

Michigan Department of Labor

BUREAU OF CONSTRUCTION CODES

MEMORANDUM

April 5, 1977

TO: Members of the Construction Code Commission

FROM: Charles V. Opdyke, Chief, Plan Review Division 

SUBJECT: Affirmation of Report of Interpretations Committee

1. The Attorney General for the Barrier Free Design Board has requested an interpretation of the General Rules, Section 316.2 of the State Construction Code.
2. The attached document contains the questions, answers and comments of the Interpretations Committee.
3. Action Required:

It is requested that the Construction Code Commission AFFIRM the report of the Interpretations Committee and that these will be recorded as official interpretations of the Construction Code Commission.

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FROM: Charles V. Opdyke, AIA, Chief, Plan Review Division

SUBJECT: Report of the Interpretations Committee

Members Present:	Robert Hilprecht	Reginald Whalon	Charles Opdyke
	George Weinhausen	Michael Kessler	John Hannah

Interpretation of Section 316.2 of the General Rules of the State Construction Code, (Section 316.2 Building Approaches) refers to "Primary Entrance".

316.2. Building approaches. At least 1 primary entrance at a grade floor level of a building or structure shall be accessible by means of a walk uninterrupted by steps or abrupt changes in levels and with a width of not less than 5 feet and a gradient of not more than 1 foot in 20 feet. When practical difficulties are involved in carrying out this section, the gradient may be changed, but not to exceed the requirements for ramps. In this case, the walk shall comply with all of the requirements for ramps in section 615.0.

1. QUESTION: What is a primary entrance?

ANSWER: A primary entrance is considered one of the required means of ingress and egress as established by Sections 609.0 of the BOCA Basic Building Code, 1975 Edition.

2. QUESTION: Can there be more than one primary entrance (such as at each end of a building)?

ANSWER: Yes.

COMMENT: Refer to answer to Question #1.

3. QUESTION: Can an entrance directly into a handicapped living unit located at the end of an R-2 building be also considered as a primary entrance?

ANSWER: No.

COMMENT: It must be in compliance with Sections 316.0 and 609.0 of the BOCA Basic Building Code 1975 Edition, unless the only entrances provided are direct into the living unit with no other public facilities provided.

4. QUESTION: Can an entry to a physically handicapped living unit be considered a primary entrance if the only entry is through a locked meter room?

ANSWER: No.

COMMENT: In accordance with BOCA, 1975 Edition, Section 610.1, "Access shall be provided to required exitways through continuous passageways, aisles or corridors, conveniently accessible to all occupants and maintained free of obstruction".