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# ENGINEERING NEWSLETTER



NC Department of Insurance

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## NC Code Council Chairman Calls Special Meeting

On September 14, 2010, the North Carolina Building Code Council voted to adopt the 2012 Building, Fire, Mechanical, Plumbing and Fuel Gas Codes. On adoption, the council implemented a transition period that allows the use of the 2009 or 2012 codes beginning September 1, 2011 and ending March 1, 2012. After the transition period, the 2012 code will be the only enforceable edition. Also on September 14<sup>th</sup>, the council voted to delay adoption of the Energy Conservation Code for one cycle and could not vote to approve the Residential Code by the time the meeting was adjourned.

There was a called special meeting of the Building Code Council on October 5, 2010. The purpose of this meeting was to complete the September meeting Agenda regarding the residential code which where Items D-11 (the residential code proposed by the committee) and D-11(A) (the residential code without sprinklers) and Part E-Reports. The Council ruled that Items D-11 and D-11(A) could not be addressed since they were tabled until the December meeting.

In further action on the advice of Counsel, a motion was made and passed that resulted in reconvening the ad-hoc committees involved in the 2012 Energy Code to address public comments before the regularly scheduled December Council meeting. This action rescinded the vote from the September Code council meeting which postponed adoption of the Code until the 2015 code cycle. An additional motion was made and approved to bring the 2012 Energy Code back to the Council for re-consideration at the December meeting.

Click here for the BCC calendar for December -

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering\\_bcc\\_calendar.asp](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering_bcc_calendar.asp)

## Web Interpretations Posted

Starting with this newsletter edition, the most recent web interpretations from DOI will be listed in each newsletter for your use. We have heard from many people that they did not know these interpretations were available or have not been able to locate them on the Engineering website. There are many interpretations available, some from past codes, on all of the code disciplines. A list of recently posted interpretations is on page two of this newsletter. In order to make it easier for you to find them on our website, you should bookmark the link to the search page for these and all others previously posted. That link is:

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/CodeServices/engineering\\_codeservices\\_interpretations\\_search3.asp](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/CodeServices/engineering_codeservices_interpretations_search3.asp)

### Recent Posted 2009 Building Code Web Interpretations:

- 602.4 2x Dimensional Lumber Not Acceptable as Heavy Timber Construction
- 603.1 Item 8 Application of 6ft Height Limit
- 1004.1.1 Occupancy Loading for Residence Halls
- 1025 Means of Egress Related to Bleacher Seats
- 1210.2 Use of Epoxy Paint as a Smooth, Hard, Nonabsorbent Surface Around Plumbing Fixtures
- 1210.3 Use of Epoxy Paint as a Smooth, Hard, Nonabsorbent Surface Around Plumbing Fixtures
- 2304.11.6 Borate Termite Treatment
- 2902.1 Unheated Storage Plumbing Fixture Exemption

### Recently Posted 2009 Residential Code Web Interpretations:

- R301.2 Use of DASMA Technical Data Sheet 155h
- R312 Guard Rails on Screened Porches
- R320.1 Borate Termite Treatment
- R402 Use of DASMA Technical Data Sheet 155h
- R404.1.5 Nonload-bearing Masonry Foundation Curtain Walls

### Recently Posted 2009 Mechanical Code Web Interpretations:

- 308.6 Listed Type I Hood Clearance to Combustibles
- 507.1 Listed Type I Hood Clearance to Combustibles
- 507.9 Listed Type I Hood Clearance to Combustibles

### Recently Posted 2009 Energy Code Web Interpretations:

Enforceability of the North Carolina Energy Conservation Code

### Recently Posted 2009 Plumbing Code Web Interpretations:

- 403.1 Plumbing Fixture Exemption for Unheated Storage Buildings
- 403.1 Unheated Storage Plumbing Fixture Exemption
- 417.4.1 Use of Epoxy Paint as a Smooth, Hard, Nonabsorbent Surface Around Plumbing Fixtures
- 419.3 Use of Epoxy Paint as a Smooth, Hard, Nonabsorbent Surface Around Plumbing Fixtures

### Recently Posted 2009 Rehab Code Web Interpretations:

- 1.25c-3 Emergency Egress Window Height Measurement.doc
- 1.26b Emergency Egress Window Height Measurement
- 1.27b-2iii Emergency Egress Window Height Measurement.doc

## Permit Extension Act of 2009 Amended

There have been several calls to DOI lately about permit extensions. Apparently many jurisdictions are not aware that the Permit Extension Act of 2009 has been amended to run past the original expiration date of December 31, 2010 all the way to December 31, 2011. The relevant text of Session Law 2009-406 is as follows:

**"SECTION 4.** For any development approval that is current and valid at any point during the period beginning January 1, 2008, and ending December 31, 2010, the running of the period of the development approval and any associated vested right under G.S. 153A-344.1 or G.S. 160A-385.1 is suspended during the period beginning January 1, 2008, and ending December 31, 2010.2011.

## ICC Annual Meeting and Final Action Hearings in N.C.

You may have heard that in October, COCO will host the International Code Council Annual Meeting and final Action Hearings on the International Energy Conservation Code and Chapter 11 International Residential Code in Charlotte. This is a wonderful opportunity for you to get involved in the code change process at its earlier stages, before it is even introduced in North Carolina. For more information on this event taking place October 25 through October 31, go to [www.iccsafe.org/NR0728-Charlotte](http://www.iccsafe.org/NR0728-Charlotte). For a list of education classes that will be offered that have been approved by the NC Q-Board for CEUs, contact Celestine Phill at 919-661-5880 x 241 or email her at [celestine.phill@ncdoi.gov](mailto:celestine.phill@ncdoi.gov).

## Local Jurisdiction Permitting for Zip Line Facilities

DOI has recently received questions concerning who has jurisdiction over zip line installation. The Department of Labor has no authority to review and inspect them and do not do so. Because the size of the project does not normally meet the threshold requiring DOI review, the Department of Insurance does not review them.

Barry Gupton, Chief Code Consultant for the State, has determined that the local inspector in the jurisdiction where the zip line is to be constructed and installed shall review and inspect the stair approach from the ground up to and including the platform for approach to the zip line. This review and inspection must confirm that the stair and the platform comply with the standard stair configuration in the current NC Building Code.

## Straw-Bale Residential Construction Evaluation Published

The Evaluation Service Section has published an evaluation with code requirements and recommendations for the building official to consider when faced with permitting or inspecting a single family home to be built utilizing straw-bale construction. NC Codes do not currently address this type of construction, so any use of this construction method would be considered as an alternate method and material. You will find the evaluation at the following link:  
<http://www.ncdoi.com/osfm/engineering/documents/evaluations/strawbale%20residential%20construction%20aug%2030%202010.pdf>

If you have questions concerning this document, please contact Helen DiPietro at [helen.dipietro@ncdoi.gov](mailto:helen.dipietro@ncdoi.gov).

## What You Should Know About Exploding Targets

Recent advances in firearms target practice have led to the development of several different types of interactive targets. The most notable is typically referred to as “Tannerite targets” and are sold under different brand names by various manufacturers. Tannerite is a trade name for a type of binary powder sold in pre-sized quantities for many uses, most recently, target practice, but previously, avalanche control, various police uses, as well as for different agricultural uses.

ATF regulations and the NC Fire Code regulate the storage of any amount of mixed Tannerite or any other binary powders. Post mixed powders cannot enter commerce in any way unless an ATF permit or license is held by the selling and the purchasing party.

Unfortunately, a byproduct to the relatively safe use of premeasured materials used in exploding targets has been the desire for enthusiasts and professionals to develop the same sort of interactive targeting for slower traveling, lesser caliber weapons. This will typically involve the mixture of a more unstable compound to allow the same type of detonation with a significantly less amount of initiating energy. It should be noted that this will normally involve a mixture outside of the manufacture’s specifications, or a mixture not detailed in any manufacturer’s specifications. In those cases the results of the detonation of the mixture have not been tested, and is by default very unpredictable and hazardous. Regardless, neither the ATF nor the NC Fire Code regulates these products until after the mixture has occurred, at which point the mixture may be extremely unstable.

Anyone approaching a location where target shooting utilizing exploding targets, or an area where there is suspicion of the utilization of exploding targets should be aware that there may be residual materials remaining in the area. Materials are typically a dark charcoal or medium gray powder substance and may be found in small plastic bottles or plastic margarine type containers. Do not attempt to move any of these types of materials; the local authorities should be called to arrange for their proper removal and disposal.

Any additional questions about exploding targets can be forwarded to The Office of State Fire Marshal, Pyrotechnic Licensing, 1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh NC, 27603

Or you can call 919-661-5880 Ext. 249 or e-mail [rob.roegner@ncdoi.gov](mailto:rob.roegner@ncdoi.gov).

## Engineering Division Staff Information

- Ron Chilton was elected President of the Ellis Canady chapter of IAEI.
- Janie Sutton, PE was elected Secretary to the Mechanical Inspector Association.
- Chris Noles was elected Director at Large to the Building Inspector Association.
- Carl Martin has successfully completed all examination requirements and is now a registered Architect. Carl is a graduate of UNC Charlotte School of Architecture.
- Michael DiPietro, son of Helen and John DiPietro, was selected to receive the 2010-2011 NCBA Kern Church Scholarship. This scholarship is given to individuals who have shown academic success as well as financial need. Michael is a freshman at the Savannah College of Art and Design and will be majoring in Animation/Media Motion Design.
- In October, Tim Morrison will be awarded a certificate for completing the Certified Public Manager Program. This is an 18 month developmental training program for middle managers in State government agencies.

## Feedback

Do you have comments about the newsletter? Do you have suggestions for improvement or for future articles or content that might be helpful to you? This newsletter is published for your benefit. Our goal is that it be as helpful as possible. If you want to tell us your thoughts about it, just reply to the email you received that contained the newsletter notice.