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Introduction

Current Topics

Following code change proposals

Editor’s Note: This article is a supplement to an article that first appeared in the July 2014 Engineering Newsletter, and is being reprinted due to continued questions concerning the location of the most up-to-date code information.

The NC Building Codes are set up for a six-year code cycle, with the exception of the Electric Code. However, code changes are not limited to every six years, they can occur as frequently as each quarter. The proposer, or anyone for that matter, can follow the journey of a code proposal remotely by viewing a combination of the Building Code Council, Rules Review Commission, and NC DOI webpages to see where a proposal is. The following links are provided for convenience.

Building Code Council Meeting Announcements and Minutes link:

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=BCC -
_Meeting_Dates&user=Building_Code_Council&sub=BCC_Meeting](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=BCC_-_Meeting_Dates&user=Building_Code_Council&sub=BCC_Meeting)

After the Building Code Council approves a proposal, the person can view the agenda for the Rules Review Commission to see the location of a proposed rule change that has been approved by the Building Code Council.

Rules Review Commission Agendas and Minutes link:

<http://www.ncoah.com/rules/rrc/meetings/index.html>

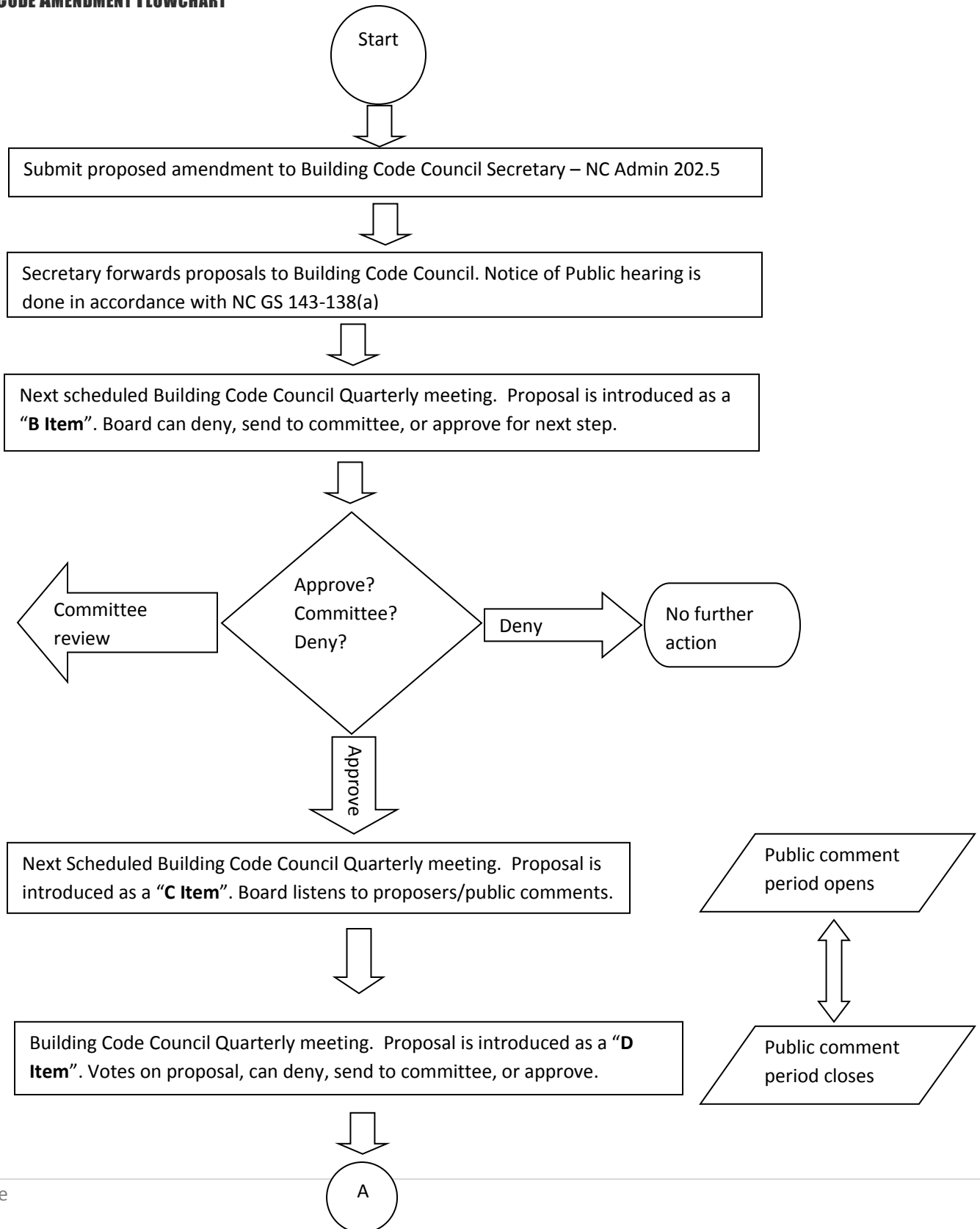
Finally, the person can view the adopted language in one of several places on the NC Department of Insurance website, depending on the year it was adopted.

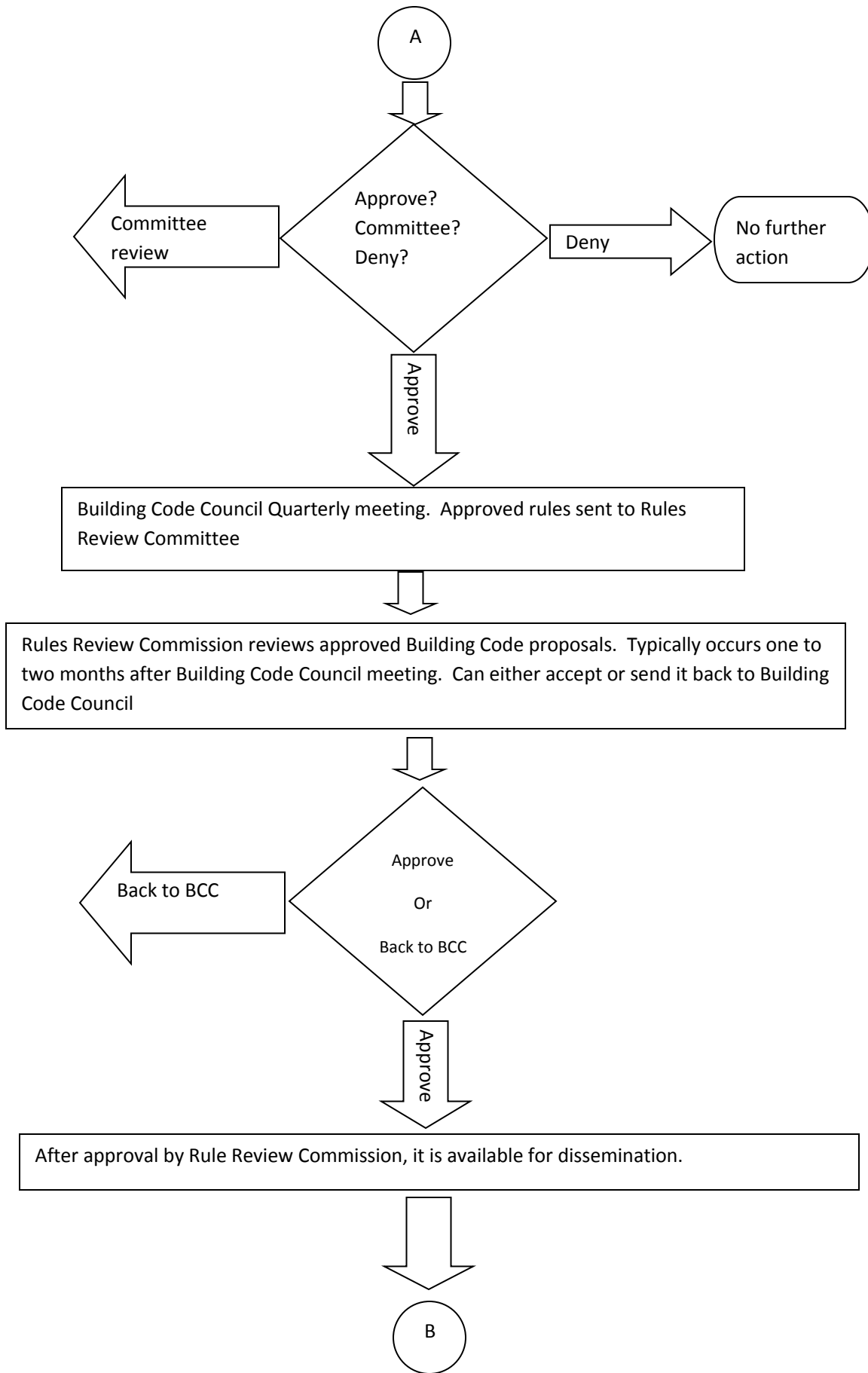
NC Department of Insurance website, main page for current codes:

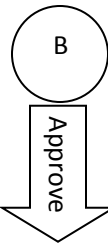
[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Codes -
_Current_and_Past&user=State_Building_Codes](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Codes_-_Current_and_Past&user=State_Building_Codes)

Please refer to the following flowchart, Figure 1: Code Amendment Flowchart for more information, and cited sources within the flowchart for more details. The flow chart is by necessity skeletal and may not address all conceivable variations a code proposal may take, but is intended to serve as a visual guide to the overall process.

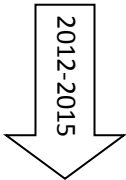
FIGURE 1: CODE AMENDMENT FLOWCHART



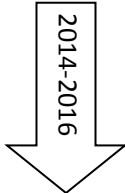




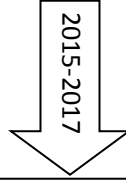
Available on www.ncdoi.com website. Based on what quarter/ year the approval is performed, the approved rule can be viewed and downloaded at one of several locations.



[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering and Codes/Documents/2012 NCBuildingCode amendments/2012-2015ApprovedCumulative.pdf](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2012-2015ApprovedCumulative.pdf)

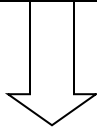


[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering and Codes/Documents/2012 NCBuildingCode amendments/2014-2016ApprovedCumulative.pdf](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2014-2016ApprovedCumulative.pdf)

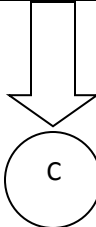


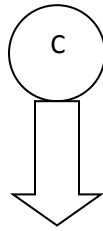
[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering and Codes/Documents/2012 NCBuildingCode amendments/2015-2017ApprovedCumulative.pdf](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2015-2017ApprovedCumulative.pdf)

There is, for ease of use, another document on the DOI website that combines all *effective* amendments into one document with an interactive table of contents. Remember, *effective* means the adopted code change proposal is at or past the mandatory implementation date set by the Building code Council.



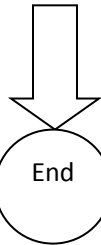
There is, for ease of use, another document on the DOI website that combines all *effective* amendments into one document with an interactive table of contents. Remember, *effective* means the adopted code change proposal is at or past the mandatory implementation date set by the Building Code Council.





Accumulative Supplement to the 2012 NC Building Code:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2012-2016ApprovedCumulativeTest1Format.pdf



Code Change Procedure FAQ's

Where is a step-by step example I can use to prepare a change proposal?

The article published in the *July 2014 Engineering Newsletter* is under the Engineer's Corner section of the newsletter. That article has a more detailed review, and follows one actual proposal through the process from beginning to end.

Link to newsletter

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Documents/Engineering_Newsletters/2014%2007%2029~July%2029,%202014%20-%20DOI%20ENGINEERING%20NEWSLETTER_.pdf

The details of this process should be reviewed in the NC Administration Code, Section 202.5. Section 202.5.7 also has a sample calendar timeline that may be helpful.

Are there any forms to fill out?

There is a code change proposal form that is helpful in preparing the change proposal. It is available on the NC DOI webpage, under the Building Code Council tab. A link to the .pdf document is here:

Link to Code Change Form and Appeals Form

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=BCC - Forms&user=Building_Code_Council

Do I need to be present to present my proposal?

No. However, it certainly does not hurt, as then any questions can be directly answered by the proposer.

I missed the cut-off date for the written agenda, can I still bring my proposal to the scheduled BCC meeting?

This is up to the sitting Board's discretion. They do have the authority to allow proposals from the floor and have done so in the past. An individual may wish to contact the Board Chairman prior to doing so as time constraints on any given quarterly meeting may make it difficult to accommodate.

Do the public comments have to be in person?

No, the time period for public comment includes provisions for written comments.

What happens if the proposal was referred to committee?

A proposal being referred to committee is normal, and is simply meant to allow review by the people on the Building Code Council who are most familiar with the technical aspects of the proposal. Many times this provides no delay. However, sometimes it does stay in committee, and if it stays in committee for approximately one year, it is generally declined as a proposal.



I heard there was a code change, but where is it published?

In the age of Twitter, the entire State of NC may be aware of a proposed change that was approved by the Building Code Council the moment the votes are taken. However it does still have to go through Rules Review Commission and then, in order to be visible, it has to be posted to the NC Department of Insurance website. Therefore, depending on timing, it may be another quarter after the approval by the Building Code Council before it appears in print for everyone to be able to view the change. In accordance with NC Administrative Code Section 102.5, the approved rule can be used as an alternate prior to the effective date. If requested, it shall be accepted, per the wording, since it has already been through the Building Code Council.

Who is responsible for advertising the changes?

The primary means for advertising code changes is through the NCDOL website. Interested parties can take whatever means they need to in order to inform themselves with changes that may affect themselves, their jurisdictions, or their customers. Subscribing to this Newsletter will allow an individual to know which items passed at the regularly scheduled council meetings. At times, particularly far-reaching or emergency rule changes are delivered via a list_serve e-mail. This is used with some discretion, however, as it would just become background noise or spam if each change was e-mailed to all code officials.

Are statute changes part of this outlined process?

No. Codes are recognized as rules to facilitate General Statutes. Changes to statutes that may affect contracting or construction, such as when a permit is required, is not automatically part of the code making process. However code amendments written in response to some changes to the General Statutes may be added as part of the Cumulative Code Change documents referred to in this article. The NC General Assembly promulgates the changes to statutes. As with far-reaching code changes, if discovered, a notice of a statute change will be delivered via a list_serve e-mail to code officials. However, because these are statute changes, we would encourage the code officials to discuss the details with their legal advisers.

Feature Articles

Codes Update – Ad Hoc Meetings

The 2018 NC State Building Codes are currently under development with a **tentative** 1/1/2019 effective date. The proposed code will begin the review and adoption process at the December 2016 Building Code Council Meeting.

Building Code Council Approved Rule Changes

At the September 2016 Building Code Council meeting, there were 5 D-Items, and 3 of these were adopted in September. Please refer to the following link to review the list of D-Items from the September 2016 Building Code Council Meeting:

BCC Meeting Minutes-September 2016

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/BCC_Minutes/2016%2009%2016~September%2016,%202016_.pdf

Assuming the BCC-approved D-Items are approved by the 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 “**Accumulative Supplement to the 2012 NC Building Code**”. This document is changing somewhat, in that all amendments from 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2015 are being posted in this single document. Approved amendments with an effective date of Jan 1, 2017 are still located in a different document as discussed in the Codes Update section above.

Accumulative Supplement to the 2012 NC Building Code links:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2012-2016ApprovedCumulativeTest1Format.pdf

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2015-2017ApprovedCumulative.pdf

The full review of the September-approved code amendments is left to the reader, but the titles of each item are bulleted below.

- **Item D – 1 Request by Ed Johnson & Tommy Faulkner, representing Campus Safety Products, LLC, to amend the 2012 NC Fire Code, Section 1008. (Adopted)**
- **Item D – 2 Request by Leon Skinner, representing the NC Existing Building Code Ad Hoc Committee, to amend the 2015 NC Existing Building Code, Section 1401. (Adopted)**
- **Item D – 3 Request by Leon Skinner, representing the NC Existing Building Code Ad Hoc Committee, to amend the 2015 NC Existing Building Code, Section 609. (Adopted)**
- **Item D – 4 Request by Leon Skinner, representing the City of Raleigh Building & Safety Services, to amend the 2012 NC Plumbing Code, Table 605.3. (Adopted)**
- **Item D – 5 Request by Bill Collins, representing Baker Residential, to amend the 2012 NC Residential Code, Section R905.10. (Denied)**

Qualification Board Update

Qualifications Board Chairman Resigns

The NC Code Officials Qualification Board (NCCOQB) is comprised of a 20 member board representing a cross section of construction industry stakeholders. Member appointments by the Office of the Governor, General Assembly, academic institutions and the NCDOT Commissioner designee are intended as four year terms by statute. To manage change and provide continuity, four groups of five members each have a staggered start and end date representing the various categories of appointments as shown in the table below, Table 1: Qualifications Board Appointees. For example, the two elected officials

designated “(2)” appointed by the Governor are Mayors representing cities of population under and over 5,000 having different term end dates.

For various reasons, actually term lengths often vary creating vacancies of various durations. Hayden Lutterloh, who served as Board Chairman for the past twelve years in the role of Fire Prevention Inspector, has recently resigned from the Board resulting in the most current vacancy. Vice Chairman Bill Thunberg, filling the role of NC citizen at large, was Acting Chairman and was elected Chairman at the October 25th meeting.

As the constituency of the Board changes, so also are new challenges presented regarding effective enforcement of the State Building Code by Code Enforcement Officials certified by the Board. The resurgence of the economy and resulting increase in plan review, permitting and inspection activity has driven demand for qualified inspectors across North Carolina and the nation. Some indicators suggest that the number of inspectors reaching retirement age within the next 5 to 10 years will further impact the pool of potential inspectors. How best to address inspector qualification is a topic of concern for many jurisdictions. The Board will no doubt be hearing an array of ideas on this issue in upcoming meetings.

The regularly scheduled quarterly meetings in 2017 will be held on January 24th, April 25, July 25th and October 24th. Please refer to the NCDOL.com website for agenda, time and location.

TABLE 1: QUALIFICATIONS BOARD APPOINTEES

Appointment Roles NCGS § 143-151.9(a)¹	Member Names & Terms NCGS § 143-151.9(b)&(c)²	Appointed
<i>1977 initial 1 year terms ending 1978</i>		Current Term 2014-2018
(1) City/ County Manager	Richard Morris (Stokes Co. Manager)	07/01/2014
(6) Engineer	Mack Summey, PE SL2014-116 2018	07/01/2014
(10) NCSU School of Engineering faculty	Stephen Terry, PhD, PE,	04/23/2013
(10) NCA&T School of Engineering faculty	Taher Abu-Lebdeh, PhD, PE	04/23/2013
(3) Elected Official, County > 40,000 pop.	Dan Brummitt (Vance Co.)	10/30/2014
<i>1977 initial 2 year terms ending 1979</i>		Current Term 2015-2019
(11) UNC School of Government at Chapel Hill	Richard Ducker	04/20/1989
(2) Elected Official, City < 5,000 pop.	Brenda Lyerly (Banner Elk)	01/17/2014
(4) City/County Building Official	Ray Rice (Burlington) SL2015-254 2019	07/01/2011
(7) Licensed General Contractor (Commercial)	Mark Smith SL2015-254 2019	07/01/2015
(14) Fire Prevention Inspector / Citizen of NC	VACANT	
<i>1977 initial 3 year terms ending 1980</i>		Current Term 2016-2020
(8) Licensed Electrical Contractor	James B. Steele SL2016-70 2020	07/01/2012
(12) NC Community College Systems Office	Chris Raynor	07/01/2015
(2) Elected Official, City > 5,000 pop.	Jerry Jones (Morehead City)	08/28/2012
(4) City/ County Building Official	VACANT	
(14) Fire Prevention Inspector / Citizen of NC	Bill Thunberg	06/08/2012 ³
<i>1977 initial 4 year terms ending 1981</i>		Current Term 2013-2017
(5) Architect	Ken Stafford, AIA SL2015-254 2017	07/01/2011
(9) Licensed Plumbing or Heating Contractor	Allen Kelly SL2016-70 2020	07/01/2012
(13) NCDOL, Engineering & Codes Division	Chris Noles, PE	10/15/2012
(3) Elected Official, County < 40,000 pop.	Reo Griffith	08/11/2016
(7) Licensed General Contractor (Residential)	Andy Matthews SL2015-254 2019	07/01/2011

Minutes

The minutes of the April Qualifications Board Meeting are available at the following link:

April 2016 Meeting Minutes

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/COQB_Minutes/2016%2007%2027~April%2026,%202016_.pdf

Individuals wishing to provide feedback are encouraged to contact Mike Hejduk at mike.hejduk@ncdoi.gov.

Department Notes

Engineering Department Personnel Notes

New Code Interpretations Posted

Since the last Engineering Newsletter was posted, there have been several Appeal and Formal Interpretations posted.

Code Interpretations link:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code_Interpretations&user=State_Building_Codes

They are located under the table heading "SPECIFIC ACTIONS".

Formal Interpretations	160624 Housing Studio Building 1009.13 Stairway to Roof.pdf
Appeals	160627 Davis Weeks GS 130A-336, 338 Denial of Permit.pdf
	160816 Jonczak NCDOT Decision – Farm Building.pdf

Cumulative Supplements

Cumulative code changes and their adoption dates can be found on the DOI website at:

Cumulative code changes link:

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 "**Accumulative Supplement to the 2012 NC Building Code.**" This document now contains all code amendments that are adopted since 2012. Use the Table of Contents to scan for changes by Code.

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.

Qualifications Assurance Section – COQB, HILB & PYRO

Training Summary – Standard Courses

A review of the Standard Course offerings for July 2016 – October 2016 showed 346 student names were submitted on 36 class rosters for F,B,M,E,P (excluding Law and Admin courses). This is an average of about 9.6 students per class. These classes are open to the public, and are an excellent chance for anyone associated with the building trade to obtain the same basic training a code official receives.

TABLE 2: STANDARD COURSE TRAINING SUMMARY TO DATE (FY 2016-2017)

Trade	Total Classes FY 16-17	total students ¹	pass	fail	Ce Credit only
Law & AD	8	117	109	0	8
B1	4	56	40	9	7
B2	1	23	20	3	0
B3	4	21	18	2	1
E1	3	17	16	1	0
E2	1	11	11	0	0
E3	2	10	10	0	0
F1	4	67	63	1	3
F2	2	22	21	1	0
F3	2	22	19	3	0
M1	1	7	6	1	0
M2	3	13	10	0	3
M3	1	3	3	0	0
P1	4	48	45	1	2
P2	1	10	10	0	0
P3	3	16	16	0	0
Running Total FY2016-2017	44	463	417	22	24
Totals FY 2015-2016	136	1261	1108	63	90

Standard Course Statistics 6/30/16-10/1/16

¹An inspector may be taking more than one course; therefore total students may be more than the total quantity of inspectors.

Training Summary – Continuing Education Courses

For FY 2015-2016, of the 204 courses submitted, 183 were approved, 18 were denied and 3 were incomplete. Total CE hours approved for each Trade were: 267 Building; 241 Fire; 195 Electrical; 99 Plumbing, and; 92 Mechanical representing 894 hours of education! To date, FY 2016-2017 CE course submittals total 66 of which 52 have already been approved. Total CE hours approved for each Trade so far are: 70 Building; 53 Fire; 33 Electrical; 46 Plumbing, and; 35 Mechanical representing 237 hours of education. Clearly, sufficient CE is being created and approved for inspectors to meet their 6 hour minimum required for renewal as well as those seeking to reactivate certifications where 12 hours of CE is required.

Qualifications Board Link:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code_Officials_Qualification_Board_USER&user=Code_Officials_Qualification_Board

Staff email addresses:

Rodney Daughtry, Customer Service Rep.	Rodney.Daughtry@ncdoi.gov
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Kathy Williams, Examinations	Kathy.Williams@ncdoi.gov
Jessica Yelverton, Education Coordinator(COQB)	Jessica.yelverton@ncdoi.gov
Jennifer Hollyfield, Education Coordinator(HILB)	Jennifer.hollyfield@ncdoi.gov
Terri Tart, Certification/Licensing (COQB, HILB)	Terri.Tart@ncdoi.gov
Sam Whittington, Investigation (COQB)	sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov
Phil Joyner, Investigation (HILB)	phil.joyner@ncdoi.gov

Upcoming NC Building Code Training

The most up-to-date training schedule for all building codes are available at the following link:

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. As discussed in previous newsletters, please consider the use of the Standard Classes if you are a design professional, contractor, or code official, as they are an underutilized offering.

The NC Building Inspectors Association, NC Plumbing Inspectors Association, NC Mechanical Inspectors Association and NC Fire Marshal’s Association have scheduled their Annual Meetings, which have training hours included, please refer to their following websites for further information.

<http://www.ncbia.org/>

<http://ncpia.us/>

<http://ncmia.com/>

<http://www.ncfma.com/>

Trade Training

Building to meet code, and using the code to build, are different, although used somewhat interchangeably. Failing to acknowledge the training required to do a job, other than code training does a disservice to the industry. As I sometimes hear from an irate homeowner, contractor, or code official, “the code tells me how I can’t do it, why doesn’t it tell me how I can do it?”

The reason is that for non-prescriptive code sections or scopes of work, the “how I can do it” is the primary responsibility of the trades and design professionals. Analogous to the yellow and white lines on a road, the lines are there to inform the driver where they need to stay between, but not tell them how to drive a car, motorcycle, semi-truck or any other street-legal vehicle. Admittedly, some prescriptive areas of the code are the same as trade training, i.e fuel-fired appliance venting, span tables and ampacity tables. Even in the prescriptive measures, however, think about all we take for granted that is not in the code, i.e.; How do I not cross-thread a fitting? What fasteners are the best for a job?, etc. All these things are covered in trade training, apprenticeship programs and experience on the job.

I hope to illustrate the importance of this training, even if we may take it for granted, and provide some places that offer it. There certainly are more, but this is a start:

Links to trade training

<http://www.nclicensing.org/Education%20Providers.asp>

<http://www.ncpga.org/training/>

NC Community Colleges

<https://webadvisor.nccommunitycolleges.edu/WebAdvisor/WebAdvisor?TOKENIDX=4819420132&CONSTITUENCY=WBCE&TYPE=M&PID=CORE-WBMAIN>

Here is a partial listing of construction-related trade training classes:

Course	Title	Program Area	Rec Hrs	Max Hrs	Cert
AHR-3123	Refrigeration Systems	H30 Construction Occupations	165	198	N
AHR-3128	EPA Refrigerant Certification	H30 Construction Occupations	16	19	N
AHR-3131	HVAC: Heating, Air Condition	H30 Construction Occupations	240	288	N
APP-3200	Apprentice: HVAC	H30 Construction Occupations	605	726	N
APP-3612	Apprentice: Electrical	H30 Construction Occupations	160	192	N
APP-3701	Apprentice: Plumber	H30 Construction Occupations	653	784	N
BPR-3011	Blueprint Reading	H30 Construction Occupations	72	86	N
CAR-3108	Carpentry: Core Skills	H30 Construction Occupations	120	144	N
CAR-3112	Building Construction Trades	H30 Construction Occupations	400	480	N
CAR-3118	General Contractor Exam Prep	H30 Construction Occupations	66	79	N
CAR-3124	Carpentry: Framing	H30 Construction Occupations	440	528	N
CAR-3200	Construction Management	H30 Construction Occupations	336	403	N

ELC-3014	Electricity : Basic	H30 Construction Occupations	220	264	N
ELC-3016	Electrical Contractor; Prep	H30 Construction Occupations	24	29	N
ELC-3100	Electric Code License Prep	H30 Construction Occupations	66	79	N
ELC-3119	Commercial/Residential Wiring	H30 Construction Occupations	240	288	N
ELN-3025	Solid State Electronics	H30 Construction Occupations	240	288	N
ELN-3113	Electronics Technician, Basic	H30 Construction Occupations	66	79	N
FSD-3100	Fire Sprinkler Installation	H30 Construction Occupations	144	173	N
PLU-3020	Pipe Fabrication	H30 Construction Occupations	240	288	N
PLU-3024	Plumbing	H30 Construction Occupations	330	396	N
PLU-3027	Backflow Prevention	H30 Construction Occupations	42	50	N
PLU-3100	Plumbing/HVAC Contractor..CE	H30 Construction Occupations	24	29	N

As I become aware of more providers, I may provide updated lists of trade training classes from more providers. There is no implied endorsement of any of these listed providers.

End of Newsletter