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Introduction

Feature Articles

Present Codes in Effect

As a reminder, the 2012 NC Building Codes, with the exception of the NC Electrical Code, will remain in effect until at least 2018. Refer to the [May 6 2014 Engineering Newsletter](#) for more details. The only code book implementation so far in 2015 is the 2015 North Carolina Existing Building Code (see next article below). The next edition of the NC Electrical code is with the Electrical Ad Hoc Committee and the adoption date is not available at this time. The 2011 NC Electrical code remains in effect.

Cumulative amendments accepted by the NC Building Code Council are available online, see Cumulative Supplements later in the newsletter.

2015 North Carolina Existing Building Code

The 2015 NC Existing Building Code has been adopted by the BCC and approved by the RRC with a March 1, 2015 effective date. The 1995 NC Existing Building Code will expire on March 1, 2015. The NC Rehabilitation Code will remain effective until March 1, 2018 (3-year overlap). During the 3-yr transition period, either code will be acceptable. The choice of which code to follow in this transition period is up to the permit holder.

Commentary for the NC amendments to the NC Existing Building Code is anticipated to be posted on the website by March 1st. The following is a direct link for a read-only version of the new code.

http://ecodes.biz/ecodes_support/free_resources/2012NorthCarolina/15ExistingBuilding/15NC_ExistingBldg.html

A hard copy of the code is also available for sale through ICC for \$85 (\$68 member price).

It does not show up on the list of available NC documents yet on the main ICC site; but here is a direct link:

<http://shop.iccsafe.org/codes/state-and-local-codes/north-carolina/north-carolina-state-building-code-existing-building-2015.html>

Several classes are being taught on the code in various locations. For information on dates and location, go to the following link on the Q-Board's website, and use the drop-down menus to find a class.

<https://apps.ncdoi.net/f?p=114:505%20:0::::>

Fire Inspections in Schools

Written before the development of a fire code, General Statute 115C-525 (b)(3) contained a provision that allowed the Commissioner of Insurance to prescribe an electrical inspection. After the adoption of the fire code, the schools were subjected to two inspections, even though Chapter 6 of the fire code included looking at electrical violations and referring the violation to an electrical inspector as needed. Effective Oct. 1, 2014, the department policy of requiring the electrical inspection in addition to the fire inspection is optional. Fire inspections still have to be conducted as required by statute.

2015 US DOE Appliance Efficiency Note

Periodically, the US Department of Energy reviews minimum appliance efficiency standards, and sometimes increases the standards for selected appliances. Starting Jan 1, 2015, there are changes in the minimum efficiency of air conditioners and heat pumps that manufacturers are allowed to manufacture. With limited exceptions, these Federal standards plan for, and allow, the using up of inventory. From a North Carolina Code enforcement perspective, the building code does not supersede any of the efficiency or inventory use-up provisions of the US Department of Energy.

For more information on this, the Licensing Board for Plumbing, Heating, and Fire Sprinkler Contractors prepared an informative article in their November 2014 Newsletter, and here is a link to their newsletter site.

<http://nclicensing.org/newsletter.asp>

In summary, there is no violation of state building code by allowing the installation of existing inventory, and there are no changes to the inspections process required to accommodate the new standards.

Building Code Council Approved Rules

Please refer to the list of “D-Items” from the September 2014 Minutes. There were 8 D-Items, and 7* of these were adopted at this quarterly meeting. Please refer to the following link to review the list of D-Items from the September 2014 Building Code Council Meeting:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/BCC_Minutes/2014%2009%2014~September%2014,%202014.pdf

Assuming the BCC-approved D-Items pass through Rule Review Commission, the adopted rules will be placed on the NCDOT Engineering website. The compilation of previously approved rules is located in the document “2012-2015 Approved Cumulative Amendments”, or “2014-2016 Approved Cumulative Amendments”. See Cumulative Supplements article under the Engineering Department section for link.

*Item D-8 was approved, but was subsequently declined upon Rules Review Committee review. See October Engineering Newsletter article for details of the declined emergency ruling on Low-E glazing.

Qualification Board Minutes

The minutes to the July 2014 Board Meeting are available at the following link:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/COQB_Minutes/2014%2007%2022~July%2022,%202014.pdf

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

Residential 0310 - Skylights Used as Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings

Energy 504.7.3 - Exemption for Covers for Heated Pools and In-ground Permanently Installed Spas

Residential 1103.8.3 - Exemption for Covers for Heated Pools and In-ground Permanently Installed Spas

Residential 0502.5 - Supplements to Girder and Header Span Tables for #2 Southern Pine.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](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.” The batch of code changes that had effective dates on or before January 1, 2015, is in the “2012-2015 Approved Cumulative Amendments” document. Starting with the September 2014 code changes, another document has been added that will accumulate all the changes with effective dates taking place on or before January 1, 2016.

Remember; refer to NC Administrative Code section **102.4 Effective date of rules**, and **102.5 Interim use of approved rules** for clarification of effective dates and the process for using approved rules prior to the effective date.

NC Building Code Training

The inspector associations of the state are at various stages of assembling and fine-tuning continuing education classes for this winter and spring. The NC Fire Marshal’s Association has published the dates for their annual fire prevention workshop, which will be held March 23, 2015 – March 27, 2015. Please refer to the following link, (scroll down the webpage for the Annual Fire Prevention Workshop announcement and application):

http://ncfma.com/training_education1

Contact NCFMA for details of which coursework is applicable for Fire Prevention Code Certificate holders.

The NC Plumbing Inspectors Association, Mechanical Inspectors Association and Building Inspectors Association have their offerings published. 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](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

“The only constant around here is change.” I’m not sure to whom I should attribute the preceding quote but it is certainly applicable to QAS. As many inspectors know, we now have an email listserve established to facilitate communication between the board staff. Effective January 2015 we now have a Customer Service Representative, Rodney Daughtry, who will serve as initial contact for questions from inspectors and the public about navigating the website, certification, licensing, education and complaints. He is performing these functions for the COQB as well as HILB, MFR Building and even some Pyrotechnic licensing queries.

Other staff changes include the departure of Brandi Maynard in December 2014 and new hire Sam Whittington, PE effective January 5, 2015 as investigator. Brandi’s position has been advertised and we are looking forward to attaining full staff complement by the end of February.

Staff email addresses:

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End of Newsletter