Interpretations

Of

The

1990 USBC

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 1/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 110.7 and 1308.1

QUESTION #1: Are special inspections required for a building which is not required to be designed by a licensed architect or professional engineer, if included in its construction are elements identified in Sections 1308.2 through 1308.7 (e.g., masonry specified to be constructed in accordance with ACI530/ASCE5)?

ANSWER #1: No, Section 101.2 of the USBC deletes any requirements of the model code or reference standard related to inspections.

QUESTION #2: Section 54.1-402 of the Code of Virginia requires that the design of structural elements for floors, walls, roofs or foundations that are unique in nature to be prepared by professional engineers or architects. Does this mean that special inspections must be performed on structures that are otherwise exempt from Section 1308 (USBC) where the structural elements of the floors, walls, roofs or foundations are determined to be unique by the building official and are therefore designed by professional engineers or architects?

ANSWER #2: No, special inspections are required only for the unique elements, if such elements consist of materials addressed in Sections 1308.2 through 1308.7.

QUESTION #3: Does Section 1308.1 require special inspections for all buildings, structures, or building components which are required to be designed by persons licensed as an architect or professional engineer in accordance with Chapter 4 (§ 54.1-400 et seq.) of Title 54.1 of the Code of Virginia?

ANSWER #3: Special inspections are required for those building components addressed in Sections 1308.2 through 1308.7 when the design involves the practice of professional engineering or architecture as required by Sections 54.1-401, 54.1-402 and 54.1-406 of the Code of Virginia.

QUESTION #4: Does Section 110.7 require in-plant inspections of manufactured wood roof trusses regardless of building use group classification?

ANSWER #4: Yes, the applicable provision of the model code for fabricated wood trusses is Section 1704.4 which requires all fabricated wood components to meet the requirements of Section 1308.2. The requirements of Section 110.7 are in addition to those found in Section 1308.2.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 2/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 100.6

QUESTION: Is a 115 volt, cord and plug connected customer deposit conveyor system installed at a bank drive-up teller window considered to be "equipment" subject to the USBC?

ANSWER: Yes

→ Needs to go to Board – certificate of compliance is not in code

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 3/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 101.2 and 1201.1

QUESTION: Is it the intent of Section 101.2 to delete Section 1201.1 (Soil Analysis) as one of the certificate of compliance requirements?

ANSWER: No, except the certification by a licensed architect or professional engineer is required when exercised by the building official under Section 105.5 of the USBC.

✓ INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 4/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, BOCA Plumbing Code
Section No(s): P-1223.3 and P-1503.8.1

QUESTION: If a non pressure balanced valve was installed before March 1. 1991, and is replaced after March 1, 1991, are we required to replace it with a pressure balanced valve?

ANSWER: No, Section 118.1 of Volume I permits the valve to be replaced without meeting the requirements for a pressure balancing or a thermostatic mixing valve, since its replacement does not create a hazard.

→ Recommend for temporary suspension pending regulation change

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 5/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 304.1.1 and 307.3.1

QUESTION #1: Is there a change of use of the single family dwelling if 5 children, more than 2½ years of age are cared for less than 24 hours?

ANSWER #1: No

QUESTION #2: Is there a change of use of the single family dwelling if 5 children, less than 2½ years of age are cared for less than 24 hours?

ANSWER #2: No

QUESTION #3: Is there a change of use in the single family dwelling if 5 children, 2½ years old or less, and 5 children more than 2½ years of age are cared for less than 24 hours? If the answer is yes, please justify.

ANSWER #3: Yes, a building that functions as a child care facility may accommodate five or less children of any age and be classified as Use Group R-3 (see Section 309.4.1, BOCA National Building Code, 1990 Edition). To accommodate greater numbers of children for the purpose of providing child care would constitute a change of building use.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 6/90
Code: USBC, Volume II/1990
Section No(s): PM-601.1

QUESTION #1: Would an existing apartment building with no heating systems be required to provide or install a heating system to maintain the conditions specified in Section PM-601.1 as amended in Volume II of the USBC?

ANSWER #1: No, Section PM-601.1 is applicable only when the terms to furnish heat are expressed in the rental agreement or implied in some other manner.

QUESTION #2: If the answer to the first question is no, could the absence of heating be considered as a health hazard in accordance with Section 103.5 of the USBC, Volume II?

ANSWER #2: No

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 7/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section(s): 110.3 and 2702.3

QUESTION: Are the electrical services to a building (dwelling unit, etc.) required to be hot (power on) for an electrical inspector to perform a final inspection?

ANSWER: Section 2702.3 of the BOCA National Building Code, 1990 Edition, is deleted in accordance with Section 101.2 of the USBC. The local building official is authorized by Section 110.3 of the USBC to perform various inspections of buildings under construction to determine compliance with the provisions of the building code. In accordance with Section 110.3, Item 7, the building official is required to perform a final inspection to insure that all work conforms to the USBC. The building official has authority to require that building electrical systems, components or devices be energized as part of the final inspection.

Delete due to change in accessibility standards

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 8/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990 - First Amendment
Section No(s): Addendum 1 - 512.2, Addendum 3 - 4.14.1, 4.14.2 and 4.28.2

QUESTION #1: An existing building is to be renovated and no change of use will occur. If neither of the existing required exits will be altered in any fashion, must they be made accessible per Section 4.14.2 of Addendum 3?

ANSWER #1: No, the existing exits remain subject to the edition of the USBC under which they were initially constructed, provided there is no change of use.

QUESTION #2: An existing building is to be renovated and no change of use occurs, but an additional exit is required. Is this additional exit required to be made accessible per Section 4.14.2 of Addendum 3?

ANSWER #2: Yes, the construction of additional exits would be subject to the provisions of the 1990 USBC.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 9/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 1012.1

QUESTION: Are standpipe hose connections required to be located in accordance with NFPA 14 so that all parts of a floor area may be reached by a 30 foot hose stream from a nozzle attached to not more than 100 feet of hose connected to the riser outlet?

ANSWER: No, see Sections 101.1 and 1012.7.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 10/90
Code: USBC, Volume II/1990
Section No(s): PM-300.3, PM-301.7, PM-302.1, PM-302.2 through PM-302.6, PM-302.7 through PM-302.11.1, PM-302.13, PM-302.14, PM-302.15, PM-303.1, PM-303.2 and PM-303.3.

These questions are meant to trigger a rethinking of Interpretations 50/87 and 51/87 so as to except from those interpretations structures that have been designated by federal, state or local government as historic structures or that lie within historic districts.

QUESTION #1: Do the sections of the VUSBC, Volume II referenced above apply to all vacant and boarded buildings?

ANSWER #1: The provisions of the Building Maintenance Code apply equally to all buildings; however, the model code is subject to general administrative provisions that may limit the applicability of the cited provisions. Regarding boarded buildings, in accordance with Section 105.1, an unsafe building may be vacated and secured against public entry as an alternative to compliance.

QUESTION #2: If so, how does a municipality protect its stock of old and historic buildings?

ANSWER #2: The subject of the question, historic preservation, is outside of the scope of the Building Maintenance Code. There are no special provisions in the Building Maintenance Code for historic buildings. Any building that fails to comply with the Building Maintenance Code may be subject to action by the code official as provided for in Section 105.0.

Deleted due to changes in provisions.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 11/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 100.6(3) and 2700.4

QUESTION #1: Does the exemption afforded by Section 100.6(3) extend to control panels needed to operate processing equipment?

ANSWER #1: Yes

QUESTION #2: Does the exemption afforded by Section 100.6(3) extend to electrical wire and raceway that connect the control panel to the processing equipment?

ANSWER #2: Yes

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 11/90 (continued)

QUESTION #3: Does the exemption afforded by Section 100.6(3) extend to motor control centers needed to operate processing equipment?

ANSWER #3: Yes

QUESTION #4: Does the exemption afforded by Section 100.6(3) extend to electrical wire and raceway that connect the motor control center to the processing equipment?

ANSWER #4: Yes

COMMENT: The items described are considered to be an integral part of a manufacturing or material processing operation. With respect to utility services, it is intended that the USBC shall apply up to the point that manufacturing or processing equipment (including its necessary logic, control, instrumentation and similar devices) connect to the utility system of the building or structure. The associated pipes, ducts, conduits, tubes, wires or cables that connect exempt components within a processing operation are, likewise, not regulated.

Delete due to change to ~~BOCA~~ USBC

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 12/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 1002.9, 1016.4.5, 1018.3.2

QUESTION: Are sleeping and living rooms in Use Group R-2 dormitories and boarding houses considered dwelling units for the purposes of applying the fire protective signaling system, smoke detector and sprinkler requirements?

ANSWER: Yes

COMMENT: The hazards present in dormitory rooms and living accommodations in boarding houses in which the occupants are primarily not transient in nature are consistent with the hazards associated with dwelling units due to the fact that persons reside and sleep in both occupancies; therefore, for the purposes of application of these sections, the requirements for dwelling units and dormitory and boarding house living and sleeping rooms are the same. When smoke detectors, fire suppressions systems and fire protective signaling systems are required in Use Group R-2 buildings containing dwelling units, they would also be required in Use Group R-2 dormitories and boarding houses.

Delete due to change in BOCA Code.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 13/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 313.1.4.1

QUESTION: Do the requirements of Section 313.1.4.1 and Table 313.1.4.1 apply when the designer chooses to design using either Section 313.1.1, 313.1.2, or 313.1.3?

ANSWER: Yes

COMMENT: Areas of a building identified as specific use areas are required to be protected in accordance with the specific use provisions regardless of the mixed use design options applied to the building.

Delete due to change in code (USBC)

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 14/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 115.0

QUESTION #1: Is a new Certificate of Occupancy required to be issued when a permit for internal alterations, without a change in use group, (such as an interior bathroom addition or office renovations) is finalled out?

ANSWER #1: No

QUESTION #2: Is a new Certificate of Occupancy required to be issued whenever any building permit is finalled out (i.e. signs, structural repairs, reroofing, etc.)?

ANSWER #2: No

Recommend not to be included in book but kept on file since Amusement Device regs are technically not part of USBC and TRB has no authority to interpret.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 15/90
Code: Virginia Amusement Device Regulations, 1990 Edition
Section No(s): 100.5

QUESTION #1: Is nonmechanized playground equipment commonly installed outside at restaurants and child-care centers for use by customers or occupants regulated by the Virginia Amusement Device Regulations?

ANSWER #1: No

COMMENT #1: Section 100.5 of the Amusement Device Regulations specifically exempts such equipment.

QUESTION #2: Is mechanized playground equipment installed under the same circumstances in Question #1 regulated by the Amusement Device Regulations?

ANSWER #2: Yes; however, items such as non-powered merry-go-rounds, jungle gyms, sliding boards and traditional "school-yard" devices, along with one-passenger coin-operated amusement devices are exempt.

QUESTION #3: Are the fees paid for food or child-care at restaurants and child-care centers considered admission fees to use equipment such as that described in Questions #1 and #2?

ANSWER #3: No

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 16/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 1308.0

QUESTION: Are special inspections required for Exterior Insulation Finish Systems (EIFS) when such inspections are part of BOCA Research Reports?

ANSWER: No, Section 1308.8 of the BOCA National Building Code has been deleted in the USBC.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 17/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1987
Section No(s): 602.1

QUESTION: Would a building with a height to the top floor of less than 75-ft. above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access, with an occupiable roof at a level of greater than 75-ft. need to comply with the high-rise requirements?

ANSWER: No

COMMENT: In determining the height of a building for applying the high-rise provisions, only floors enclosing habitable or occupiable rooms or spaces are used in the height measurements.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 18/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 105.1

QUESTION: Does the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code require permits to be obtained for the installation of low voltage wiring when such wiring is located in a non-combustible plenum, or penetrates a fire resistance rated assembly?

ANSWER: Yes, See Section 105.1, Exception #2.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 19/90
Code: USBC, Volume II/1990
Section No(s): 109.3.1

QUESTION #1: Is it the intent of this section to require an automatic sprinkler system in all parts and floors of a general hospital building when the nursing home or nursing facility is located in only a part of or a single floor of the hospital building other than the ground floor?

ANSWER #1: No, only those portions of hospitals which are licensed or certified as nursing homes are required to have suppression systems. The term, "nursing home" is defined in § 32.1-123 of the Code of Virginia.

QUESTION #2: Is it the intent of this section to require an automatic sprinkler system in all parts and floors of a mixed use building when the nursing home or facility is located in only a part of or a single floor of the building?

ANSWER #2: No, only those portions of mixed use buildings which are licensed or certified as nursing homes are required to have suppression systems. The term, "nursing home" is defined in § 32.1-123 of the Code of Virginia.

QUESTION #3: Would the total number of stories of a building or the number of stories used as a nursing home within a building determine the appropriate NFiPA standard for the automatic sprinkler system?

ANSWER #3: The total number of stories of the building would determine the minimum NFiPA Standard.

QUESTION #4: How would one define, "ground floor," for the purpose of Exception #2?

ANSWER #4: "Ground floor" is a floor level having at least one means of direct access to grade without traversing a step or stairs to reach the grade.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 20/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 2700.1, NEC 555-1

QUESTION: Is a residential boathouse subject to Article 555 of the National Electrical Code?

ANSWER: No, residential boathouses are not considered marinas or boatyards. They are subject to Section 210-8(a)(6) and other applicable wiring requirements contained in the NEC.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 21/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 309.0

QUESTION #1: Is a bed and breakfast with one bedroom and one transient lodger an R-1 use group?

ANSWER #1: No

QUESTION #2: How many transient lodgers make a bed and breakfast use group R-1, R-2 or R-3?

ANSWER #2: See Comment #2.

COMMENT #2: A bed and breakfast with no more than 8 occupants total most nearly resembles a Use Group R-3 single family dwelling under the provisions of Section 312.0, Doubtful Use.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 22/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, Second Amendment
Section No(s): ADAAG 4.1.3 (5)

QUESTION: For the purpose of determining square feet per story in Exception #1 of Section 4.1.3 (5); does design as separate buildings under the USBC with the use of fire walls limit the square foot measurement to within the building area established by the fire walls?

ANSWER: Yes, provided the separate buildings are designed to be used independently with no connecting interior accessible routes.

COMMENT: Exception #1 does not apply to shopping centers, shopping malls, professional offices of a health care provider or transportation facilities.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 23/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, Second Amendment
Section No(s): ADAAG 4.1.1 (3)

QUESTION: Are the work stations in areas of hospitals used for procedures, equipment washing, charting, patient holding, medication preparation and administrative support required to be equipped with shelves, racks, sinks etc. to be fully accessible?

ANSWER: No

COMMENT: The work stations have to be designed so an individual with a disability can approach, enter and exit the area but do not have to be equipped to be fully accessible.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 24/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, Second Amendment
Section No(s): ADAAG, Section 4.1.6(1)(b)

QUESTION: Does the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code, under Section 4.1.6(1)(b) of ADAAG, require a new tenant in an existing building who wants to install plumbing fixtures in restroom facilities where none were installed before, to provide accessible fixtures? The existing restroom facilities are comprised of walls and roughed in plumbing. The interior dimensions will not allow access by a person in a wheelchair. The restroom layout was approved based on a previous edition of the VUSBC which did not require such an access. The space was never occupied.

ANSWER: Yes, the code requires altered elements to comply with applicable provisions for new construction, including the section for alterations to a primary function area.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 25/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 110.3

QUESTION: Can a building inspector require a permit holder to have the footing inspection which is required under Section 110.3 be performed by a third party not employed by the County in which the work is being performed?

ANSWER: No

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 26/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 809.3, 1002.9

Table 809.3 of the 1990 BOCA National Building Code specifies the requirements for buildings with one exit. A building of Use Group R-2 with four dwelling units per floor, three stories above grade and equipped throughout with a sprinkler system in accordance with Section 1004.2.1 or 1004.2.2 would be allowed to have one exit.

QUESTION: Is it the intent of the Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code (VUSBC) to allow that same building to have one exit when it meets Exception No. 2 of Section 1002.9 of the VUSBC, which eliminates the requirement for a sprinkler system?

ANSWER: Yes, to achieve compliance with Section 809.3, Section 1002.9 equates a three story building in which every two dwelling units are separated with a two hour fire separation assembly to that of a three story building provided with sprinklers in accordance with Section 1004.2.1 or 1004.2.2.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 27/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): BOCA M-507.3

QUESTION: Is it the intent of Section M-507.3 or any other section of the VUSBC to require lighting fixtures used for illumination of the cooking area only and are installed in accordance with NFPA 70 located in the kitchen hood space to shut off with the actuation of the fire suppression system?

ANSWER: No

COMMENT: The lighting fixtures must comply with Section 410-4(c) of the National Electrical Code.

Delete duct changes of BOCA & USBC

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 28/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 107.1, 1702.4

QUESTION #1: Considering the documented failure of fire-retardant treated plywood used as roof sheathing, is the building official required to approve its use if the criteria in Section 1702.4 is met?

ANSWER #1: No, in response to the failures, the industry has developed a protocol standard (ASTM-ES 20) for testing FRT plywood exposed to elevated temperatures and is currently balloting a companion standard for determining design values and durability of the products. Until these standards are finalized and incorporated into the USBC, the building official is not required to approve the use of the products.

QUESTION #2: Are the nationally recognized model code writing organization's evaluation services considered nationally recognized product research, testing and product certification organizations as referenced in Section 107.1?

ANSWER #2: No, that terminology applies only to nationally recognized independent testing laboratories which test and list products; however, the building official may consider approvals by the model code evaluation services in determining whether a material should be approved.

Recommend not including on Intyp book since Amusement device

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 29/90
Code: Virginia Amusement Device Regulations, 1990 Edition
Section No(s): 500.1 and 600.4

QUESTION: Is an employee of an owner or operator of an amusement device, if properly certified, authorized to perform inspections on devices owned or operated by the employer?

ANSWER: No, the intent is to require that any private inspector be independent of the company, individual or organization owning, operating or having any vested interest in the amusement device being inspected.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 30/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 102.1 and 627.1

QUESTION: Is it the responsibility of the local government to enforce Virginia regulations entitled, "VR 680-13-02, Underground Storage Tanks; Technical Standards and Corrective Action Requirements?"

ANSWER: If the owner/operator installs, upgrades or closes any underground storage tank, then a building permit is required, and the building official shall enforce the structural specifications set out in Parts II and VII of the regulations.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 31/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, Second Amendment
Section No(s): 512.0 and 816.0

QUESTION: Are handrails and guardrails conforming to both BOCA's requirements and the accessibility provisions required on interior ramps?

ANSWER: Yes, both apply if the ramp is part of an accessible route; however, if not, the BOCA requirements of Section 816.5 apply.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 32/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, Second Amendment
Section No(s): 512.0

QUESTION: What percentage of units in a self storage facility (Use Group S-1) must be made accessible to the disabled?

ANSWER: The accessibility standards do not specifically address this type of facility; however, the number of units to be made accessible could be based on the number of accessible parking spaces required in parking lots.

Delete due to changes in USBC

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 33/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, Second Amendment
Section No(s): 118.1 and 118.1.1

QUESTION: Must an addition to a residential structure within a Flood Hazard Area, the construction of which would cost less than 50% of the assessed value of the existing structure, be elevated to the Base Flood Elevation?

ANSWER: Yes, Section 118.1 requires additions to comply with the requirements applicable to new construction.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 34/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 118.1, CABO M-1114

A permit applicant wants to replace an existing oil furnace (located in a garage) with a new gas furnace.

QUESTION #1: Is the new gas furnace considered equipment of a similar kind, and allowed to meet the exception under Section 118.1?

ANSWER #1: Yes, replacing an existing furnace with a new furnace utilizing a different type of fuel qualifies as meeting the exception to Section 118.1..

QUESTION #2: Are the fuel lines and fuel storage considered equipment of a similar kind, and allowed to meet the exception under Section 118.1?

ANSWER #2: No, any new fuel lines and fuel storage tanks must conform to current code requirements for the new type of fuel.

QUESTION #3: Can the new gas furnace be placed on the floor where the oil furnace was, or is the new gas furnace required to meet the 18 inch above the floor requirement of Section M-1114 of CABO?

ANSWER #3: The replacement furnace may be placed on the floor instead of being elevated as long as the burners, burner ignition devices or heating elements and switches are not lower than those of the existing installation.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 35/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, First and Second Amendments
Section No(s): 512.0

QUESTION #1: Is it the intent of the 1990 USBC, First Amendment, to require raised areas in a courtroom, such as the jury box, judge's bench and witness stand, to have accessible design?

ANSWER #1: Yes, Section 4.1 of the 1986 ANSI Standard as modified by the First Amendment to the 1990 USBC requires public, common and employee use areas of buildings identified by Table 2 to have accessible design.

QUESTION #2: Are these areas required to be made accessible under the 1990 USBC, Second Amendment?

ANSWER #2: Yes, in most cases the raised areas in a courtroom are either public or common use areas and must have accessible design. Under Section 4.1.1(3) of ADAAG, an employee work area, such as a judge's bench, shall be designed and constructed so that individuals with disabilities can approach, enter and exit the area, but the work area itself is not required to be constructed or equipped to be accessible.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 36/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990

Section No(s): 100.7

QUESTION #1: Is Exemption No. 5 of Section 100.7 of the USBC intended to exempt playground equipment when such equipment is installed at a park, school, church or day care center?

ANSWER #1: No, Exemption No. 5 is for residential accessory recreational equipment.

QUESTION #2: If not, what standards apply in the review and inspection of this equipment?

ANSWER #2: Section 107.1 of the USBC requires the permit applicant to submit sufficient technical data to substantiate the proposed use of any material, equipment, device or assembly.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 37/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 101.2, 118.0 and 2605.2

QUESTION: Are existing elevators which were installed under a permit issued prior to the adoption of the 1990 edition of the USBC, required to be brought up to the standards set out in ASME A17.3?

ANSWER: No, in accordance with Section 101.2 of the USBC, all provisions of the model code relating to existing buildings or structures have been deleted and replaced with Article One which applies only when constructing, altering or repairing a building or structure.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 38/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): BOCA M-507.3

Section M-507.3 states that a commercial exhaust hood suppression system must automatically shut down the fuel or electrical supply to the cooking equipment.

QUESTION #1: If the cooking equipments' fuel source is gas but also contains electrical components such as spark ignition, temperature control devices, tilt assemblies or clocks, blower motors, etc., must the actuation of the suppression system also automatically shut down the electrical supply?

ANSWER #1: No, the activation of the suppression system is only required to shut off the source of fuel or heat in the cooking equipment which would contribute to the spread of a fire.

QUESTION #2: If an appliance not requiring a hood, such as an enclosed oven or auxiliary cooking equipment, is located under a hood anyway, is its fuel or electrical supply required to be automatically shut down upon activation of the suppression system?

ANSWER #2: Yes, if its source of fuel is gas.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 39/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 1308.0

Section 1308.1 of the USBC states that special inspectors shall be qualified and approved for the inspection of the work under the special inspection requirements.

QUESTION: Is the structural engineer of record the only entity which the building official should consider qualified for approval as a special inspector?

ANSWER: No, in accordance with Section 1308.1, the special inspectors are not required to be licensed professionals but must be qualified to inspect the work. The building official may approve anyone deemed qualified to perform the special inspections.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 40/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, Third Amendment
Section No(s): 512.2, Exception No. 4

QUESTION: In the exception for building accessibility, who makes the determination and what constitutes being used exclusively for religious worship activities?

ANSWER: The owner shall indicate on the plans or specifications those portions of a building which are used for religious worship activities. For the purposes of determining accessibility requirements, the building official shall approve or disapprove the appropriate use group for all buildings or portions thereof.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 41/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990, Second and Third Amendments
Section No(s): 512.0

A place of public accommodation is making alterations for the purpose of complying with the barrier removal requirements of Title III of the ADA. The federal regulation (28 CFR Part 36) states in § 36.304(d)(1) that the path of travel requirements of § 36.403 shall not apply to measures taken solely to comply with the barrier removal requirements.

QUESTION: Since § 36.304 of the federal regulation was not incorporated into the USBC, does the USBC require that the path of travel requirements apply to the alteration?

ANSWER: It was not the intent of the USBC to require the path of travel to be upgraded when complying with Section 36.304 of the federal regulation.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 42/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): BOCA, M-301.1

QUESTION: Is it the intent of Section M-301.1 to prohibit completely sealed (combustion chamber and combustion air) fuel-fired mechanical appliances located in a return-air plenum?

ANSWER: Yes, Section M-301.1 of the BOCA Mechanical Code prohibits the installation of fuel-fired equipment in plenums.

COMMENT: Technical data, research reports or other information may be submitted to the building official to substantiate a modification request for the use of a specific unit listed for that purpose.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 43/90
Code: USBC, Volume I/1990
Section No(s): 1016.7.3

A building of Use Group E is equipped with commercial cooking equipment and exhaust hood which must be protected by an automatic fire suppression system per the BOCA Mechanical Code. VUSBC Section 1016.4 requires the installation of a Fire Protective Signaling System.

QUESTION: Does VUSBC Section 1016.7.3 require the activation of the fire protective signaling system audio/visual alarm indicating appliances upon discharge of the hood/duct and cooking appliance fire suppression system?

ANSWER: Section 1016.7.3 does not specifically require range hood extinguishing systems to be connected to the signaling system; however, Sections 1010.1 and 1011.1 require wet and dry extinguishing systems to comply with NFPA standards, which, in turn, require the systems to be connected to the alarm system, if one is provided.

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: 44/90
Code: USBC, Volume/1990
Section No(s): NEC; Table 310-16, Section 240-3 and Article 440

QUESTION: When installing a heat pump/air conditioner which has a nameplate specifying a minimum supply circuit conductor ampacity of 16.1 amperes and a maximum branch-circuit short-circuit and ground-fault protective device of 25 amperes in accordance with Article 440, is it permissible to use a 25 amp circuit breaker with 14 AWG NM type cable to supply power to the equipment?

ANSWER: Yes, since Section 240-3(h) permits HACR equipment circuit conductors to be protected against overcurrent current according to Parts C and F of Article 440, the obelisk note at the bottom of Table 310-6 does not apply.

COMMENT: All other applicable provisions of the NEC not specifically addressed in the question must be complied with in order to use the stated conductor sizes and overcurrent protection.

1987 - Volume II

5/27 recommend deletion due to changes in Sec 515;

1990 INDEX

CODE/SECTION	INTERPRETATION NUMBER
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100.6	2/90, 11/90
100.7	36/90
101.2	3/90, 37/90
102.1	30/90
105.1	18/90
107.1	28/90
109.3.1	19/90
110.3	7/90, 25/90
110.7	1/90
115.0	14/90
118.0	33/90, 34/90, 37/90
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103.5	6/90
BOCA National Building Code/1987	
602.1	17/90
BOCA National Building Code/1990	
304.1.1	5/90
307.3.1	5/90
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1002.9	12/90, 26/90
1012.1	9/90
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1016.7.3	43/90
1018.3.2	12/90
1201.1	3/90
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1702.4	28/90
2605.2	37/90
2700.1	20/90
2700.4	11/90
2702.3	7/90

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CODE/SECTION	INTERPRETATION NUMBER
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P-1223.3	4/90
P-1503.8.1	4/90
BOCA National Mechanical Code/1990	
M-301.1	42/90
M-507.3	27/90, 38/90
BOCA National Property Maintenance Code/1990	
PM-300.0	10/90
PM-301.0	10/90
PM-302.0	10/90
PM-303.0	10/90
PM-601.1	6/90
CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code/1989 w/'90 Amendments	
M-1114	34/90
National Electrical Code/1990	
Table 310-16	44/90
240-3	44/90
Article 440	44/90
555-1	20/90
Virginia Amusement Device Regulations/1990	
100.5	15/90
500.1	29/90
600.4	29/90

REQUEST FOR INTERPRETATION

TO: OFFICE OF STATE BUILDING CODE TECHNICAL REVIEW BOARD
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
c/o CODE DEVELOPMENT OFFICE
The Jackson Center
501 North Second Street
Richmond, Virginia 23219-1321
(804) 371-7170

FROM: _____

_____

_____

Phone: _____ Date: _____

Code: _____ Edition: _____

Section: _____ Attachments: _____

Submitted by (signature): _____

QUESTION(S):