



FCCIP NEWS

Franklin County Cooperative Inspection Program Volume No. 1 Issue No 12 July 2008
A program of the Franklin Regional Council of Governments

Guardrail Amendment

The BBRS held a hearing on May 20, 2008 concerning the issuance of an Emergency Amendment in April, 2008 regarding the maximum spacing requirement of guardrails. The amendment, immediately effective, limits the maximum spacing between guardrail members to 4.” The 4” also applies to the spacing between the bottom rail and the floor. This regulation is enforceable for all projects permitted henceforth.

Jack Reminder

Contractors should check Girder and Header span tables (p.600) to see if additional jacks are required before construction begins. For example, in FCCIP towns, if a 28’ wide building is being constructed with center girders and bearing walls, the 7th edition requires 2 jacks on each side for the following spans:

Supporting roof/ceiling only	5’-2”
Supporting 1 floor and roof/ceiling	3’-7”
Supporting 2 floors and roof /ceiling	3’-2”

This is a big adjustment for framers. Jacks must also be continuous from header to bottom plate.

7th Edition Commercial Code

The BBRS has scheduled the 7th Edition of the Commercial (Base)Code to be published by August 1, 2008. It will become effective as of publishing and will, most likely, have a 6 month overlap period with the 6th Edition. The Code is based on the International Building Code with Massachusetts amendments. Look for highlights in the next newsletter.

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Specialty Licenses

There has been some confusion over the new requirements for licenses for Residential 1) Roof Covering, 2) Window and Siding, 3) Demolition, and 4) Solid Fuel Appliance Installation. Here are the details:

- ❖ If you have an unrestricted or restricted Construction Supervisor License, no additional license is required to perform work mentioned above.
- ❖ Individuals who have had at least 5 years experience in the related field and are registered as a Home Improvement Contractor (HIC) may apply for a “grandfathered” license through the Department of Public Safety. The deadline for submitting these applications has been extended to September 1, 2008.
- ❖ The regulation regarding specialty licenses is to be implemented on October 6, 2008.
- ❖ For an individual to obtain a specialty license after September 1, 2008, the candidate must demonstrate that he/she has the qualifications to be considered eligible for a specialty license and take and receive a passing score on a new exam in the related field.
- ❖ Subcontractors working in the above- mentioned fields, unless they are being supervised by an individual with a license, must have a specialty license or CSL after October 6, 2008.

For further information on licensing and HIC registration, go to www.mass.gov/dps.

Continuing Education

In the last several years, there has been discussion about continuing education for Construction Supervisors. It appears that the time has come. The Department of Public Safety will be creating a board to decide on details. It appears that contractors will be required to accumulate 16 credit hours in a three year period. Commissioner Tom Gatzunis mentioned the possibility of incorporating business training into the classes, considering the high rate of contractor business failures. Any input from contractors concerning the type of curriculum can be sent to this office and will be forwarded appropriately.

Existing Buildings

The 7th edition for 1-2 family dwellings has an entire chapter (93) for existing buildings. The intent of this section is to provide standards for the improvement of existing buildings without necessarily requiring complete compliance with the code for new construction. The section only applies to buildings that have a certificate of occupancy and have been occupied legally for at least five years. Here's a short summary of some of the more important regulations:

- ❖ **Unlined chimneys:** A solid fuel-burning appliance may not be installed into an unlined chimney. The chimney must be lined to satisfy the requirements of the code for new construction and the manufacturer.
- ❖ Existing building features like stairs, guardrails, or ceiling heights are presumed to have met the code when installed and are not required to be upgraded or replaced unless the building official determines that an unsafe or dangerous condition exists.
- ❖ Emergency escape windows that do not meet the dimensional requirements may be replaced with windows of a similar size as long as the windows do not significantly reduce the existing opening size.
- ❖ When an additional bedroom is added or created(changed from another type of space), smoke, carbon monoxide, and heat detectors must comply with the code for new construction. The same requirements come into effect if a dwelling undergoes complete reconstruction such that the walls and ceilings are open to framing.

- ❖ When windows are located in specific hazardous locations that would require safety glazing, the windows must be replaced with safety glazing.
- ❖ Ceiling heights are permitted to match existing ceiling heights.
- ❖ Existing stairs may be replaced without necessarily requiring the stairway dimensions to be altered.
- ❖ If handrails or guardrails are totally replaced, they must comply with the code for new construction.
- ❖ Window replacement units must have a U value of no more than .44, except for true divided lights which may be replaced with "like kind" and storm windows. Basement windows 24" or less are also exempt.
- ❖ A permit is required to move a structure. The moved structure may be re-used at a different site provided that all new work complies with the code for new construction to the fullest extent possible.

Photoelectric Required

A reminder that all smoke detectors installed in 1-2 family dwellings must be photo-electric or a combination photo-electric/ ionization.(Section 5313.1 smoke detector definition-amended 1/1/08). Most CO/smoke combinations are not photoelectric. Apparently, there is new product that is. Please ask electricians to leave the photo-electric sticker on these units until the building inspector has done a final inspection.

If you would like to have the newsletter and other messages from this office e-mailed to you, e-mail Chris Brothers at chris@frcog.org

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