

By Laurel W. Wright, Chief Accessibility Code Consultant, NC Dept of Ins/OSFM (919) 661-5880 Ext 247 Laurel.Wright@ncdoi.gov

NC ACCESSIBILITY CODE

2012 NC Bldg Code Ch. 11

2009 ICC/ANSI A117.1

Mandatory: 1 Jun 2012

[Click here TO SIGN UP FOR THIS E-MAIL NEWSLETTER OR SCAN THIS WITH YOUR SMART PHONE:](#)



2010 ADA STANDARDS:

- Mandatory 3/15/12
- Copy available: www.ada.gov

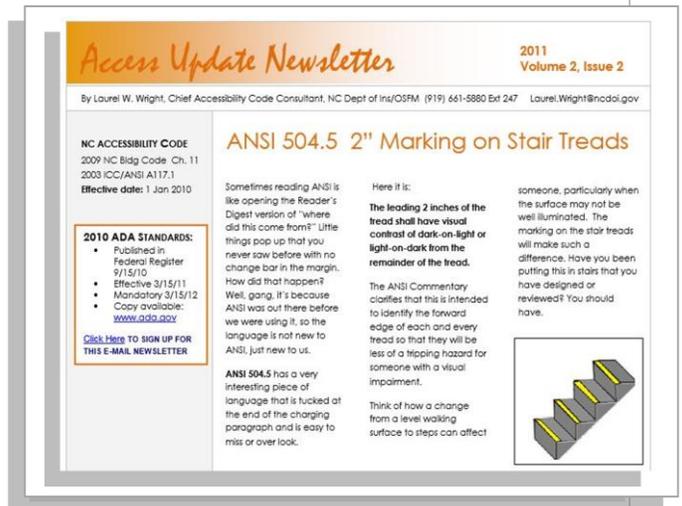
2009 ANSI 504.5.1 Visual Contrast – Previous Requirement Rescinded

In a recent appeal to **NCDOI**, a question arose regarding the application of **2009 ANSI 504.5.1** to the stairs within the building.

In a previous **AU Newsletter** [Vol 2, Issue 2], we had indicated that **ANSI 504.5** is required for use on all stairs.

In verifying the application while doing research for the appeal, it was discovered – and verified by **ICC** – that application of the section is only enforceable when there is specific reference to the section from somewhere in the applicable code. As it turns out, the **2012 NCBC** does not have

such a reference. As a result, the previous requirement for marking of stairs becomes a recommendation.



Online Resources: Interpretations

There are now interpretations online to help make designing accessible spaces quicker! Please me know which formal interpretations will be most beneficial to you if placed online.

On the **NCDOI Interpretations website** you will find the following new interpretations on frequently asked accessibility questions. These interpretations can be found under the **2012 BUILDING CODE** section:

- **1101.2** – Barrier Height Requirements for Sloped Ceilings Under Stairways
- **1103.2.3** - Accessible Path for Church Sound Booths
- **1103.2.3** - Accessible Path to Church Baptismal Fonts
- **1103.2.3** - Accessible Path to School Sound Booths
- **1104.2** - 48 Inch Minimum Width of Exterior Accessible Path
- **1104.3.1** - Accessible Employee Work Areas and Bartenders



NCDOI Interpretations website:

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code Interpretations&user=Code Enforcement Resources

Individual Highlights

A/B Shwr Threshold	2
¾" Shwr Threshold	2
NCBC 1109.14.3 Ziplines	3
NCBC 1107.6.2.1.1 Studios	3
USDOJ Housing Lawsuit	3
NCBC 3411.6 Toilet Rm Alt	4
WEBINAR: PEV Charging	4



Type A + Type B Shower Thresholds

There is a continual interest in whether a shower threshold is required in **Type A** or a **Type B** dwelling or sleeping unit showers. To put the issue to rest, the following table was created that will sequence you through the applicable ANSI code sections.

Start at the top; each code section references the next; continue on until you reach your answer at the bottom where the relevant code section text is provided in full. This is applicable for both transfer, roll-in and alternate roll-in showers.

2009 ANSI THRESHOLD REQUIREMENT FOR SHOWERS IN TYPE A + TYPE B		
TYPE A	TYPE B	
1003.11 Toilet and Bathing Facilities	1004.11.3 Toilet and Bathing Areas	
1003.11.2 General	1004.11.3.1 Option A	1004.11.3.2 Option B
1003.11.2.5.2 Shower	1004.11.3.1.3 Bathing Fixtures	1004.11.3.2.3 Bathing Fixtures
608 Shower	1004.11.3.1.3.3 Shower Compartment	1004.11.3.2.3.2 Shower Compartment
608.6 Thresholds		1004.11.3.1.3.3 Shower Compartment
608.6 Thresholds. Thresholds in roll-in-type shower compartments shall be ½ inch (13 mm) maximum in height in accordance with Section 303. In transfer-type shower compartments, thresholds ½ inch (13 mm) maximum in height shall be beveled, rounded, or vertical.	1004.11.3.1.3.3 Shower Compartment. If a shower compartment is the only bathing facility, the shower compartment shall have dimensions of 36 inches (915 mm) minimum in width and 36 inches (915 mm) minimum in depth. A clearance of 48 inches (1220 mm) minimum in length, measured perpendicular from the shower head wall, and 30 inches (760 mm) minimum in depth, measured from the face of the shower compartment, shall be provided. Reinforcing for a shower seat is not required in shower compartments larger than 36 inches (915 mm) in width and 36 inches (915 mm) in depth.	
608.6 Exc. In existing facilities, in transfer-type shower compartments where provision of a threshold ½ inch (13 mm) in height would disturb the structural reinforcement of the floor slab, a threshold 2 inches (51 mm) maximum in height shall be permitted.		

For a Type A: ½ inch maximum is required.

For a Type B: there is no requirement as the threshold is not addressed in either the **Option A** or **Option B** shower.

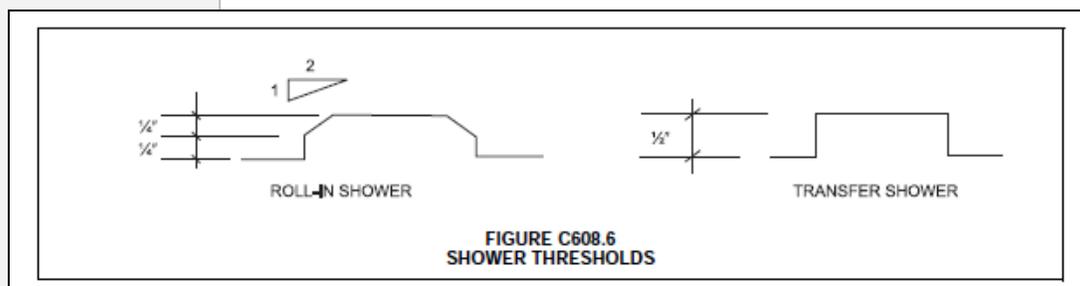
Q: If we have 2 bathrooms in a **Type B** unit and comply with **Option B** for one of the bathrooms – what are the requirements, if any, for the remaining bathroom?

A: **ANSI 1104.11.3** states: **1004.11.3 Toilet and Bathing Areas.** *Either all toilet and bathing areas provided shall comply with Section 1004.11.3.1 (Option A), or one toilet and bathing area shall comply with Section 1004.11.3.2 (Option B).*

So, if you opt for **Option B** where you have two toilet rooms, one is required to comply with **ANSI 1004.11.3.2 (Option B)** and there are no requirements for the second toilet room.

½" Shower Threshold Requirements

So – what will work for the ½" shower threshold that is referenced above? There is an excellent pair of sketches in the 2009 ANSI A117.1 Commentary at the top of page 6-37. [Hint: we will not have a new NCBC until 2019 – now is a good time to purchase an ANSI Commentary, if you do not already have one, if you replace something once, you have already paid for it!]



Zip Lines - NCBC 1109.14.3 + ANSI 1101.2.2

In 2010, the **Engineering Committee** of the **Board of Examiners for Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors** opined that zip lines and their assemblies must be designed by a Professional Engineer if the zip lines were available for public use. Presumably, the **Committee's Policy** on this issue was adopted by the **Board** in December 2010. Unfortunately, a copy of this is not available.

However, recently the question has been asked regarding access to the zip line. So **DOI** has revisited the issue of zip lines to update the overall design criteria.

The **NCDOI** requirements on zip lines currently are as follows:

1. Zip lines are considered recreational activities.
2. Recreation facilities are required to be accessible per **2012 NCBC 1109.14.3**.
3. **2009 ANSI 1101.2.2** states that *Areas of sport activity shall be served by an accessible route and shall not be required to be accessible except as provided in Ch. 11*. There are no



- additional requirements addressing zip lines or zip line activities in **ANSI Ch. 11**.
4. The stairs and landing used to access the zip lines are required to comply with the **2012 NC Building Code**.
 5. The accessible route to the stair towers shall comply with **2009 ANSI A117.1**.



NCBC 1107.6.2.1.1 5% Studio Apartments

Q: Does a project that has only one class of units (studios - no bedrooms) - need to provide a HC unit for each different FLOOR PLAN layout if the floor plans are generally all the same? i.e., same kitchen, same bath, all have same balconies, but different layouts and different sq. ft.

A: Assuming that these are all apartments, no, a different accessible unit is not required to be provided for each different floor plan. Since you are required to provide 5% of the studios as accessible Type A units, it would make sense to provide a reasonable representation of the different layouts and the square footages that you are offering. Be certain to include the largest and the one that provides the most options in the representation.

[Justice Department Settles Disability-Based Housing Discrimination Lawsuit with West Virginia Developer](#)

07/22/2015 08:00 PM EDT

The second paragraph of the article reads:

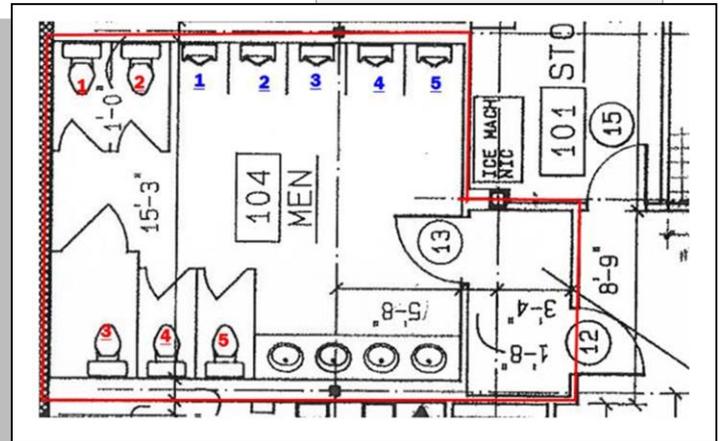
Under the terms of the agreement, which must still be approved by the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of West Virginia, Biafora and the other defendants must take extensive actions to make the complexes accessible to persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users. These corrective actions include replacing excessively sloped portions of sidewalks, installing properly sloped curb walkways to allow persons with disabilities to access units from sidewalks and parking areas, replacing cabinets in bathrooms and kitchens to provide sufficient room for wheelchair users, widening doorways and reducing door threshold heights. The settlement also requires the defendants to construct a new apartment complex in Morgantown, West Virginia, with 100 accessible units. The defendants will pay \$180,000 to establish a settlement fund for the purpose of compensating individuals with disabilities who have been impacted by the accessibility violations and \$25,000 as a civil penalty.

NCBC 3411.6 + ANSI 604.10

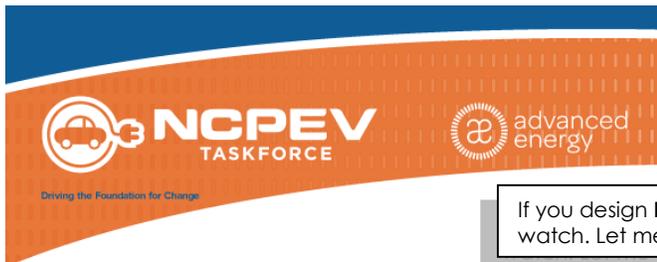
It is so easy to get caught up in what was in the space before if you are not careful with your design or your plan review. Often when an alteration is done, it may help to consider the space as if it were a brand new installation and ask yourself: "If I were designing this from the walls out, what would the minimum requirements be based on the number of fixtures that are being provided within the space?" Here is the Q & A that came to the office:

Q: I spoke to the building owner and understand that the project he's contemplating consists solely of replacing the toilet partitions in this existing bathroom. Would that scope of work trigger a requirement to reconfigure for an ambulatory stall? He is thinking that an ambulatory stall is not required if he has less than six water closet stalls.

A: **NCBC 3411.6** requires that any building or facility that is altered shall comply with the applicable provisions in **Chapter 11** and **ICC A117.1**, unless technically infeasible. Based on the alteration work being proposed (and the fact that the building owner did have barrier removal obligations under the ADA), since the combined total number of water closets and urinals is six or more, an ambulatory stall is required to be added. **[NCBC 1109.2.2]**



* **NCPC 419.2** Urinal Substitution: not more than 67% substitution in Group A and E Occupancies.



If you design **Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**, this would be worthwhile to watch. Let me know if you have any questions...

Webinar: Multifamily Electric Vehicle Charging Thursday, August 27, 2015 12:00 - 1:30 p.m. EST

Register today for the next NC PEV Taskforce webinar! The multifamily housing electric vehicle charging webinar will focus on third-party charging station options. The speakers on the webinar will include:

- ChargePoint - Lyuba Wolf, Business Development
- Evercharge - Kyle Lyons, Director - Member Services
- NRG EVgo - Marcy Bauer, Marketing Manager - Carolinas

[Click here to register for the webinar.](#)

We also invite you to review and use the resources recently released from the NC PEV Taskforce working group on multifamily homes and electric vehicles. [Click here to view the resources.](#)

If you have any questions on the upcoming webinar or multifamily charging, please contact Katie Drye at kdrye@advancedenergy.org.

Sent by: Advanced Energy, 909 Capability Drive, Suite 2100, Raleigh, NC 27606-3870