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**INSURANCE**  
 OFFICE OF STATE FIRE MARSHAL

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**July 2018**

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## Introduction

Welcome to the July 2018 OSFM Engineering Newsletter. Of particular note in this newsletter, observe the partial memo from the Deputy Commissioner pertaining to HB 948, and the article concerning the 2018 NC Code discount purchase path.

## Current Topics

### **Memo from Deputy Commissioner on HB 948 (Session Law 2018-29)**

Guidance Memo on House Bill 948 (Session Law 2018-19) from Deputy Commissioner Cliff Isaac

#### ***Link to House Bill 948 (Session Law 2018-19)***

AN ACT TO MAKE VARIOUS CHANGES TO THE STATUTES GOVERNING BUILDING CODES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON IMPLEMENTATION OF BUILDING CODE REGULATORY REFORM LEGISLATION.

Please refer to the following link for the full text of the Session Law 2018-29 (House Bill 948)

<https://www.ncleg.net/Sessions/2017/Bills/House/PDF/H948v6.pdf>

#### ***Guidance Memo on House Bill 948 (Session Law 2018-19)***

**General Statute:** § 160A-413.5 and NCACP

#### **Key Points:**

1. An architect or engineer’s inspection letter shall be provided by electronic or physical delivery, and upon receipt by the inspection department, shall be acknowledged in a timely manner.
2. Components and elements are not systems. Only footings, slabs and foundations can be inspected. Non-prescriptive components and elements (such as log home framing, structural steel framing, etc.) can also be inspected. The rough framing inspection, the plumbing system, the mechanical system, the electrical system, the building framing inspection, the final inspection, and any other inspection that

is prescriptive that does not require a special inspection (by an engineer) are the responsibility of a Code Enforcement Official. Under Section 107, only the Footing inspection, Under-Slab inspection and the Foundation inspection may be performed by an architect or engineer.

3. **[UPDATED and corrected]** At the quarterly Code Officials Qualification Board meeting on July 24, 2017, it was decided to form an ad-hoc committee to address Section 107 of the Admin Code. The Committee will be made of up **5** members from the Code Officials Qualification Board (QBD) and **5** members from the Building Code Council (BCC). Two members were in attendance including the Chairman at the meeting. Between the statutes (new and old) and Section 107, inspectors and builders need assistance to understand the process. This committee will recommend changes to Section 107 to clearly define the inspections, who may perform them, when and how they are performed, etc. Such final guidance (and Code changes) of this Section 107 will serve the entire construction community. The willingness for all parties to work together is extremely important.
4. **[UPDATED]** The guidance paper will need to be updated and modified to reflect the current statute. It will also need to include what all comes out of the newly formed committee. The form for an element or component was created for last year's guidance paper that was suggested to NCDOI. Being that this committee is now a reality, the committee will determine if a form for an element or component is necessary. Therefore, please hold on such guidance as mentioned in the current guidance paper on the acceptance of an element or component (Page 2 of 8 - Item #1 and Important Notes #1).

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Documents/Interpretations4/Guidance%20Paper%20s/GS%20153A-352%20GS%20160A-412%20-%20Acceptance%20of%20Licensed%20Architect%20or%20Engineer%20Inspections.pdf](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/Interpretations4/Guidance%20Paper%20s/GS%20153A-352%20GS%20160A-412%20-%20Acceptance%20of%20Licensed%20Architect%20or%20Engineer%20Inspections.pdf)

5. Effective July 1, 2018.

**General Statute:** § 143-139(b), 143-139.4, 153A-354, 160A-414

**Key Points:**

1. Inspection requests received after 12:00 noon shall be deemed to have been received on the next business day. Inspection departments are to perform requested inspections within two business days after first requested.
2. Examples on the two-day deadline:
  - a. An inspection is requested before 12:00 noon on Monday.  
The inspection must be performed by the **close of business on Wednesday**.
  - b. An inspection is requested after 12:00 noon on Monday.  
The inspection must be performed by the **close of business on Thursday**.
3. An NCDOI marketplace inspector will not be used in lieu of a local inspector to perform inspections for any reason other than the local inspection department's inability to perform a requested inspection. Any abuse of the NCDOI marketplace will result in a complaint to the appropriate licensing board.
4. An NCDOI marketplace inspector will not be used in lieu of a local inspector because of the local inspection department's refusal to perform an inspection for a permit holder. The willful refusal to provide an inspection would be subject to NCGS 143-151.8 (c)(6).
5. Additional information being developed.
6. Effective August 1, 2018.

More information is being developed on House Bill 948.

## Ordering the 2018 NC Code – Discounted Code Books

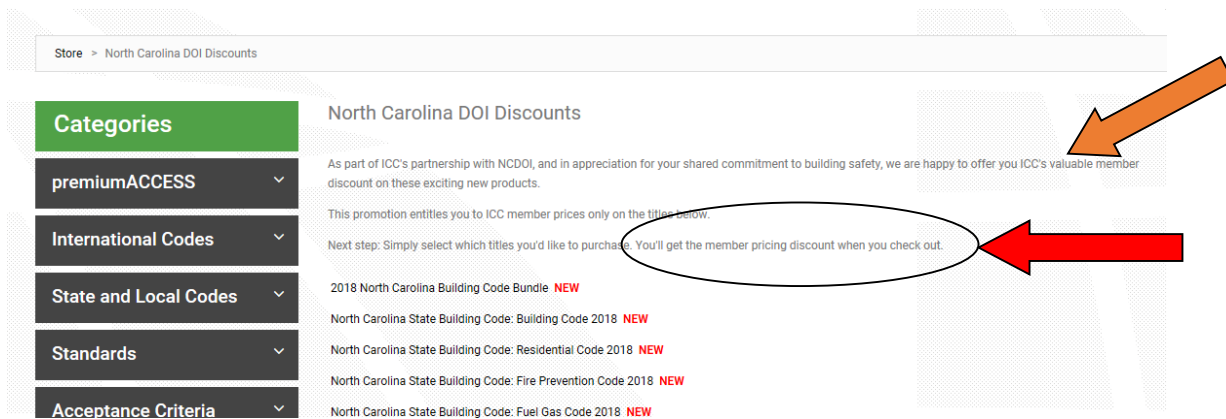
The 2018 NC Code is available and is shipping as of this Newsletter writing. Remember it is not mandatorily effective until Jan 1, 2019. Also, to receive the on-line “members” purchasing discount, ANYONE can go through NC Department of Insurance Website, following this path:

1. [https://ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Codes\\_-\\_Code\\_Book\\_Sales&user=State\\_Building\\_Codes](https://ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Codes_-_Code_Book_Sales&user=State_Building_Codes)
2. After the Code Book Sales web page opens, press the “Purchase State Building Code On-line” hyperlink. See Figure 1 for screenshot of link.
3. This is the web address it will take you to ICC’s webpage that has all the North Carolina Code Books. When you order from the site you are redirected to, you will receive the discount. **If you enter the ICC Webpage directly, you will not get the discount.** See Figure 2 for a partial screenshot of webpage. No discount code is required.

**FIGURE 1: OSFM ON-LINE CODE SALES LINK**



**FIGURE 2: ICC WEBSITE SCREENSHOT WITH NC COI DISCOUNT NOTICE**



### **2018 NC Code Online version?**

Although there is presently a 2012 free on-line code that is fully downloadable and printable, THERE ARE PRESENTLY NO PROVISIONS FOR MAKING THE 2018 CODE THIS WAY. This feature for the 2012 Codes will not be available after December 31, 2018 (downloadable, printable). There will be a limited capability version that will allow a viewer to look at the code, but the viewer will not be able to download, copy/paste, or print the code for free.

### **Walk-In Customers: 2012 Remaining Books Discounted as of July 18, 2018**

We have reduced the price of the Code books on all the 2012 and 2015 NC Code books to roughly half the price starting July 18, 2018.

#### **Code Book Sales: Walk-In Customers Only to NCDOI**

- 2012 NC Building Code with Amendments.....\$47.00
- 2012 NC Energy Code with Amendments.....\$15.00
- 2015 NC Existing Building Code with Amendments.....\$30.00
- 2012 NC Fire Prevention Code with Amendments.....\$30.00
- 2012 NC Fuel Gas Code with Amendments.....\$30.00
- 2012 NC Mechanical Code with Amendments.....\$30.00
- 2012 NC Residential Code with Amendments.....\$40.00

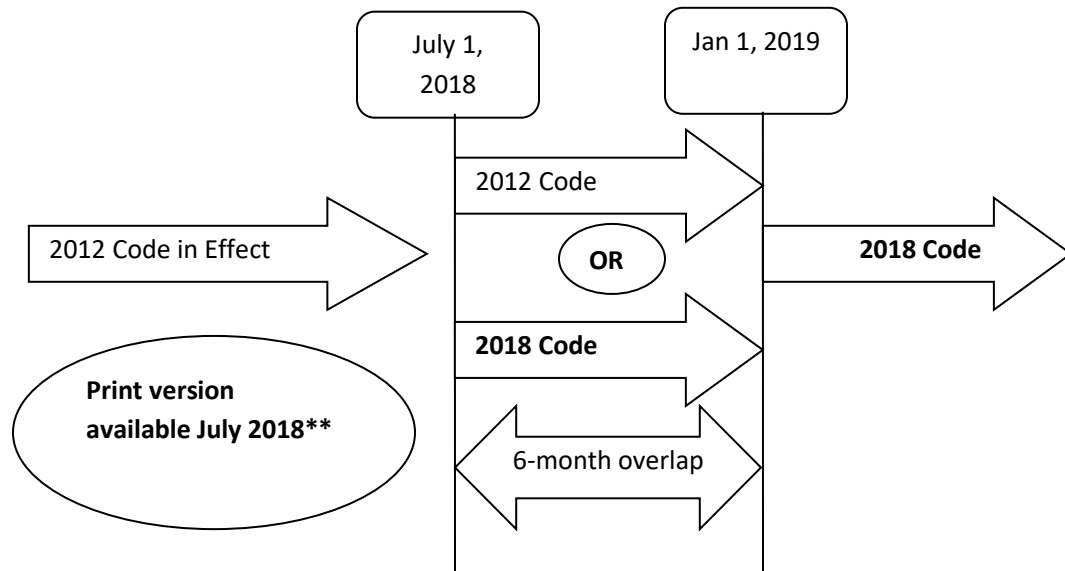
#### **Notes:**

1. 2012 Codes not listed are sold out.
2. Limited supplies left.

### **The 2018 NC Code (Except Electrical) Implementation Diagram**

The 2018 NC Code has been adopted, but it is not mandatorily required (effective) until Jan 1, 2019. There is a minimum six-month overlap time required between adoption and mandatory effective date. The most likely overlap period can start as soon as the adoption date. Then, on January 1, 2019 the 2018 NC code is effective, and the 2018 NC Code is the requirement. This overlap may be extended, but that cannot be predicted at this time. The full print versions will be available in July, slightly behind the target date of the Jun target date mentioned in previous newsletters.

The following represents a time line that may aid in planning when to budget for new code training and materials.



**FIGURE 3: TENTATIVE ADOPTION AND EFFECTIVE DATES\***

- \*Dates of overlap and earliest adoption date (July 1, 2018) **are subject to variation** due to the direction of the Building Code Council.
- \*\*The print availability was estimated to be June. As of July 12<sup>th</sup>, they are shipping.
- Remember, the newly adopted 2018 NC Building Code has passed Rules Review, therefore it is like any other code amendment and can be used as an alternate method prior to the effective date if requested by the user. Reference NC Administrative Code Section 102.5.

### **Piers and Docks Interpretation – 2012 Code and 2018 Code**

In last quarter’s newsletter, there was a piers and docks interpretation issued pertaining to the 2012 code. With the knowledge of what is in the 2018 code and the changes in it that would affect the interpretation, an interpretation pertaining to the 2018 code language has been posted also.

The residential pier and dock interpretation for the NC Residential Code (NCRC) has been revised for the 2018 code edition and will replace the interpretation posted for the 2012 edition to correlate with the change in language that is reflected for minimum requirements for residential pier and dock construction in the 2018 code edition. The 2018 code language does not require a permit or plan to be submitted for structures meeting the limitations of the exception to Section R327 (Section R324 in the 2012 NCRC). In an effort to allow the use of the provisions of the 2018 code for residential pier and dock construction as an alternate method, this interpretation was posted for guidance when there is a request to utilize the new, revised language in the 2018 NCRC.

See section New Code Interpretations, Guidance Papers, and Appeals Posted for location of the interpretation.

# Recurring Articles

## Building Code Council Approved Rule Changes

At the June Building Code Council meeting, there were 4 D-Items and 3 of these were adopted. Please refer to the following link to review the list of D-Items from the June 2018 Building Code Council Meeting:

BCC Meeting Agenda-June 2018 (Minutes will be published online in September)

[https://ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Documents/BCC\\_Agendas/2018%2006~June%2012,%202018\\_.pdf](https://ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/BCC_Agendas/2018%2006~June%2012,%202018_.pdf)

Assuming the June BCC-approved D-Item is approved by the Rule Review Commission, the adopted rule will be placed on the NCDOT Engineering website. The compilation of previously approved rules is located in the document “**2017-2019 Approved Cumulative Amendments (Effective 1/1/2019)**” document. Previously approved amendments that had an effective date of January 1, 2017 or earlier can be found in the document “**Accumulative Supplement to the 2012 NC Building Code**”. This document contains all amendments from 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2016, and 2017 and are posted in this single document.

Accumulative Supplement to the 2012 NC Building Code links:

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Documents/2012\\_NCBuildingCode\\_amendments/2012-2017ApprovedCumulativeTest1Format.pdf](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2012-2017ApprovedCumulativeTest1Format.pdf)

2017-2019 Approved Cumulative Amendments (Effective 1/1/2019)

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Documents/2012\\_NCBuildingCode\\_amendments/2017-2019%20Approved%20Cumulative%20171212.pdf](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2017-2019%20Approved%20Cumulative%20171212.pdf)

The full review of the June-approved code amendments is left to the reader, but **the titles of each item** are bulleted below. Please note the minutes may not be available on the DOI website until the next quarterly meeting in June 2018.

BCC Proposed Amendments-June 2018

- **Item D - 1 Request by Terry Cromer representing the N.C. Association of Electrical Contractors, Inc. to amend the 2017 North Carolina Electrical Code Amendment 320.23(A) as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – proposal passed.**
- **Item D – 2 Request by Leon Skinner representing the City of Raleigh to amend the NC State Building Code, Volume 2018 NC Mechanical Code – Section 306.5 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – proposal passed.**
- **Item D – 3 Request by Leon Skinner representing the City of Raleigh to amend the NC State Building Code, Volume 2018 NC Fire Code – Section 1013.6.1 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – proposal withdrawn.**
- **Item D – 4 Request by Daniel Priest representing the NC Building Code Council to amend the NC State Building Code, Volume 2018 Administrative Code and Policies, Section 106 as follows: (Remainder not shown for brevity) – proposal passed.**

## Qualification Board Update

### Minutes

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

Meeting Minutes and Agendas

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=COQB\\_-\\_Minutes&user=Code\\_Officials\\_Qualification\\_Board&sub=COQB\\_Meeting](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=COQB_-_Minutes&user=Code_Officials_Qualification_Board&sub=COQB_Meeting)

Individuals wishing to provide feedback are encouraged to contact Kathy Williams at [Kathy.Williams@ncdoi.gov](mailto:Kathy.Williams@ncdoi.gov)

# Department Notes

## Engineering Department Personnel Notes

### Ali Kojoori

Mr. Kojoori has joined the Department of Insurance as the Chief Residential Code Consultant. Ali has 20 years of experience building residential construction. As a project manager, he oversaw the development and construction of single family and multifamily projects. His career in this field began when he received his B.S. in Civil Engineering. He also has a Residential Building License from the N.C. License Board for General Contractors.

If you would like to contact Mr. Kojoori, feel free to contact him at [ali.kojoori@ncdoi.gov](mailto:ali.kojoori@ncdoi.gov)

### Beth Williams

Effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, Beth Williams has accepted the position as the Education Outreach and Instruction Specialist within the OSFM Division. She is an East Carolina University graduate from the Master of Science, Instructional Technology program. During her studies, she also earned her Distance Learning and Administration Graduate Certificate.

In addition to her educational background, Beth has over 20 years of work experience within organizational analysis, resource development, needs assessment, program development and educational design and technology within government and higher educational settings.

Moving into her new role as Education Outreach and Instruction Specialist, Beth will be responsible for coordinating the development of the standard courses for Code Officials. This entails the planning and developing curriculum with subject-matter experts.

In addition, she will remain highly visible as she extends her outreach efforts and interaction with inspectors, licensees, industry professionals and associations, education sponsors including community colleges, instructors, state, county and city officials, the public, and department personnel.

Beth will also be coordinating all professional development continuing education courses.

If you would like to contact Beth Williams, feel free to contact her at [beth.williams@ncdoi.gov](mailto:beth.williams@ncdoi.gov)

## **New Code Interpretations, Guidance Papers, and Appeals Posted**

Since the prior Newsletter, there has been the following web interpretations and guidance papers posted to aid the building owner, inspection, design professional, and construction personnel:

Code, Guidance, Appeals link:

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code Interpretations&user=State Building Codes](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code_Interpretations&user=State_Building_Codes)

### **Guidance Papers**

None since prior newsletter

These papers are to assist local jurisdictions on how NCDI views a given law. These are not legal advice, but opinions. They are located under the table heading "SPECIFIC ACTIONS" in the Interpretations matrix.



## Interpretations

### Building

No web interpretations since prior newsletter

### Electrical

No web interpretations since prior newsletter

### Energy

No web interpretations since prior newsletter

### Mechanical

0403.9.3 Thread compounds and PTFE Tape.doc

### Plumbing

No web interpretations since prior newsletter

### Residential

R324 2018 NCRC Pier and Dock Permit Requirements and Applying the Section Limitations

### Formal Interpretations and Appeals

No formal interpretations or appeals since prior newsletter

Formal interpretations and Appeals are available in the interpretations link shown above. They are located under the table heading "SPECIFIC ACTIONS".

## Cumulative Supplements

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

Cumulative code changes link:

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Documents/2012\\_NCBuildingCode\\_amendments/2017-2019%20Approved%20Cumulative%20171212.pdf](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2017-2019%20Approved%20Cumulative%20171212.pdf)

### 2017-2019 Approved Cumulative Amendments (Effective 1/1/2019)

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.

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Documents/2012\\_NCBuildingCode\\_amendments/2017-2019%20Approved%20Cumulative%20171212.pdf](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/2012_NCBuildingCode_amendments/2017-2019%20Approved%20Cumulative%20171212.pdf)

Please note the 2017-2019 amendments are in a slightly different place than the other annual amendments when you are navigating the website.

## Qualifications Assurance Section – COQB, HILB & PYRO

### OSFM Engineering Division Programs – *Inspector Education FY 2018-2019*

July 1<sup>st</sup> marks the start of a new fiscal year and annual certificate renewal cycle. For fiscal year ending June 30, 2018 some 6,404 certificates were renewed representing about 38,000 hours of continuing education at six (6) hours per certificate. Thank you to all the education sponsors and instructors who scheduled, taught and submitted student rosters who made this possible.

Staff is pleased to announce Beth Williams as the new Education Coordinator, [beth.williams@ncdoi.gov](mailto:beth.williams@ncdoi.gov), (919) 647-0019. Beth is a graduate of East Carolina University and holds a Bachelor's degree in Business Education and Master's degree in Instructional Technology. Her prior work experience includes the NC Department of Public Instruction and Wake County Public Schools. See full Bio in Personnel Notes.

Education Priority #1 for the first six (6) months of this cycle will be development of the "Standard Course" curriculum for all five (5) Trades (technical disciplines) updated to the 2018 codes as well as the Law and Administration course to reflect current legislation. Priority #2 is implementation of an online "Code College" Learning Management System (LMS).

Priority #1: Because the National Fire Protection Administration (NFPA®), National Electrical Code (NEC®) remains on a three (3) year code cycle, the 2014 to 2017 update became effective as the NC Electrical Code on June 12, 2018. As a result, the Electrical Standard Certificate courses and state exam are the first to be based on the new code. The remaining 2018 code books become effective January 1, 2019. In October 2017 standard course instructors met to discuss changes to the 2012 curriculum brought about by both the 2015 and 2018 International Code Council (ICC®) and North Carolina amendments to the codes approved by the BCC. This work is ongoing with updates being made to the slide presentations used by instructors. Rather than posting links to these large electronic files on the OSFM web page, NCDOL is now using Citrix® [ShareFile®](#). Education sponsors or instructors wanting access to the updated course curriculum for download have accounts established by NCDOL staff.

Priority #2: Both standard course instructors and students have voiced long-standing concerns that the mandatory classroom courses offered through the NC Community College System are too short to cover all the material. The COQB's primary concern is the 30% state exam pass rate for Building, Electrical and Fire Level 1. In response, Engineering Division staff and NCDOL's Information Systems folks have developed a web based LMS for student applicants and Code Enforcement Officials (CEOs). Free and easy access to the standard course classroom materials used by the instructor as well as supplemental student worksheets/quizzes and other learning aids will be through the COQB Information Management Systems [SYSTEM LOG-IN](#) using their CEO ID# and password. CEOs will be able to enroll for online Standard Course Supplemental courses based on the Trade and Type of certificates they hold. The NC Energy Conservation Code online course, previously posted on the web page, will be located in the LMS and will offer Continuing Education (CE) credit for module completion.

Please email [mike.hejduk@ncdoi.gov](mailto:mike.hejduk@ncdoi.gov) with your comments, questions or concerns.

### **NC Building Code Training**

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

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code\\_Education\\_-\\_Student\\_Main&user=Code\\_Education\\_Resources](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code_Education_-_Student_Main&user=Code_Education_Resources)

Once the web page is accessed, click the "FIND A CLASS" button to refine your search. As always, please consider the use of the Standard Classes if you are a design professional, contractor, or code official, as they are an underutilized offering and are the primary source of code training in NC.

The NC Plumbing Inspectors Association and NC Mechanical Inspectors Association have one class remaining on their 2018 con-ed training. The classes are available in October in Burlington, NC. Please review the respective association websites, in addition to the NC DOI website for available training.

COCO Newsletters

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code\\_Enforcement\\_-\\_COCO\\_Newsletters&user=Code\\_Enforcement\\_Resources](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Default.aspx?field1=Code_Enforcement_-_COCO_Newsletters&user=Code_Enforcement_Resources)

Refer to the March/April COCO newsletter for the Summer Training at the COCO Summer Conference.

<http://www.ncbia.org/>

Winter Seminars complete, look for COCO Summer Conference

<http://ncpia.us/>

October 24, 2018 in Burlington

Refer to COCO Summer Conference for further training opportunities

<http://ncmia.com/>

October 10<sup>th</sup>-Burlington

Refer to COCO Summer Conference for further training opportunities

<http://www.ncfma.com/>

Refer to COCO Summer Conference for further training opportunities

<http://www.nciae.org/>

Look for COCO Summer Conference for further training opportunities.

## Reminders and other Resources

### Inspector Marketplace – Find a Certified Inspector

There have been two links added to the NC DOI OSFM website that are intended to aid both jurisdictions looking for certified inspectors, and for part-time and/or retired inspectors to be able to communicate their availability for work. The links are as follows:

Webpage links are located

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes.aspx](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes.aspx)

Link to sign-up

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CEOs4hire>

Link to Inspector Marketplace

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-8DNHVPY5/auth/>

### Inspector Marketplace – Engineers and Architects as Code Officials

There have been three links added to the NC DOI OSFM Engineering and Codes website that are intended to aid both jurisdictions looking for certified inspectors, and for design professionals, who are interested as functioning as code officials. The first link is an explanatory document that explains the limits of this job function. The second link is a link to the sign up, and the third link is a list of engineers available for jurisdictions to draw from. The list is password protected, and the jurisdictions have access to those. The links are as follows:

Engineers and Architects – Explanatory document

[http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering\\_and\\_Codes/Documents/Engineers%20and%20Architects%20as%20CEOs.pdf](http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/Engineering_and_Codes/Documents/Engineers%20and%20Architects%20as%20CEOs.pdf)

Link to sign-up

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MPBQPW7>

#### Link to Inspector Marketplace

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-H3XP5Q2H8/auth/>

Please read the information carefully. The sign up form clarifies that although NC Licensed Engineers or Architects may inspect *elements* or *components* of a building without being a Code Enforcement Official (CEO) per N.C. Gen. Stat. 153A-352(c) and 160A-412(c), if they would like to inspect *systems* of a building or an entire project must be certified by the NC Code Officials Qualification Board per N.C. Gen. Stat. 143-151.13(a). This sign up is a means of facilitating design professionals who want to become code enforcement officials, either full-time or part-time. In order to be a code enforcement official they must be employed by an inspection department.

#### **Reminder: Limited time only, Free 2012 NC Code Downloads Available**

As noted in prior Engineering Newsletters, the Building Code Council and the NC Department of Insurance have negotiated for and achieved funding from the NC General Assembly for the offering of a free (free to the user) downloads of the 2012, 2014 and 2015 NC Building Codes. These codes are the fully downloadable and printable for a limited time courtesy of the Department of Insurance. The link to the codes is:

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/collections/nc>

Please take advantage of this limited time offer.

#### **Sunset date of Rehabilitation Code**

The Rehabilitation Code is no longer available for use, this is the last time the notice will be carried in the newsletter. For more detailed information, refer to prior quarter newsletter.

**End of Newsletter**