

COCO NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION

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ACCESSIBILITY UPDATES

The following **hot topics** have been the subject of interpretations recently:

Elevator requirements in covered multi-family dwellings. At the direction of the BCC Administrative Committee and approved by the BCC at their June meeting (Item 4) for immediate adoption, the I-C elevator requirements are now based on the number of stories as defined in **Vol. I - § 503.2.4**, i.e., a basement as defined by this section would not count as a story. The current 1999 language in **§ 30.4.1.5.1** based the requirement on the number of floors of **residential use. This means that the number of floors used to determine whether an elevator is required or not will be based solely on the number of stories as defined by Vol. I - 503.2.4**, e.g., three stories of residential use over a garage is considered a 4-story building and will require an elevator.

§ 32.2.14 Elevator control height in elementary schools. Elevator markings and controls in schools are to be mounted at child-accessible heights in addition to the typical mounting heights for adults in **§ 15.5.3, § 15.9 and § 15.10.4.**

§ 11.6.2(5) Temperature limiting device vs plumbing insulation. The **§ 11.6.2(5)** requirement for insulation of plumbing beneath sinks and lavatories is as much to protect someone's legs from rough surfaces on the piping as it is to shield them from getting burned by hot pipes. The use of a temperature limiting device addresses only a portion of the problem and insulation is required in addition to the temperature limiting device.

§ 32.2.1 School bus/ passenger loading zones. Almost everyone knows that **§ 32.2.1** requires a canopy, but what may have escaped notice is that the curb ramp at the school bus loading zone is required to comply with **§ 4.11** (noted after the heading). This requires that the loading area be at the same level as the roadway for 20 feet.

§ 32.2.16.1 Sign mounting height in elementary schools. The mounting height of signs intended for children's use is 40 inches. In some cases, the different requirements for the mounting heights of signs for adult and child use may require that two signs be provided.

Vertical picket spacing. The **sketch on page 81** is to be used to determine handrail requirements on a ramp (the length of the required handrail extension, the handrail height, or when a handrail is required). It is not intended to be used for determining the spacing of vertical pickets (use Vol. I for guardrails and handrails for spacing of vertical pickets).

§ 7.3 Door clearances by drinking fountains. When locations where drinking fountains are provided at the entry wall between a set of gang toilets, remember to check that the minimum floor clearance between the drinking fountains and the adjacent doors or openings is provided per **7.3**. It will differ depending on the door swing (in: 42" or 48" with a closer; out: 48" or 54" with a closer) or the absence of a door (same dimensions as for "in").

Appendix E + F Covered Multi-Family Dwellings. When sending in the certificates of occupancy for a covered multi-family dwelling project with accessible units to me (not Jeff Kanner), please separately identify the number of A units and the number of B units. This means some of you may have to change the standard form that you have been using.

§ 30.4.2.3.1(2) Type B Entry Door Floor Clearances. The required door clearance for the entry door is required on the outside only, not within the unit on the inside.

Ch.4 Accessible Parking at Mini-Storage Areas. If no specific parking area is provided for non-accessible parking (i.e., you can park wherever you want), the same ability to park somewhere is required for persons with disabilities.

§ 4.4.4 Car Overhangs. The NC DOT recognizes a 2-1/2 foot overhang for vehicles. That is a 6-inch increase over what DOI has been enforcing to date when requiring wheel stops where vehicle overhangs obstruct an accessible path of travel.

Ch. 4 Grocery Store Cart Storage and Parking Access Aisles. In order to not lose required parking spaces, some grocery stores have put the grocery cart racks in the access aisles for the accessible parking spaces after the store is opened. The location for the cart racks should be part of the site plan when submitted for permit . It is not acceptable for the racks to be located in the access aisles.

§ 11.8 Unisex Toilet Rooms. And - last but not least - by now you should all be aware that the Building Code Council revised **§ 11.8 (effective June 12, 2001)** so that the unisex toilet room is now required to have a 60" turning radius within the room and a minimum 36" grab bar behind the watercloset. The sketches on page 188 take the place of the ones on page 187, with one exception: the room width dimensions on the upper left sketch must be 6" -12" wider in order to allow for the 36" grab bar behind the watercloset.