

## INFORMAL CODE INTERPRETATION

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

### Seismic Design Categories

**Code:** 2012 NC Residential Code

**Date:** August 20, 2012

**Section:** Figure R301.2(2)

**Question:**

What is the Seismic Design Category (SDC) for counties not listed in the “continued” portion of Figure R301.2(2)?

**Answer:**

Counties not listed in the “continued” portion of the figure are either Seismic Design Category A or B as the North Carolina Residential Code does not classify any counties in North Carolina as SDC D. Furthermore, since the NC Residential Code (NCRC) has no seismic requirements for either SDC A or B it is inconsequential as to whether a county is SDC A or B.

Also, the exception in Footnote b of Figure R301.2(2) exempts detached one- and two-family dwellings from all seismic requirements of the NCRC. So, SDC C requirements of the NCRC only apply to townhomes.

**Keywords:**

earthquake