunction with existing laws that involve additional requirements:

- Permits for use of Pyrotechnics can only be issued by a NC Certified Level III Fire Prevention Code Inspector.
- In addition to the permit for code compliance, the event must be approved in writing by the county commissioners or city board as detailed in NCGS 14-413.

For your convenience and preparation for pyrotechnic events in your jurisdiction, checklists has been provided on our website at http://www.ncdoi.com/osfm/PyrotechnicOperatorCertification/pyrotechnic_code_officials.asp . There is much more information concerning this safety program there if you are interested.

If you have questions, or if you have an emergency related to unpermitted operators, please contact Rob Roegner (rob.roegner@ncdoi.gov) at 919-661-5880 Ext. 249 or Natalie Pollard (natalie.pollard@ncdoi.gov) at 919-661-5880 Ext. 259.