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September 12, 1988

TO: Members of the Construction Code Commission
FROM: Henry L. Green
SUBJECT: Interpretation Request

There are several barrier free design requirements about which an interpretation is needed to clarify the intent of the rules. These matters have been previously reviewed and addressed by the Commission through the interpretations provided in the Barrier Free Design Graphics book, however, I believe that additional clarification is needed.

Q. Is the space behind a fixed merchandise showcase required to be 36 clear inches clear?

A. Yes, Section 512.7.4 of Rule 408.30427 requires that barrier free interior access to all points on each level be provided by passageways, corridors, aisles, and doorways that meet the requirements of section 810 and 812. The intent of Section 512.7.4 is to assure access throughout a facility for the general public, employees, and persons visiting or on the premises for any reason, as required by Section 512.1 of the code. This required access is necessary for members of the general public who are handicappers, for employees who are handicappers and for visitors who are handicappers. This access includes space necessary for employees who will be working behind the fixed counter.

Q. If restrooms are not required by the state plumbing code, but are provided, do they have to be barrier free?

A. No, Section 512.11.1(c) of Rule 408.30427 provides an exception for all toilet and shower rooms and fixtures that are provided beyond the minimum requirements of the State Plumbing Code and such fixtures are not required to be barrier free under the minimum standards of the barrier free design law.

Q. If the local building department does not require a toilet room in a mercantile establishment, but a toilet room is included in the project, does it have to be barrier free?

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A. Yes, if the fixture is required by Section 512.11.1 of the barrier free design requirements, it must be barrier free. Section 512.11.1 of the code requires that all buildings be provided with the required number of toilet fixtures in accordance with the state plumbing code and that all public or employee toilet and shower rooms include at least 1 barrier free fixture for each 10 fixtures, or fraction thereof. Table 14 of Rule 408.30758 of the state plumbing code requires that mercantile uses provide employee fixtures. If there are 15 or fewer employees, a single occupancy unisex toilet room is allowed. A required employee toilet room must be barrier free.

Q. Do circuit breakers that are located in mechanical areas need to be centered at 48 inches, plus or minus 2 inches in accordance with Section 512.8?

A. No, a mechanical room, as defined in Section 512.2(h) of the code as a room or area that houses a building's support machinery or equipment, is exempt from the barrier free design requirements under the Section 512.1, exception (a), however, if the same circuit breaker panel is located in a space such as a corridor or office area, then Section 512.8 applies to its mounting height.

Thank you.

HLG/kjs