

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880**

Approvals of Alternative Material, Design, and Methods, and Specific Test Standards

Code: 2012 Administrative Code and Policies
Section: 105

Date: July 3, 2012

Question 1:

Does the Engineering Division of the NC Department of Insurance provide approvals for Alternative Material, Design and Methods?

Answer:

No. The local Code Enforcement Official approves an alternate material, design, or method if the alternative is equivalent to the code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety. The NC Administrative Code, Section 105 allows and encourages the acceptance of Alternative Material, Design and Methods. The National Evaluation Service is endorsed by the International Code Council as an independent, not-for-profit organization to evaluate products and prepare Evaluation Reports for guidance to the Code Enforcement Official for acceptance of Alternative Material, Design and Methods. The NC State Codes closely parallel the International Codes and the NES Evaluation Reports are recognized as a defensible basis for compliance with our Codes.

<http://www.icc-es.org>

Question 2:

Does the Engineering Division of the NC Department of Insurance provide approvals for compliance with specific test Standards?

Answer:

No. The local Code Enforcement Official approves the use of products that meet the specific test Standards that are referenced in the Code. Nationally recognized testing laboratories, such as those approved by the International Accreditation Service, are available at the following link.

http://www.iasonline.org/Testing_Laboratories/TL.html

Third-party agencies that are approved for electrical and mechanical equipment labeling are found at the link below.

http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering/BCC/engineering_bcc_third_party.asp

Note to Contractors, Designers and Suppliers:

Please obtain the required Evaluation Reports and labeling requirements from the manufacturer and submit the information to the local Code Enforcement Official. The Engineering Division does not provide the approval of Alternative Material, Design and Methods or specific test Standards. The local Code Enforcement Official may request our guidance. These opinions can be used to assist the code official with the original intent of the code and to help verify that the alternative method or specific test complies with the intent of the code.