



Michigan Department of Consumer and Industry Services  
Bureau of Construction Codes  
Interpretation No: 02-01  
Building Code – R102.4

TO: Members of the State Construction Code Commission

FROM: Henry L. Green

SUBJECT: Request for Interpretation – Michigan Residential Code Referenced Standards

Question: May requirements of the 2000 International Fire Code related to fire protection systems (i.e., fire hydrants, sprinkler systems, etc.) which are not specifically referenced in the 2000 Michigan Residential Code be applied to the construction of one- and two family-dwellings?

Answer: No.

Commentary: The Stille-DeRossett-Hale Single State Construction Code Act 230 of 1972 as amended took immediate effect December 28, 1999. The act became applicable statewide and provided for the enactment of single state codes when adopted after October 15, 1999. Section 4(1) of the act provides for the promulgation of the state construction code consisting of “rules governing the construction, use, and occupation of buildings and structures, . . . and other requirements relating to the safety, including safety from fire, and sanitation facilities of the buildings and structures.”

Section 4(2) of the act states in part that: “. . . the code shall consist of the international residential code, the international building code, the international mechanical code, and the international plumbing code published by the international code council, the national electrical code published by the national fire prevention association, and the Michigan uniform energy code . . .”

Based upon this language, it is abundantly clear that the Michigan codes govern the construction of buildings and structures other than those types of facilities identified in section 8b of the act. The 2000 Michigan Residential Code (MRC) applies to detached one-and-two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories in height and their accessory structures. R102.4 of the MRC provides for the applicability of referenced codes and standards: “The codes and standards referenced in this code shall be considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed **extent of each such reference...**”

The International Fire Code is a referenced code of the MRC, but only to the prescribed extent identified in R102.7 Existing structures.

“R102.7 Existing structures. The legal occupancy of any structure existing on the date of adoption of this code shall be permitted to continue without change, except as is specifically covered in this code, the *International Property Maintenance Code* or the *International Fire Code*, or as is deemed necessary by the building official for the general safety and welfare of the occupants and the public.”

Further, local communities are prohibited from making modifications to the Michigan Codes. Specifically, section 8a provides that “this act and code apply throughout the state.” Local communities may not amend the code by adding, deleting or changing provisions within the Code. Therefore, only those provisions referenced within the Code may be applicable to construction projects. No such reference for the application of fire protection (hydrants or sprinkler systems) is provided within the Michigan Residential Code for one-and-two family dwellings.

**Approved by the Construction Code Commission: May 1, 2002**