

BULLETIN

WINTER 2007

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A [public hearing](#) to hear testimony on proposed amendments to boiler fees is scheduled for March 14, 2007 at 1:30 p.m. in Conference Room 3, 2501 Woodlake Circle, Okemos, Michigan, 48864.

DIRECTOR'S COLUMN - HENRY L. GREEN

PROJECT H*E*R*O (HOMES ELIMINATED OF RESTRICTIONS AND OBSTACLES)

Project H*E*R*O stands for Homes Eliminated of Restrictions and Obstacles, and is a grass-roots, volunteer based initiative founded by the International Code Council Foundation (ICCF) and a coalition of caring and patriotic organizations designed to help our disabled American veterans. Project H*E*R*O combines the expertise of building safety officials, design professionals, contractors, veteran's service organizations, and others within a community for a worthy cause – independence for disabled veterans. By making the disabled veteran's home accessible, the initiative will strive to increase independence, improve personal mobility, and make it easier for the veteran to accomplish everyday tasks – all through the work of volunteers. For additional information, visit the Project H*E*R*O website at <http://www.iccf-foundation.org/projects/HERO/index.html>.

Often, our heroes return home and find that the home they live in may pose significant obstacles to their everyday living. It is the vision of Project H*E*R*O to facilitate the creation of teams of experts who can assist these valiant warriors in their time of need. Some may require something as simple as the installation of lever handles in lieu of knobs or as sophisticated as the construction of a ramp or accessible bathroom.

We are currently seeking the assistance of members of the building community to assist in our efforts to eliminate the obstacles our returning injured veterans may be facing. With the support of the Department of Labor & Economic Growth's Director Robert Swanson and Governor Granholm, I am asking for the help of state agencies, veteran's groups and associations, industry and trade associations and organizations, labor unions, contractors, material suppliers, local community leaders, and any other interested parties to achieve this goal. Whether you are a building safety official, design professional, contractor, material supplier, or simply an interested volunteer, your assistance is needed to make this effort a success.

A meeting was recently held in which information was provided on the Project H*E*R*O Michigan effort and how individuals could help. For more information, please visit our website at www.michigan.gov/bcc. I invite you to contact me at (517) 241-9302, if you have any questions or need additional information.

PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

MICHIGAN BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION

By Irvin J. Poke, AIA, Chief
Plan Review Division

On January 3, 2007, the Bureau of Construction Codes received a request for interpretation by the Michigan Construction Code Commission regarding Michigan Building Code, Section 705.6.1. The following interpretation was put before the commission, January 10, 2007, at its regular meeting and unanimously approved. It provides the proper application of the code relative to the request posed.

January 8, 2007

TO: Members of the Michigan Construction Code Commission

FROM: Irvin J. Poke

SUBJECT: Request for Interpretation by City of Birmingham
Michigan Building Code Section 705.6.1

Question: Are the requirements of the Michigan Building Code (MBC) Section 705.6.1 applicable to buildings with differing roof heights if they are on separate lots?

Answer: Yes.

Discussion: A 5 story building abuts a 2 story building at the property line creating a zero fire separation distance for both buildings. The exterior walls of both buildings are required to comply with the fire resistance ratings prescribed in MBC Section 602.1 and Table 602. Footnote c in Table 602 refers the user to Section 503.2 for party walls. Section 503.2 states that party walls shall be constructed in accordance with Section 705.

The walls of the two buildings with zero separation meet all the criteria of MBC Section 705 for fire walls and are defined as a double fire wall in accordance with the NFPA 221 Standard for Fire Walls and Fire Barrier Walls, Section 2.5. Given that all the requirements of Section 705 are met by this assembly it separates the two buildings on separate lots in the same manner as a party wall.

In Chapter 2 of the MBC the definition of "Fire Separation Distance" is:

The distance measured from the building face to the closet interior lot line, to the centerline of a street, alley or public way, or to an imaginary line between two buildings on the lot. The distance shall be measured at right angles from the face of the wall.

This definition establishes equality between an interior property and an imaginary line for the purpose of fire separation distance. Therefore, fire separation distance is viewed the same for buildings on separate lots and buildings on the same lot.

Michigan Building Code Section 704 regulates exterior walls. Openings in exterior walls are regulated by MBC Section 704.8 and Table 704.8, which is based on fire separation distance. For exterior walls with zero fire separation distance footnote e in Table 704.8 states: "For requirements for fire walls for buildings with differing roof heights, see Section 705.6.1."

PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

MICHIGAN BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION (CON'T)

This explicitly refers the code user to MBC Section 705.6.1 for the situation described since the assembly on the lot line is a fire wall. The requirements in this section allow openings in the portion of the wall that is more than 30 inches above the lower roof. The language of MBC Section 705.6.1 is as follows:

705.6.1 Stepped buildings. Where a fire wall serves as an exterior wall for a building and separates buildings having different roof levels, such wall shall terminate at a point not less than 30 inches (762 mm) above the lower roof level, provided the exterior wall for a height of 15 feet (4572 mm) above the lower roof is not less than 1-hour fire-resistance-rated construction from both sides with openings protected by assemblies having a ¾-hour fire protection rating.

Exception: Where the fire wall terminates at the underside of the roof sheathing, deck or slab of the lower roof, provided:

1. The lower roof assembly within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the wall has not less than a 1-hour fire-resistance rating and the entire length and span of supporting elements for the rated roof assembly has a fire-resistance rating of not less than 1 hour.
2. Openings in the lower roof shall not be located within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the fire wall.

Conclusion: The provisions stated above are not restricted by the code from being applied to a situation with 2 buildings on separate lots. Therefore, MBC Section 705.6.1 is applicable to buildings on separate lots with differing roof heights, and the ICC Commentary supports this interpretation.

Approved by the Michigan Construction Code Commission January 10, 2007

Questions regarding this interpretation can be directed to the Plan Review Division at (517) 241-9328.

BOARD AND COMMISSION MEETINGS

<u>Meeting</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Location</u>
Barrier Free Design Board	Mar 16	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
	May 18	9:30 am	Okemos - Suite 116
Board of Boiler Rules	Mar 19	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Construction Code Commission	Mar 14, May 2	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Electrical Administrative Board	Apr 20	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Elevator Safety Board	Apr 6	9:30 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Manufactured Housing Commission	Apr 18	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
Board of Mechanical Rules	Mar 21, May 23	9:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 3
State Plumbing Board	Feb 27, Apr 11	10:00 am	Okemos – Conf Room 1

BOILER DIVISION

NEW BOILER RULES EFFECTIVE NOVEMBER 6, 2006

**By Robert Aben, Chief
Boiler Division**

The long tedious process that began approximately 18 months ago of updating administrative rules has finally been completed. A public THANK YOU to all the representatives from the industry that volunteered their time to assist in the effort.

Although there are many minor changes in rules resulting from changes in the adopted national codes, there are several major changes I would like to highlight.

The first deals with annual testing of controls and safety devices on boilers. The requirement for testing itself is not new for most boilers. However, who may conduct the testing is new. R 408.4027 (Rule 27) now clearly states that the owner shall assure that "...testing of controls and safety devices is conducted by an individual with a valid mechanical contractor license with the appropriate classification pursuant to 1984 PA 192, MCL 338.971 et seq." The appropriate classification would be category 5 or 6 depending on the BTU input of the boiler.

Rule 27 adopts the 2004 edition of ASME Code CSD-1 without modification so the previous chart that listed the minimum testing requirement has been deleted from the rule. CSD-1 requires the boiler owner to establish maintenance and testing schedules based on the manufacturer's requirements. The periodic test required by the manufacturer and accomplished between the annual tests required by Rule 27 can be conducted

by the owner or operator. The code requires all testing to be recorded and available for the inspector. These periodic tests and recordings are also not new for most boilers. The annual test required by Rule 27 must be conducted by a licensed mechanical contractor with the category 5 or 6 classification. Licensees have been notified by mail that ASME Code CSD-1 is now part of the body of knowledge they are obligated to know as a licensee. Also, future examinations given by the Mechanical Division for these categories will include questions from ASME Code CSD-1 2004 edition.

The second major change deals with repairs or alterations to high pressure boilers and alterations to any boiler. In addition to the licensing requirement of the Boiler Law, repairers must now be accredited by the National Board of Boiler and Pressure Vessel Inspectors to repair boilers. This is commonly referred to in the industry as the "R" Stamp Program. Boiler Rule 408.4024 discusses this requirement and provides a grace period of one year for current licensees wishing to continue conducting repairs on the category of boilers addressed by the rule. The grace period will be granted by the Boiler Division only upon receipt of documentation from the licensee that application for accreditation has been made to the National Board and a receipt acknowledging the application from that organization.

Boiler Division staff are available to conduct training on rule updates for industry groups. If you would like to schedule a session or have questions regarding rules, please contact us at (517) 241-9334.

MECHANICAL DIVISION

BOARD OF MECHANICAL RULES APPOINTMENTS

**By David Adams, Assistant Chief
Mechanical Division**

The Mechanical Division is pleased to announce new appointments to the Mechanical Board by Governor Jennifer M. Granholm. New members are H. Edward Bartram, representing refrigeration; Joseph Connors, representing heating, refrigeration & air conditioning unlimited service; Lawrence Hale II, representing hydronic heating & cooling & process piping; Charles Inman, representing organized labor; Robert Jagenberg, representing fire suppression; Mark

Mangione, representing specialty work; Michael Ogletree and George Shields, representing mechanical code officials; Greg Parker, representing Professional Mechanical Engineers; William Steele, representing heating, refrigeration & air conditioning limited service; Christopher Stockwell, representing ductwork; and Donald Welch, representing the Fire Marshal.

Questions regarding the Mechanical Board may be directed to the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.

BUILDING DIVISION

MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMUNITY ANNUAL INSPECTIONS

By **Larry Lehman, Chief**
Building Division

Governor Granholm issued Executive Order #2006-16 on July 26, 2006 regarding the regulation of manufactured home communities (MHC) throughout the state. The Executive Order transfers certain authority, powers, duties, functions and responsibilities of the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under the Mobile Home Commission Act, 1987 PA 96 from the DEQ to the Department of Labor and Economic Growth (DLEG). More specifically, the Bureau of Construction Codes (BCC) is now responsible for conducting annual inspections of MHC's including items from the previous DLEG annual inspection addendum. The following items were moved by executive order to DLEG:

- a. Drainage.
- b. Garbage and rubbish storage and disposal.
- c. Insect and rodent control.
- d. General operation and maintenance, and safety.
- e. Certificate of compliance.

Also, the Executive Order indicates the DEQ retains authority for:

- a. Water supply systems.
- b. Sewage collection and disposal systems.
- c. Conducting annual physical inspections of MHC's and seasonal MHC's and granting certificates of compliance under Section 17 of the Mobile Home Commission Act, 1987 PA 96, in accordance with standards established by the DEQ.

The provisions of the Executive Order took effect October 1, 2006, and as previously stated, the BCC is the agency within DLEG responsible for implementing the terms of the Governor's Executive Order. BCC has provided training to all inspectors who will conduct annual inspections of MHC's throughout the state. This annual inspection is intended to be a review of the community site conditions and community-owned building to ensure minimum safety levels are being adequately maintained for the community residents and general public.

Questions may be directed to the Building Division at (517) 241-9317.

ELECTRICAL DIVISION

ELECTRICAL PANELS

By **Virgil Monroe, Chief**
Electrical Division

There seems to be some confusion as to whether or not an electrical panel may be installed in a dwelling unit bedroom. Some inspectors have determined the requirement for arc-fault protection eliminates the ability to install an electrical panel in a dwelling unit bedroom.

The 2003 Michigan Residential Code, Section E3802.11, states, "All branch circuits that supply 125-volt, single-phase, 15- and 20-ampere outlets installed in dwelling unit bedrooms shall be protected by an arc-fault circuit interrupter listed to provide protection of the entire branch circuit." It further defines "outlet" as, "A point on the wiring system at which current is taken to supply utilization equipment." This section requires all outlets to be protected by arc-fault. However, an electrical panel does not meet the definition of an outlet; therefore, would not require arc-fault protection. Also, the code does not disallow the installation of arc-fault equipment in bedrooms. Section E3605.7 does not allow the installation

of overcurrent devices in bathrooms and clothes closets but allows overcurrent devices to be installed in bedrooms as long as the clearance requirements of Section E3305 is maintained.

Questions may be directed to the Electrical Division at (517) 241-9320.



ELEVATOR SAFETY DIVISION

STAIRWAY CHAIRLIFTS AND PLATFORM LIFTS IN PRIVATE RESIDENCES

By Calvin W. Rogler, Chief
Elevator Safety Division



The Elevator Safety Division has been asked to provide the following information regarding the proper installation of Platform Lifts and Stairway Chairlifts in Private Residences.

Some homeowners are buying used (old) Stairway Chairlifts and Platform Lifts for installation into their homes. The Michigan Building Code requires these elevating devices

comply with the current Michigan Elevator Laws and Rules. Please be aware that most, if not all, of these used (old) devices may not meet current code requirements. The standard used for these devices is the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) A18.1-2003, and the Michigan Elevator Rules. There should be a Code Data Plate on either lift type that indicates the A18.1 Standard to be used for inspection and tests. The older devices usually cannot be updated to meet the current requirements, and as such would not be approved for installation. Some homeowners have lost money buying one of these used (old) devices only to find out it doesn't comply and will not be approved for installation.

Every Platform Lift or Stairway Chairlift installed in any

private residence must be installed to the requirements of the Michigan Elevator Rules. Before an installation may begin a State of Michigan licensed elevator contractor must obtain an approved "Elevator Installation Permit" from the Elevator Safety Division. A copy of the approved permit should be posted on the jobsite during the installation. The installation must be performed by a licensed elevator journeyman, working for the elevator contractor that obtained the installation permit.

Before the device may be used, it must be inspected by and tested in the presence of a General Elevator Inspector working for the Elevator Safety Division. The device must receive an approval from the elevator inspector prior to being placed into service and used by the owner.

If you are considering buying a Platform Lift or Stairway Chairlift, you should carefully research the company before making a purchase. Don't be afraid to ask to see their elevator journeyman or elevator contractor license to assure they have the proper license to install the device. This approach may end up saving you money in the long run and assure a safe device.

If you have questions or concerns with regards to installing a Stairway Chairlift or Platform Lift in your home, please feel free to call the Elevator Safety Division at (517) 241-9337.

BCC CONTACT INFORMATION

Telephone Numbers:

Administration (517) 241-9302
Office of Administrative Services (517) 335-2972
Office of Management Services (517) 241-9313
Boiler Division (517) 241-9334
Building Division (517) 241-9317
Electrical Division (517) 241-9320
Elevator Safety Division (517) 241-9337
Mechanical Division (517) 241-9325
Office of Local Government & Consumer Services (517) 241-9347
Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation (517) 241-6321
Plan Review Division (517) 241-9328
Plumbing Division (517) 241-9330

Facsimile Numbers:

Administration & Office of Administrative Services (517) 241-9570
Office of Management Services & Plumbing Div. (517) 373-8547
Building, Electrical, Mechanical & Plan Review Div. (517) 241-9308
Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation, Boiler & Elevator Safety Divisions (517) 241-6301

Mailing Addresses:

P.O. Box 30254 (Codes: general correspondence)
P.O. Box 30255 (Codes: permits, licenses, and other documents containing payment)
P.O. Box 30704 (Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation)
Lansing, Michigan 48909

PLUMBING DIVISION

PLUMBING CODE CLARIFICATIONS

**By Robert Konyndyk, Chief
Plumbing Division**

The Bureau of Construction Codes plumbing inspectors recently requested a series of articles related to commonly asked code questions in the field by licensed installers. This article and others to follow will provide a brief overview of those questions.

Water Softener Discharges. The Michigan Plumbing Code (MPC) does not prohibit the discharge of water softeners into a municipal or septic tank system. Experts around the country are evenly divided on the issue of whether or not the septic tank and drain field can receive the backwash discharge. While the MPC does not address this issue, the International Private Sewage Disposal Code, Section 302.6, Water Softener and Iron Filter Backwash, states:

“Water softener or iron filter discharge shall be indirectly connected by means of an air gap to the private sewage disposal system or the ground surface, provided a nuisance is not created.”

Thermal expansion control expansion devices. Municipalities requiring backflow protection by a check valve on the water service (containment) near the meter have been increasing. When a system is closed (no water discharging) pressure will build up from thermal expansion. Section 607.3.2 of the code requires a device to be installed to control the pressure in a system. The most common method is a small properly sized expansion tank on the hot water side of a water heater.

The MPC concept has been and continues to be that backflow protection shall be at every point of discharge (isolation). That concept protects all users in the building at different locations.

License reminder. Apprentice registrations and all licenses will expire April 30, 2007. Licensed individuals not renewing or that have a license that has lapsed for more than three years will be required to retest.

Questions may be directed to me in the Plumbing Division at (517) 241-9330.

MECHANICAL DIVISION

ALTERNATIVE FUEL HEATING EQUIPMENT INSTALLATION

**By David Adams, Assistant Chief
Mechanical Division**

In this day of high energy costs, people are looking for alternative ways to heat their homes, and the bureau is seeing an increase in the use of corn burners, wood pellet stoves, and outdoor solid fuel hot water furnaces. This equipment can be installed in the state of Michigan if it is listed and labeled. The label information must be permanently factory applied. Nameplates affixed to the appliances shall appear in legible lettering. The manufacturer's name or trademark, the model number, serial number, and the seal or mark of the approved agency must be apparent. A permit and inspection is required in accordance with Sections R105.1 and R109.1.6 of the Michigan Residential Code.

Questions may be directed to the Mechanical Division at (517) 241-9325.



OFFICE OF LAND SURVEY AND REMONUMENTATION

RESTRICTIVE DEED COVENANTS ON SUBDIVISIONS AND PARCELS AND MASTER DEEDS IN CONDOMINIUM DEVELOPMENTS

By **Maynard Dyer, Director**

Office of Land Survey & Remonumentation (OLS&R)

Restrictive deed covenants placed on the land by a prior owner are sometimes referred to as restrictions and other times referred to as covenants. Restrictive deed covenants are imposed by a land owner prior to or at the time of a transfer of title to a piece of land. Often, restrictive deed covenants are shortened to restrictive covenants, or just restrictions or just covenants. There are technical differences between a restriction and a covenant but as used here a restriction is a limitation placed on the use or activities that may occur relative to a lot or parcel of land.

When a restriction has been placed on the land it's use has been limited to less than would otherwise be available. In subdivisions, a lot often has restrictions placed upon it. It is common to have such things as a restriction to not build in a flood prone area or a restriction on how deep a water well must be drilled. It is also common to have such things as an architectural committee established to review and approve house plans prior to construction to assure general harmony of house styles in the neighborhood. The same restrictions can be and are placed on unplatted parcels of land prior to or at the time of a sale.

Although restrictions may be placed on lots in a subdivision and on unplatted parcels, in many instances, restrictions are not imposed. It is imperative that a person purchasing a lot in a subdivision or a parcel of unplatted land ask the question "are there any restrictions or covenants imposed on this property?" If the answer to that question is yes, it would be ill-advised

to go through with the purchase until those restrictions have been thoroughly examined and understood. Restrictions can impose limitations on the use of the land even to the extent that the desired use is prohibited or severely curtailed.

Recorded restrictions will be identified in Schedule B of a title insurance policy or on the exceptions to coverage in a title insurance commitment. All buyers should obtain their own copy, also good for future reference, and understand any requirements or limitations placed on the land.

Condominium development restrictions are required to be placed in the condominium master deed. Condominium developments are also required to have bylaws and those bylaws are also contained in the condominium's master deed. A buyer of a condominium unit should obtain a complete copy of the master deed for the condominium development and familiarize themselves with it before purchasing the unit. Quite often a unit owner will find out that they cannot do something they thought they should be able to do or that the condominium association fees are a complete surprise.

Restrictions placed on the use of subdivision lots, parcels of land, and condominium units can impose limitations on the use and enjoyment of that property. Avoid what may be an unpleasant surprise by finding out if any limitations have been placed on the property before closing a real estate deal.

Questions may be directed to the OLS&R at (517) 241-6321.

THE BUREAU'S ANNUAL TRAINING

MARCH 6-8, 2007

The bureau will be conducting its annual training for management and inspection staff from March 6-8, 2007. Administrative support staff will be in the office and available to answer questions and take messages. Management staff will be in contact with the office on a daily basis. Any call which warrants immediate attention will be returned. Please work with inspection staff to schedule inspections before or after the training dates.

PLUMBING DIVISION

CHIEF ADDS AUTHOR TO TITLE

By Dianne Barmes, Departmental Analyst
Office of Administrative Services

Along with titles such as Chief, Master Plumber and Mechanical Contractor Bob Konyndyk can now add “author” to the list.

In addition to his duties as Chief of the Bureau’s Plumbing Division, Bob has spent the past year working to help create a publication, Significant Changes to the International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code, and International Fuel Gas Code 2006 Edition, to familiarize plumbing, mechanical, building and fire officials, plan reviewers, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the construction industry with many of the important changes in the 2006 International Plumbing Code (IPC), International Mechanical Code (IMC), and International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC).

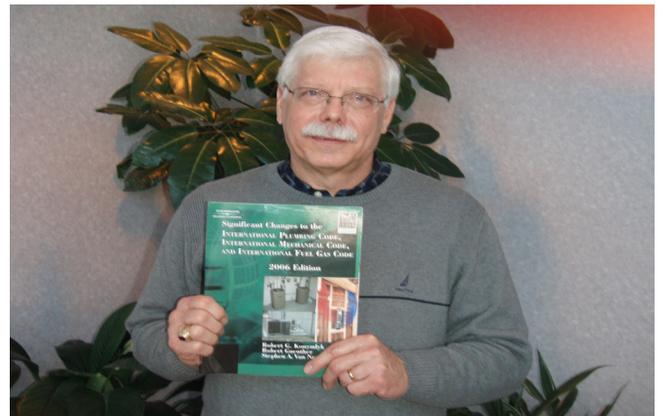
The document is designed to assist code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, to understand the reasons behind the changes. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions in the code-adoption process. This publication is suggested as a study companion to the full code because only a limited discussion of each change is provided.

The IPC changes focus on specific details in their own context. Occasionally, a Reader’s Note explanation is added to provide greater clarification and operational insights to the

reader. These elements point out organization issues and serve as a reminder to the reader to place identified code changes together.

Bob was able to utilize the material he created to assist with updates to the Michigan Plumbing Code. This afforded committee members a greater information base which allowed them to make more informed decisions and complete the review process much quicker.

Bureau of Construction Codes Director Henry L. Green said, “On behalf of the bureau, thank you for your dedication to the plumbing industry and your many efforts to assure public safety around the world.”



OFFICE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND CONSUMER SERVICES

MANUFACTURED HOUSING COMMISSION

By Kevin DeGroat, Regulation Specialist
Office of Local Government & Consumer Services

Discussed in previous Bulletin editions, the Manufactured Housing Commission’s model manufactured housing ordinance is now available for review and can be downloaded from the Bureau’s website at www.michigan.gov/bcc. The model ordinance offers local governments an approvable manufactured housing ordinance for regulating manufactured housing communities.

A prefaced description of the model appears in an accompanying cover memo also featured on our website. Take some time to look at these documents to get a contemporary overview of approved regulations governing many of the State’s manufactured housing communities.

Questions regarding manufactured housing ordinances may be directed to OLGCS at (517) 241-9347.

PLAN REVIEW DIVISION

PLAN REVIEW OF FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS

**By Todd Cordill, Assistant Chief
Plan Review Division**

The design and installation of fire protection systems is required to be reviewed and inspected for compliance with the state construction code. The 2003 Michigan Building Code (MBC) has an entire chapter dedicated to the requirements for such systems. Additional requirements are found in the 2003 Michigan Mechanical Code (MMC), the 2002 Michigan Electrical Code (MEC), and the 2003 Michigan Plumbing Code (MPC). Each of these codes has references to various standards that shall also be met. The primary code that addresses fire protection systems is the MBC. While reviewing construction documents, code officials shall reference Chapter 9 Fire Protection Systems. The categories of fire protection listed in this chapter are: Automatic Sprinkler Systems (Section 903), Standpipe Systems (Section 905), Portable Fire Extinguishers (Section 906), Fire Alarm and Detection Systems (Section 907), and Smoke Control Systems (Section 909).

Throughout the fire protection categories of Automatic Sprinkler Systems (Section 903), Portable Fire Extinguishers (Section 906) and Fire Alarm and Detection Systems (Section 907) the requirements for such systems are listed by use group or occupancy. Specific National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for system design and installation are listed throughout each of these code sections. In performing a thorough plan review, a code official will be able to determine whether such systems are required, then how the systems should be designed and installed. The construction document requirements in Section 907, Fire Alarm and Detection Systems, are very specific. Thus, complete construction documents shall be submitted for review. Section 903, Automatic Sprinkler Systems, does not list specific construction document requirements. However, the automatic sprinkler system shall be shown on the construction documents with information showing the sprinkler head and piping layout, the degree of hazard protection, the ceiling layout (and heights) and room uses. Items such as available water pressure, fire pumps, and storage tanks shall also be shown. Water flow calculations shall also be submitted as part of the construction documents. If the construction documents that are submitted pursuant to a permit do not include all the automatic sprinkler information, then a deferred submittal of such information can be allowed by the code official per Section 106.3.4.2 of the 2003 MBC.

To effectively review construction documents for

compliance with Section 906, Portable Fire Extinguishers, the 2003 International Fire Code (IFC) shall be consulted. The fire code is directly referenced in Section 906 of the MBC. Thus, the extinguisher locations, size, and distribution are specifically addressed by Section 906 of the 2003 IFC. Under the MBC, this portion of the IFC is adopted statewide by reference. Other portions of the IFC are either adopted in a similar fashion by reference in the state construction code or by local ordinance. NFPA 10 (1999) is referenced by the IFC for the technical requirements of portable fire extinguishers. This referenced standard describes the technical and performance aspects of fire extinguishers in detail.

Section 909, Smoke Control Systems, contains technical design and construction information for such systems. The design requirements consist of, but are not limited to, special inspections and tests, pressurization, air flow, and exhaust. Special inspections may be required for smoke control systems during construction. An effective plan review for such systems will require engineering data for smoke control systems where systems are required.

The requirements beyond the MBC are found in the 2002 MEC, the 2003 MMC, and the 2003 MPC. Construction documents that are submitted shall demonstrate compliance with these codes as well as the 2003 MBC. Wiring requirements of fire alarm systems are addressed by the 2002 MEC. Article 760 of the MEC describes requirements for cable, grounding, circuits, and wiring locations. Article 695 addresses fire pumps, including power sources, switching, circuits, and utility service connections. The mechanical requirements for automatic sprinkler systems and fire suppression systems in the 2003 MMC are the same NFPA standards listed in the MBC. The scope of applicability and the installation requirements are described in Chapter 15 of the MMC. With an automatic sprinkler system, the potable water supply shall be protected per Section 608 of the 2003 MPC. Subsection 608.16.4 specifically addresses connections to automatic fire sprinklers and standpipes. Plan review for code compliance should begin with the requirements in the MBC. The MEC, MMC and MPC compliance shall be subsequently reviewed within the construction documents that are submitted.

Questions may be directed to the Plan Review Division at (517) 241-9328.

BCC ONLINE SERVICES

[Easy Access to Permit & License Verification](#)
[Statewide Search for Subdivision Plats](#)
[Statewide Search for Remonumentation Data](#)
[County Remonumentation Data Entry](#)
[Building System Approval Reports](#)
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BCC QUICK LINKS

[Online Permitting](#)
[Codes & Standards Order Form](#)
[Statewide Jurisdiction List](#)
[Local School Construction Enforcement List](#)
[Product Approvals](#)

The Bulletin is a quarterly publication of the Bureau of Construction Codes within the Department of Labor & Economic Growth.

Editor in Chief

Henry L. Green

Editor:

Beth Hunter Aben

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LICENSE EXAMINATION DATES

<u>Examination</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Boiler Installer and Repairer	Mar 14, 15	Okemos	Feb 9
	June 6, 7	Okemos	May 4
Boiler National Board	Mar 19	Okemos	Feb 9
	June 12	Okemos	May 4
Electrical/Fire Alarm/Sign Contractor	Mar 30	Okemos	Mar 3
	Apr 27	Okemos	Mar 30
	May 24	Escanaba	Apr 26
	June 22	Okemos	May 25
Fire Alarm Spec. Tech./Sign Spec.	Apr 11	Okemos	Mar 14
Electrician - Journeyperson	Mar 19, 20, 21	Okemos	Feb 19
	May 23	Escanaba	Apr 25
	June 18, 19, 20	Okemos	May 21
Electrician - Master	Mar 23	Okemos	Feb 23
	May 24	Escanaba	Apr 26
	June 21	Okemos	May 24
Elevator - Contractor/Cert. of Comp.	Apr 6	Okemos	Mar 16
	June 8	Okemos	May 18
Elevator Journeyperson	Mar 20	Okemos	Feb 27
	May 15	Okemos	Apr 24
Mechanical Contractor	Mar 27	Lansing	Feb 27
	June 5	Lansing	May 7
Plumbing - Contractor	Mar 20	East Lansing	
	June 13	East Lansing	
Plumbing - Master and Journey	Feb 28	East Lansing	
	June 6	East Lansing	

Dates and times are subject to change. Visit the BCC website for updates.

Providing for
Michigan's Safety in the
Built Environment