

## 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](http://www.ada.gov)

### Page 2 Highlights

NCBC 1007.8 – Elev Lobby 2-way Communication 2

ANSI 307.2 + 404.2.3.2 2

2017 ANSI A117.1 Effective 2



## NCBC 1109.5 DF with Water Bottle Filler

There have been several questions lately regarding what the requirements are relative to water bottle fillers when they are provided with drinking fountains. This is not addressed in the **2012 NCBC 1109.5** or in the **2009 ANSI A117.1**. Looking forward, the **2017 edition of ANSI A117.1** does have some basic language in **2017 ANSI 602.4**.

**602.4 Bottle filling stations.** Bottle filling stations shall comply with Sections 602.4.1 and 602.4.2.

**Exception:** Where bottle filling stations are part of the drinking fountain for persons who are standing, the bottle filling station is not required to comply with this section provided a bottle filling station is located at the drinking fountain for persons using wheelchairs.

**602.4.1 Clear floor space.** A clear floor space positioned for a forward or side approach shall be provided.

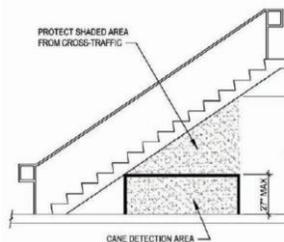
**602.4.2 Controls.** Controls for bottle filling stations shall be hand operated or automatic. Hand operated controls shall comply with Section 309.

What will this mean regarding placement? The water bottle filler or bottle filling station is viewed as a portion of the drinking fountain that is required to be accessible, so distribution of the devices is looked at in a similar fashion.

- If the hi/lo drinking fountains are combined, then one bottle filling station at each combined location is acceptable,
- If the hi/lo stations are separated, then a bottle filling station is provided at each location.



## ANSI 307.4 Low Height Barriers



**Q:** Is it permissible to give a Tactile Warning Surface for cane detection for areas with low clearances (<80")? If so, what are the specific requirements for the surface texture and extent of texture?

**A:** The use of detectable warnings is not approved as an indicator for areas with low clearance, i.e., less than 80". In locations where a person may bump a head, a guard or other type barrier shall be installed in such a manner (high enough) that it does not become a tripping hazard. The intent is that someone with a visual impairment would be able to detect the barrier before walking into it. Whatever barrier is used must be detectable by a long cane. The Commentary for **ANSI 307.4** does clarify that *A single horizontal rail at guard or handrail height might stop someone from walking under the stairway, but would not meet this requirement. A person using a long cane would walk into the rail before they detect it. An additional horizontal rail at a maximum height of 27 inches or lower would make the barrier detectable.* The detectable warnings are specifically geared to warn pedestrians that they may venture into a vehicular way.



## NCBC 1007.8 – 2-Way Comm. @ Elevator Lobby

**Q:** Does the **2012 NCBC Section 1007.8** require two-way communication at every elevator landing, even when the elevator is not part of the egress system? Is this requirement only applicable to elevators that are to be considered accessible means of egress in accordance with **NCBC 1007.2.1** (accessible means of egress elevator) or **NCBC 403.6.2** (occupant self-evacuation elevators)?

**A:** The **2012 NCBC 1007.8** requires 2-way communication in the elevator landings of each accessible floor level, other than the level of exit discharge, for both sprinklered and non-sprinklered buildings unless 2-way communication is provided in areas of refuge in stairwells. If there are no areas of refuge in the building because the building is provided with sprinklers, then the 2-way communication within the elevator landing(s) is required.

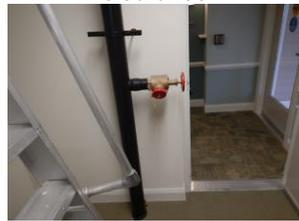
**NCBC 1007.8** specifically begins the 2-way communication requirement on each accessible floor that is *one or more stories above the level of exit discharge*. This is a lower threshold than the use of an elevator for egress in **NCBC 1007.2.1** where the required accessible floor is required to be *four or more stories above the level of exit discharge*. The 2-way communication would also be required for the **NCBC 403.6.2** occupant self-evacuation elevators typically found in tall buildings.

## ANSI 307.2 + 404.2.3.2 Standpipe Protrusion

When standpipes are required or provided and installed in buildings, it is important that the installation be done in accordance with the code requirements so that their location does not obscure any other overlapping provisions. Please note that **Class I** standpipes are required by **NCBC 905.4.1** to be located at an intermediate floor level landing between floors, unless otherwise approved by the fire code official. Remember, too, that **ANSI Fig. 404.2.3.2** has specific maneuvering clearances on both sides of the stairwell door to allow for access and accessible egress. Even when approved in an alternate location by the fire



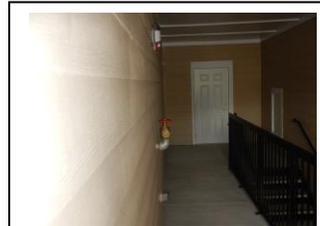
**Ladder to roof + standpipe in door's maneuvering clearance**



code official, the door opening clearances still are applicable so the new location shall be designed with that in mind.

Incorrectly designed or located standpipes are extremely costly to repair and there is no alternate since the maneuvering clearance at the fire door cannot go away.

A similar **ANSI 307.2** protrusion occurs when standpipes are installed mid-way along the length of a breezeway in a multifamily residence. The projection exceeds 4" and is typically over 27". Out of the circulation path works best.



**Plan + coordinate to save \$\$\$**



## The 2017 ANSI A117.1 is effective...

Copies of the **2017 edition of ANSI A117.1** are now available at [ICC](#) and [TechStreet](#). The **2018 NC Building Code**, based on the **2012 and 2015 International Building Codes**, goes into effect on 1/1/2019 and will continue to reference the **2009 ANSI A117.1**.

When the **2018 International Building Code** was being voted on, the **2017 ANSI A117.1** had not yet been printed, so the groups voting for the **2018 IBC** did not have a standard to review, evaluate and adopt. Thus, the earliest **International Code** that may adopt the **2017 ANSI A117.1** as its referenced accessibility standard is the **2021 International Building Code**.

Since North Carolina is on a 6-year code cycle, the soonest that **NC** will use the **2017 edition** will be for the **2024 North Carolina Building Code**. If you are designing projects outside of **NC**, or are looking ahead to ensure compliance with future codes, then you may choose to use the **2017 ANSI A117.1** sooner than 2024.

