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Table of Contents

Introduction	2
Current Topics	2
Reminder of Building Code Council approved amendments effective Jan. 1	2
Recurring Articles	3
Building Code Council Approved Rule Changes.....	3
Qualification Board Update	5
Residential Changeout Inspector (RCI) Standard Certificate Update	5
Minutes	5
Department Notes.....	6
Engineering Department.....	6
Personnel Notes.....	6
New Code Interpretations, Guidance Papers, and Appeals Posted.....	7
Cumulative Supplements.....	9
Education Section	10
NC Building Code Training.....	10

Reminders and other Resources.....	11
Accessibility Newsletters	11
NCDOI-OSFM Webpage Updated.....	11

Introduction

Welcome to the January 2021 OSFM Engineering Newsletter. Since our last newsletter in October, there was a regularly scheduled Building Code Council meeting held December 8th, 2020. The results of the meeting will be posted shortly in the minutes, but the results of the D-items are noted, unofficially, in the Building Code Council Approved Rule Changes article below.

Progress is being made on the Residential Changeout Inspector course, and three complete training sessions have been held to troubleshoot the course. Refer to the Qualification Board Article for a little more detail.

Every January 1st, a number of previously approved code amendments go into effect. Please refer to the Current Topics article, and the notes on where to find these changes.

Current Topics

Reminder of Building Code Council approved amendments effective Jan. 1

This is a general reminder that North Carolina allows amendments to the adopted Building Code to occur as frequently as quarterly, but for purposes of consistency, the quarterly amendments are usually grouped together and made mandatorily effective at the beginning of the following year, which is now. Prior to the mandatory date, they can be used as an alternate method. Please take a moment to review all code changes that became effective January 1, 2021. Refer to Figure 4: Table of Approved Amendments for an illustration of what it will look like on the webpage.

Link to Administrative Code Amendments
<https://www.ncosfm.gov/media/406/open>

Example of Code Amendment that took effect Jan 1, 2021:

2018 NC Administrative Code
 107.6 Inspections of component or element. (190910 Item B-6)

107.6 Inspections of component or element. Acceptance of inspection of a component or element by a NC registered architect or engineer will require completion of the “Design Professional Inspection Form” found in Appendix G.

The delayed effective date of this Rule is **January 1, 2021.**
 The Statutory authority for Rule-making is G. S. 143-136; 143-138.

Each Code Book (Volume) has its own set of amendments, and each .pdf document with the amendments has all approved amendments since the 2018 Code was adopted. The files are organized by code section, and not by effective date.

Recurring Articles

Building Code Council Approved Rule Changes

A regularly scheduled quarterly BCC meeting was held on December 8th, 2020. The full agenda can be read at the link listed below. The link will take you to the BCC Minutes webpage and the reader must then click on the .pdf file to open the agenda file. The minutes for December are not published yet, but the unofficial results of the D-items are posted below. The minutes from the September meeting are posted, and they are available at the link below.

BCC Meeting Agenda-December 2020

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/bcc-agenda-20201208-december-8-2020>

BCC Meeting Minutes-September 2020

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/building/bcc-minutes-september-1-2020>

Once the Building Code Council approved December D-items are also approved by the Rule Review Commission, (sometimes an amendment gets sent back to Building Code Council for various technical reasons) the adopted rules will be placed on the NCDOT Engineering website. Please refer to the Cumulative Supplements article of this newsletter for the link to the cumulative supplements from past meetings.

The full review of the December-approved code amendments is left to the reader, but **the titles of each item** are bulleted below. Remember these are not final until they are through the Rules Review process. These December items will be effective January 1, 2022.

BCC Proposed Amendments-December 2020 (draft results)

- Item D – 1 Request from Bob Haynes representing the NC BIA Code Revisions Committee to add the 2018 N.C. Administrative code, Section 106.4 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 2 The item that would have been Item D-2 was withdrawn as a B item. Therefore, there is no D-2 item for this meeting.
- Item D – 3 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to add the 2018 NC Fire Code, Section 3103.3.1 as follows: (item brought forward as a tabled item from September 1, 2021 meeting, Item D-3) (Remainder not shown for brevity) – withdrawn by proponent
- Item D – 4 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to amend the 2018 NC Fire Code, Section 3103.6 as follows: (item brought forward as a tabled item from September 1, 2021 meeting, Item D-4) (Remainder not shown for brevity) – withdrawn by proponent
- Item D – 5 Request from Keith Rogers representing the Mechanical/Plumbing Standing committee to amend the 2018 N.C. Plumbing Code, Section 405.3.1 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved

- Item D – 6 Request from Clint Latham representing the City of Raleigh to amend the 2018 N.C. Fuel Gas Code, Section 311 and add Section 311.4.2.4 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – withdrawn by proponent
- Item D – 7 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to add the 2018 N.C. Fuel Gas Code, Chapter 2 Definitions as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 8 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to add the 2018 N.C. Mechanical Code, Chapter 2 Definitions as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 9 Request from Clint Latham representing the City of Raleigh to amend the 2018 N.C. Mechanical Code, Section 313.4.2 and add Section 313.4.2.4 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – withdrawn by proponent
- Item D – 10 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to add the 2018 N.C. Existing Building Code, Chapter 2 Definitions as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved

- Item D – 11 Request from Clint Latham representing the City of Raleigh to amend the 2018 N.C. Existing Building Code, Section 402.6 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 12 Request from Clint Latham representing the City of Raleigh to amend the 2018 N.C. Fire Code, Section 915.2 and add Section 915.2.4 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – withdrawn by proponent
- Item D – 13 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to amend the 2018 N.C. Fire Code, Section 315.3.1 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 14 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire code Revision Committee to amend the 2018 N.C. Fire Code, Section 907.2.1 and the 2018 N.C. Building Code, Section 907.2.1 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 15 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to add the 2018 N.C. Fire Code, Section 2303.2.1 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 16 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to add the 2018 N.C. Fire Code, Chapter 2 Definitions as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 17 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to add the 2018 N.C. Residential Code, Chapter 2 Definitions as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – withdrawn by proponent
- Item D – 18 Request from David Smith representing the Residential Ad Hoc Committee to amend the 2018 N.C. Residential Building, Section R404.4 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 19 Request from Leon Skinner representing the Residential Ad Hoc Committee to amend the 2018 N.C. Residential Code, Sections R101.2.2 Accessory structures, Section R202 Definitions, and Section R327 Docks, Piers, Bulkheads, and Waterway Structures as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 20 Request from David Smith representing the Residential Ad Hoc Committee to add 2018 N.C. Residential Building Code, Sections R328 Demolition and R 328.1 Demolition as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 21 Request from Jackie Flemming and Doug Allen P.E. representing Simpson Strong-Tie to amend the 2018 Residential Building Code, Section R4603.6.1 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved with corrections
- Item D – 22 The item that would have been Item D-22 was withdrawn as a B item. Therefore, there is no D-22 item for this meeting.
- Item D – 23 Request from Robert Privott representing the N.C. Home Builders Association to amend the 2018 N.C. Residential Code, Section N1101.13 (R401.2) as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 24 Request from Leon Skinner representing the N.C. Residential Ad-Hoc Committee to amend the 2018 N.C. Residential Code, Sections R905.2.8.5 and R908.3 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 25 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to amend the 2018 N.C. Building Code, Section 1010.1.9.7 and the 2018 N.C. Fire Code, Section 1010.1.9.7 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – withdrawn by proponent
- Item D – 26 Request from Colin Triming representing the NC Fire Code Revision Committee to amend the 2018 N.C. Building Code, Chapter 2 Definitions as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 27 Request from Clint Latham representing the City of Raleigh to amend the 2018 N.C. Building Code, Section 915.2.1 and add Section 915.2.4 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – withdrawn by proponent

- Item D – 28 Request from Bryan Dale Robinson representing the City of Raleigh to amend the 2018 N.C. Building Code, Section 428.2 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 29 Request from Bryan Dale Robinson representing the City of Raleigh to amend the 2018 N.C. Building Code, Section 428.3 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – approved
- Item D – 30 This item was D-9 at the September Meeting. It was deferred to the December Meeting. It was added as item D-30. Request by Reuben E. Clark representing CMI to amend the 2017 NEC, Section 680.26(B)(2)(b) as follows: Remainder not shown for brevity. - Item denied

Qualification Board Update

Residential Changeout Inspector (RCI) Standard Certificate Update

The Pilot Courses for the RCI certificate are going on as planned. We’ve held the BETA and PILOT#1 courses. PILOT#2 & 3 Jan/Feb are full. A handful of students have taken the End-of-course test and received CE credit.

Development work continues as the course developers obtain feedback from the course takers.

The schedule of one Beta Test and four Pilot Courses taught by NCDOL staff is listed below.

Beta Test – 11/6-11/13 – Completed as scheduled

Pilot #1 - 11/30-12/4 – Completed as scheduled

Pilot #2 - 1/8 – 1/14 – Completed as scheduled

Pilot #3 - 2/5 – 2/11 – On schedule, class full

Pilot #4 - 3/5 - 3/11 – On Schedule

A handful of students have taken the End-of-course test and received CE credit.

Minutes

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

Meeting Minutes and Agendas

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/licensing-cert/code-officials-qualification-board-coqb/coqb-meeting-dates>

FIGURE 1: IMAGE OF Q'BOARD WEBSITE TABLE OF MINUTES

Minutes

COQB Minutes - July 28, 2020 Board Mtg
COQB Minutes - May, 19, 2020 Special Board Mtg
COQB Minutes - April 28, 2020 Board Mtg
COQB Minutes - April 3, 2020 Emergency Board Mtg

- **Sam Whittington:** Certification and Investigator, Complaints
919-647-0028 sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov
- **Thomas Cooney:** Certification and Investigator, Complaints

Department Notes

Engineering Department

Personnel Notes

Dean Andrews

After 36 ½ years of Government service, 28 of those with OSFM, Mr. Andrews has retired. Mr. Andrews worked as the Supervisor Inspections for Risk Management, providing enforcement and reviews of State-owned properties. Dean has been instrumental in the success of the State Property Fire Insurance Fund by providing a high quality of inspections and supervision of other inspectors on his staff. Every issue that Dean faced he brought knowledge, experience and a high level of professionalism to the situation. Relationships are important to Dean in his work and all of the State facility managers that he worked with can attest to this. All of OSFM thanks Dean for his years of dedication and service and wish him a happy and relaxing retirement.

Carl Martin, RA

Carl Martin has been selected as the Engineering Manager at NCDDOI/OSFM. Carl has worked 18 years at NCDDOI as a code consultant interpreting and enforcing the North Carolina State Building Codes. Prior to that he worked in the engineering section of various telecommunications companies. He received his Bachelor of Architecture degree from UNC Charlotte in 1985 and his NC Architecture license in 2010.

Travis Crabtree

Travis Crabtree has joined NCDDOI-OSFM in the Commercial Plan Review Section. Travis is retired from the Town of Chapel Hill, Office of Community Safety/Building Inspections & Code Enforcement. His work experience is vast and includes Fire Service, Code Enforcement and plans review for the Town of Morrisville, Chapel Hill, Carrboro, Raleigh and Cary Fire Departments. He has earned all five Level III Standard Inspection Certificates and he has instructed Standard and Continuing Ed classes and assisted in course/exam development for the NCCOQB for many years.

As of January 2021, here is the staff list and respective responsibilities:

- Bill Kirk: **Building** Code (non-accessibility)
919-647-0025 bill.kirk@ncdoi.gov
- Charlie Johnson: **Fire** Code (includes Chapter 9 of the NCBC)
919-647-0094 charlie.johnson@ncdoi.gov
- Pak Yip: Residential Code
919-647-0007 pak.yip@ncdoi.gov
- Jim Rodgers: **Residential** Code (non-structural)
919-647-0056, 919-270-3699 (cell) jim.rodgers@ncdoi.gov
- **Existing Building** Code
Vacant
- Tara Barthelmess: **Accessibility (and temporary Existing Building contact)**
919-647-0014 tara.barthelmess@ncdoi.gov
- Mark Burns: **Plumbing** Code
919-647-0006 mark.burns@ncdoi.gov
- David Rittlinger: **Mechanical** and **Fuel Gas** Code

- 919-647-0008 david.rittlinger@ncdoi.gov
- Dan Dittman: **Energy** Code
919-647-0012 dan.dittman@ncdoi.gov
- Danny Thomas: **Electrical** Code – General Questions
919-647-0062 daniel.thomas@ncdoi.gov
- Joe Starling: State **Electrical** Engineer
919-647-0020 joseph.starling@ncdoi.gov

In addition, the following topics will be addressed by:

- **Engineering Manager: Carl Martin** - contact for Statutes, Appeals, Council items (other than meeting minutes and agenda), Engineer Elements and Components,
- **Vacant (Carl Martin, interim):** BCC meeting minutes and agenda, Rules Review Commission, Formal interpretations, **Administrative** Code (non-statute)
919-647-0009 carl.martin@ncdoi.gov
- **Mike Page:** Answers questions as backup if staff is out
919-647-0017 mike.page@ncdoi.gov
- **Sam Whittington:** Certification and Investigator, Complaints
919-647-0028 sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov
- **Thomas Cooney:** Certification and Investigator, Complaints
919-647-0105 thomas.cooney@ncdoi.gov

Link to New Website Personnel Contacts for Codes and Interpretations

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/contact-codes-and-interpretations>

New Code Interpretations, Guidance Papers, and Appeals Posted

Since the prior newsletter, the following web interpretations, guidance papers, or appeals have been posted. Trades not shown did not have new web interpretations posted. The matrix of codes has been replaced with a drop-down menu box-driven sort function. Please notice that whenever you sort, then view an interpretation, you need to re-apply the sort function as the site defaults back to all the interpretations when the back-arrow is pressed.

Code, Guidance, Appeals link:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/interpretations>

FIGURE 2: NEW LOOK OF CODE INTERPRETATIONS LANDING PAGE

OSFM Code Interpretations



Code Type Edition Search

- Any - - Any -

Apply

Interpretations

Fire Protection

304.4.2.3 - Metal Valet Trash and Recyclable Materials Cans.doc

Plumbing

No additional since October 2020 newsletter

Residential

4504.1-Pier and Curtain Wall Foundation Anchor Spacing in a 130 mph Wind Zone

Accessibility Interpretations

No additional since October 2020 newsletter

Electrical Interpretations

Presently, if you use the main Interpretations site, you need to click on "ALL" edition to view the Electrical interpretations on that site. However, if you go to the main Electrical Division site, there are interpretations for the 2017 NC Electrical Code, see following link:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/state-electrical-division/state-electrical-code-and-interpretations>

The link should take you to a webpage, and you should see the following line items when you scroll down.

2017 Electrical Interpretations

Interpretation
90.2(B)(5) - Electrical Utility Conductors and Equipment
Article 100 - Structures Defined
110.14 - Tightening Torque Inspection and Responsibility
210.8(A)(4) - GFCI Protection in a Crawl Space

FIGURE 3: MAIN ELECTRICAL CODE INTERPRETATIONS SECTION

The illustrated diagrams that used to be on the Electrical Division website are not available at this time, we are working to get them formatted so they can be posted again.

Formal Interpretations and Appeals

Here are the Formal Interpretations posted since the prior Newsletter:

- 200121 Two-Way Communication Cable Survivability
- 201028 Rettie - NCBC Section 716.5 Fire Door and Fire Shutter Testing
- 201216 Gough - Oversizing Heat Pump Cooling Based on Manual S Cold Climate

Appeals

No additional since 2020 Newsletter

Guidance Papers

No additional since October 2020 newsletter

Cumulative Supplements

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

Cumulative code changes link:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/codes/codes-current-and-past>

FIGURE 4: TABLE OF APPROVED AMENDMENTS

2018 Administrative 	Approved Amendments
2018 Building 	Approved Amendments
2018 Residential 	Approved Amendments
2018 Energy Conservation 	Approved Amendments
2018 Existing Building 	Approved Amendments
2018 Fire 	Approved Amendments
2018 Fuel Gas 	Approved Amendments
2018 Mechanical 	Approved Amendments
2018 Plumbing 	Approved Amendments
2017 Electrical Code *	Approved Amendments



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.

Education Section

NC Building Code Training

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

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/licensing-cert/code-officials-qualification-board-coqb/coqb-code-education>

Once the web page is accessed, click the “**FIND A CLASS**” button to refine your search. Although many in-person classes have been delayed or canceled until further notice, there are quite a few on-line or virtual classes being scheduled. Some, including the NCBIA winter seminars, are a hybrid of on-site and remote instruction. Please check out the available on-line courses, and carefully read the locations and means of course offering. It is suggested that you contact the organization or individual providing the training to verify the locations and means of training before traveling to any given site or registering for a class.

Other websites of Inspector Organizations that offer training

<http://www.ncbia.org/> (Building Inspectors Association)
<http://ncpia.us/> (Plumbing Inspectors Association)
<https://www.nc-mia.com/> (Mechanical Inspectors note new website address – formerly www.ncmia.com)
<http://www.ncfma.com/> (Fire Marshals Association)
<https://nceia.com/> (Electrical Inspectors, note the new website address)

Reminders and other Resources

Accessibility Newsletters

Note: Previously, it was cited that the interpretations within the Accessibility Newsletters were the equivalent of a web interpretation, but the current Chief Building Code Consultant, Carl Martin, has deemed them to more appropriately be guidance or informal interpretations. This note will be included in future printings.

With the updating of the NCDOT webpage, the Accessibility Newsletter were removed. If there are any questions about a specific topics or general Accessibility questions, please contact Tara Barthelmess (919-647-0014).

NCDOT-OSFM Webpage Updated

As mentioned in earlier Engineering Newsletters, we encourage the users of the redesigned NCDOT/NC OSFM website to utilize the feedback feature at the bottom of most of the webpages. See following image for what the link looks like.

[How can we make this page better for you?](#)



FIGURE 5: PLEASE USE THIS FUNCTION

End of Newsletter