

**NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
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Automobile Bridges Code Applicability

Code: 2018 Residential Code
Section: R101.2.2

Date: March 20, 2019

Question:

Are private bridges for automobiles to a house, townhouse or duplex required to be permitted and inspected even though they are not listed as an accessory structure in Section R101.2.2? If private bridges are required to be permitted and inspected, what is the applicable code?

Answer:

Yes. On April 20, 2005, the NC Attorney General's (NCAG's) office issued an interpretation that residential structures and appurtenances that were not covered in the NC Residential Code would be regulated by the NC Building Code which normally applies to commercial structures.

This ruling is based on the lack of regulation observed by NCAG relating to an accident where a youth was killed by uninspected electrical wiring on a residential pier. Based on this precedent, a private bridge that is otherwise not addressed by the residential code would be required to meet minimum regulatory requirements.

A private bridge for automobiles that are used by more than one house, townhouse or duplex needs to meet the minimum safety outlines which may include the (NC Department of Transportation) AASHTO *Standard Specification for Highway Bridges* in accordance with Section 503.2.6 of the NC Fire Protection Code for emergency vehicle access.

A private automobile bridge would, therefore, require a permit per GS153A-357 (counties) and GS160A-417 (cities).

Key Words: site, access, fire, road, single family dwelling