



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
State Board of Building Regulations and Standards

Michael S. Dukakis
Governor

Kentaro Tsutsumi
Chairman

Charles J. Dinezio
Administrator

CODEWORD

MAY, 1988

"...Without Fear or Favor."

Dear Building Official:

During the 1880's and 1890's children under nine years old were commonly working ten hour shifts in Massachusetts textile mills for less than sixteen cents. This practice was in violation of existing, but very unpopular, legislation of the day; one piece of which required all children under fourteen to attend school at least twenty weeks a year. The enforcement of these locally unpopular laws fell to the District Police, the successor in function to the State Constabulary, the nation's first statewide enforcement agency.

The Division of Inspections was created as a separate department within the District Police in 1888 when eleven detectives were reassigned from the investigation of crime to the enforcement of work laws and building codes. This separation of functions would later be the model for the organization of the Department of Public Safety.

A statewide force was required, as it had been earlier in the enforcement of liquor prohibition, to ensure the statewide enforcement of general laws, when local enforcement was as uncertain as it was unpopular. At the turn of the century the Chief of the District Police wrote the Governor in praise of his force, "Public confidence is accorded when it is believed that the officers of the law are men of integrity, and perform their duties without fear or favor."

In this year of the centennial anniversary of the Division of Inspections, I am proud to be a part of this fine tradition. I am likewise confident that the District State Building Inspectors will continue to assist you in your efforts to enforce the building code "without fear or favor".

Sincerely,
Division of Inspection

Charles J. Dinezio
Chief of Inspections

1 The One Hundred Year Vigil, The Story of the Massachusetts State Police,
Lieutenant William F. Powers.

ENACTED LEGISLATION - CHAPTER 43C
AN ACT PROVIDING OPTIONAL FORMS OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION

SECTION 13. (a) The following shall be the summary to be inserted in the petition described in section five:

"Section thirteen of chapter forty-three C of the General Laws authorizes the legislative body to provide, by ordinance or by-law, for a consolidated department of municipal inspections which may include the inspections currently being made by the building inspector, wire inspector, plumbing inspector, gas fitting inspector, health agent and others as the ordinance or by-law may specify."

(b) Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, in any city or town which accepts the provisions of this section by vote of the people, the legislative body, subject to all applicable provisions of the city or town charter, shall have the authority to adopt an ordinance or by-law providing for a consolidated department of municipal inspections.

(c) Any ordinance or by-law adopted pursuant to this section shall provide for (I) a director of municipal inspections who shall be appointed by and shall be responsible to the chief executive officer or the chief administrative officer of the city or town as the ordinance or by-law shall specify, (II) the term of office of the director of municipal inspections which shall be not less than three nor more than five years, subject to removal as may be otherwise provided in the charter of the city or town.

(d) Any ordinance or by-law adopted pursuant to this section may include, but need not be limited to, the following: (I) coordination of all inspection functions carried out by any municipal officer or agent, (II) maintenance of all records relating to inspections in a central place through a common index, (III) a single application process which would indicate all inspections which might be necessary, including, but need not be limited to, any inspection under the zoning and other local ordinance or by-law, building code, wire code, plumbing and gas code, state sanitary code, board of health rules and regulations, fire code, conservation commission, historic district commission and any other local inspections as may be otherwise authorized. Any ordinance or by-law adopted pursuant to this section may provide that any agency performing an inspection function shall be continued but that for administrative purposes all personnel performing inspection functions for the existing agency shall, when performing such inspection services, be subject to the administrative control and direction of the director of municipal inspections, but not otherwise.

(e) Any ordinance or by-law pursuant to this section shall provide for the appointment of all other personnel necessary to staff the department as constituted in the ordinance or by-law. Unless some other provision is made in the city or town charter for the appointment of officers and employees the director of municipal inspections shall appoint all personnel under his direction and control subject to the approval of the appointing authority as provided for his office.

See Page 8 for Commentary

C O D E W O R D

This issue's CODEWORD(s) is: Matters not covered, and describes the limits of the independent authority of the building official.

We often receive telephone calls from permit holders who, when faced with an order or a notice of violation, want to inquire if the building official has the latitude to "interpret" the Code. Their presumption seems to be that if the building official has such latitude he could relieve them of the obligation of conforming with his order. The answer to this question lies in Section 101.3, Matters not covered.

This section permits the building official to determine any requirements essential for structural, fire or sanitary safety, or essential for the safety of occupants when such requirements are not specifically covered by the Code. This very limiting condition defines the scope of the building official's authority to independently determine code requirements, to "interpret" the Code. This independent authority is even more narrow when the reference standards of the appendices are considered. The requirements of the reference standards are specific requirements of the Code.

The technically accurate answer to the question of the building official's authority is, "Yes". However, this authority is severely limited by Section 101.3, Matters not covered. Only when the issue at hand is not specifically covered by the Code, or by its reference standards, can the building official independently determine requirements. Additionally, any action taken under this section must be reported with seven (7) days to the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards or the Department of Public Safety.

The practical answer to the question is, "No", as it will be a rare condition that is not covered by the Code.

STATE INSPECTOR IS B.O.C.A. CERTIFIED

The State Board of Building Regulations and Standards wishes to commend State Building Inspector Paul C. Pieplora on his certification by B.O.C.A. International as a Building Inspector. Inspector Pieplora has been participating in the National Certification Program for Construction Code Inspectors and has successfully completed the Building Inspector "module" of three examinations required for this certification. Inspector Pieplora is continuing in this program to earn certification as a Building Plan Examiner, which requires a four examination "module". The Board looks forward to congratulating Paul on this next achievement.

PENETRATIONS FOR ELECTRIC OUTLETS IN FIRERESISTANT RATED WALLS

To illustrate the issues discussed in this month's "CODEWORD" article, Matters not covered, we ask the questions, "Can penetrations for electric outlets be permitted in a fire separation wall?", and "If such penetrations are permissible, how are they regulated or restricted?"

At first glance, these questions would appear to be "Matters not covered". Section 912 is instructive of the requirements if rated floor/roof-ceiling assemblies are to be penetrated to accommodate non-combustible piping, ducts or electric outlets, however, the section does not address rated walls. A general review of Article 9 reveals no specific requirements covering this situation, but clearly indicates that similar conditions are closely regulated (permissible size of openings in fire walls, permissible size of wired glass in fire doors and fire separation walls). Is this a "Matter not covered"?

Before making this decision, we must examine the reference standards of the Code. Examining the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Resistance Directory, we look first to the Assembly Rating Designs, and find no provisions for electric outlet penetrations. However, in the "Design Information Section-General" in the front of the Directory specific requirements are to be found.

The Section "Wall Penetrations" describes the specific requirements for these installations. These requirements include:

1. A reference to the Building Materials Directory for the specification of the Classified products and installation details;
2. A requirement that the walls have wallboard facings similar to those shown in Design Numbers U301, U411 and U425;
3. Limitations as to the size of a single opening and the aggregate surface area of the "boxes" per wall area;
4. Horizontal separation requirements for boxes located on opposite sides of walls; and
5. Fastening and clearance requirements.

The matter is, therefore, specifically covered in the reference standards of the Code, and our "hunt" is over. To restate the point in many fewer words than the "CODEWORD" article:

"SEEK AND YE SHALL FIND"

PROPOSED LEGISLATION - HOUSE # 5268

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE TERMS OF OFFICE
OF LOCAL BUILDING INSPECTORS

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled and by the authority of the same, as follows:

Chapter 143 of the General Laws is hereby amended by striking out section 3Y, as appearing in the 1986 Official Edition, and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

Section 3Y. Any Inspector of buildings, building commissioner or local Inspector so employed pursuant to section three shall be appointed for a minimum term of three years and such three year term or more shall not be diminished by an unexpired term of a predecessor, and he shall not be removed from office after serving four years except for just cause and after a hearing has been held on charges by and before the appointing authority.

CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR'S EXAM UPDATE

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards is please to announce that Educational Testing Service (ETS) will be conducting licensing examinations for construction supervisors in the State of Massachusetts.

Two types of tests will be administered: one for an Unrestricted Supervisor's License (for structural work on all buildings containing less than 35,000 cubic feet of enclosed space) and one for a Restricted Supervisor's License (for structural work in one and two-family dwellings only). The Board will continue to administer examinations for Restricted Supervisor's Licenses for masonry only.

The first ETS administered exams will be held concurrently in Springfield, Worcester, Lowell and Brockton on Saturday, June 25. Registration will close 45 days prior to the test date.

Candidate Bulletins of Information, Fact Sheets and Registration Forms containing more detailed information about the test dates and the registration procedures are available now by writing to:

Massachusetts Construction Supervisors Program
Educational Testing Service
P.O. Box 6530
Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6530

This information is also available for pick-up only (not by mail) from the State Bookstore, or at Division of Inspection site offices in Boston, Danvers, Fall River, Pittsfield, Springfield, Tewksbury or Worcester.

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards will continue to function as the licensing and administering agency for this program.

ENACTED LEGISLATION - CHAPTER 759

AN ACT FURTHER REGULATING SMOKING IN CERTAIN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS

The "Clean Indoor Air Act" went into effect on April 13th, and the provisions of this act place an enforcement responsibility upon the local building inspector.

The Act bans smoking in the following locations:

- in public buildings
- at any open meeting of a governmental body
- in museums, libraries, elevators and supermarkets
- by nursing home employees in patient care areas
- on all public mass transit and their indoor and enclosed outdoor platforms
- on trains, airplanes and airport waiting areas
- in schools, colleges and universities
- requires restaurants of more than 75 seats to provide a non-smoking section
- requires public colleges to provide non-smoking dormitory rooms

The Act provides for designated smoking areas in certain locations when non-smoking areas are large enough to accommodate all non-smokers.

THE ACT READS IN PART:

Any person aggrieved by the willful failure or refusal to comply with any of the provisions of this section may complain in writing to the local health officer in the case of a restaurant, supermarket or retail food outlet, or to the local building inspector in the case of all other facilities described in this section. Said authority shall respond in writing within fifteen days to the complainant that he has inspected the area described in the complaint and has enforced the provisions of this section. Said authority shall file a copy of the original complaint and his response thereto with the department of public health.

For questions about the new law, copies of the law and other information about smoking, call Martha Wood, Assistant Director, Office of Non-smoking and Health, (617) 727-0723.

CHANGE OF TYPEFACE

You're probably wondering why the size of printing in Codeword changes from page to page. It is done to make it easier for you to duplicate single pages to use as "handouts". Consequently, we change typeface to fit complete articles onto a page. Please feel free to duplicate and distribute any articles of use to you, but, please credit the source as, CODEWORD, the newsletter of the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards.

CODE CHANGES COMING

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards has recently filed a package of amendments to the State Building Code. These amendments will become effective on July 1, 1988 for construction under permits issued on or after that date. The changes encompass several amendments voted by the Board over the last two years. Some of the most notable changes are:

- New Article 20 provisions for energy conservation
- Revisions to portions of Article 7 dealing with snow load due to drifting, seismic design, foundations and soil bearing values, pile load tests, and design requirements for floodplains
- Adoption of the 1987 BOCA Mechanical Code
- Updating of Steel Construction Reference Standards
- Revision of Smoke Control provisions
- Adoption of code requirements for Group Dwelling Units (Staffed Apartments)

All building officials will be receiving copies of these code amendments (in the form of replacement pages) from the Board when they become available from the Secretary of State. Other code users may purchase the amendments from the State Bookstore at that time. We will be providing more detailed information to building officials on the content of these amendments in the near future.

RECENT STATE BUILDING CODE APPEALS BOARD DECISIONS

Section 126.7.11 (Contents of Decision) of the Code states, "Any decision shall not be considered by any person or agency as a precedent for future decisions."

Appeal Docket #87-48

The building official refused to issue a building permit for a 14,400 square foot one story structure which he classified as a moderate hazard storage (S-1) use. The building official required a suppression system in accordance with Section 1202.8.

The appellant argued that the structure was to be a series of "industrial condominiums" to be individually sold to businesses for as yet unspecified uses.

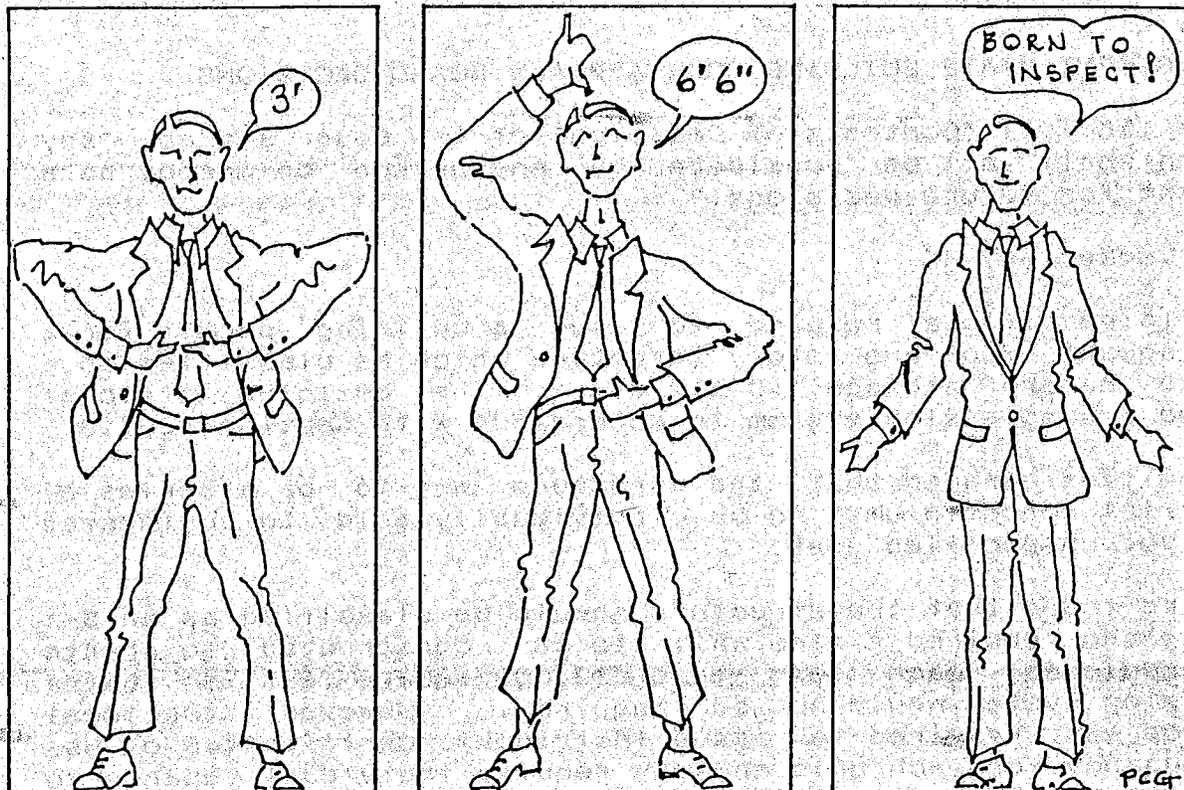
The Board found that the structure should be classified as an S-1 building and required a fire wall to be constructed to create two structures, each less than 12,000 square feet, so that a suppression system would not be required. However, the local inspector was required to issue individual Certificates of Use and Occupancy for each unit and may require individual tenants to install suppression systems if the use of their unit should require one.

OPTIONAL FORMS OF MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION - A COMMENTARY

Chapter 43C of the Acts of 1987 (see page 2 for pertinent sections) provides for the local adoption of optional forms of municipal administration which would consolidate various functions into administrative departments. A department of municipal finance could include the offices of accountant, auditor, comptroller, treasurer, collector and assessors under a director of municipal finance. A department of community development could include the redevelopment authority, planning board, industrial development commission, industrial development financing authority and others under a director of community development. A department of municipal inspections administered by a director of municipal inspections could include all inspectional functions of the town.

Several cities have successfully implemented this concept by placing the various inspectional functions under the overall administrative authority of the building commissioner in a "Department of Inspectional Services". This structure has generally worked well as the administrative authority and the enforcement authority are located in the same office. Should the building commissioner and the director of municipal inspections be two individuals there is the potential for confusion and conflict between the enforcement authority (commissioner) and the administrative authority (director).

As Building Departments currently provide the coordination of municipal inspections, an expanded role of the building commissioner to include overall administrative responsibilities would be a productive and non-disruptive step. This legislation may provide various opportunities to the building commissioner and should your city or town be considering optional forms of municipal administration, your involvement in this process from the beginning could benefit your office and your town.





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Section 111.2 establishes the requirements for the review and describes the procedure to be followed. Items to be reviewed by the fire official. December 1987. Authority regarding periodic inspection and costs of all fire fighting and extinguishing equipment is described in Section 130.8.

COMINGS AND GOINGS

We are pleased to announce that on Wednesday, November 25, 1987, Governor Michael Dukakis appointed John E. Grover, Inspector of Buildings of the Town of Norwood, to serve on the Board of Building Regulations and Standards. Mr. Grover began his career as a part-time building inspector for Norwood in 1960, and has been serving as full time Inspector of Buildings since 1969. Mr. Grover was a co-founder of the Norfolk County Building Inspectors and Fire Chiefs Association, which later became the Southeastern Massachusetts Building Officials Association. John is currently a member of his Association's Board of Directors, and is our first Board member from that organization. We look forward to working with him, and are sure that, with his personal dedication and professionalism, he will well represent the interests of Massachusetts building officials during his service with us.

At the same time, we must also bid farewell and best wishes to outgoing Board member Chester Penza. Chet has played a key role in the Board's organization, and also has been an advocate for the interests of Building Officials of Western Massachusetts, of which he is a past president. In addition to his long tenure as Director of Inspection Services for the Town of Amherst, Chet is well known for his service to BOCA International in several capacities, most notably as past president. Although Chet will be missed by us, he will by no means be less active on behalf of building officials. He has recently been appointed to represent BOCA in the newly formed World Organization of Building Officials, and was also named to chair a committee to study possible changes to BOCA By-Laws. It has been our pleasure to have known and worked with Chet during these last two years. We wish him continued success in his endeavors.

PUBLICATION: #15035-8-1100-12-87-C.R.

APPROVED BY: Ric Murphy, State Purchasing Agent

COORDINATION/COOPERATION



Coordination between fire officials and building officials is more than just a desirable goal; it is a Code requirement. Various sections of the Code require Fire Department review of plans and response to the building official where the permit application must comply with selected provisions of Article 4 or Article 12.

Section 113.5 establishes the requirement for Fire Department review and describes the procedure to be followed. Section 1200.1.1 lists the items to be reviewed by the fire official. The fire official's authority regarding periodic inspections and tests of all fire fighting and extinguishing equipment is described in Section 1200.8.

Section 400.1.1, entitled Applicable Massachusetts General Laws, specifically requires compliance with the 527 CMR series, of the Fire Prevention Regulations, in the design and construction of structures covered in Article 4. As the fire official is the enforcement officer for these regulations, his review, required by Section 113.5, is essential for Code compliance.

Coordination in inspections is the charge of Section 403.3, which requires the immediate notification of the appropriate official of any violation within his jurisdiction. If building and fire officials would take this Code requirement one step further and extend coordination to cooperation, the resulting mutual benefits, and the benefits to their communities would certainly be substantial.

ASBESTOS UPDATE

Enactment of Chapter 149, Section 6A has empowered the State's Department of Labor and Industries to monitor, inspect and investigate work, including construction, demolition, repair or alteration involving the removal, containment or encapsulation of asbestos. Labor and Industries' new asbestos regulations became effective October 30, 1987, and are available through the State Bookstore. It should be noted that these regulations cover not only asbestos contractors, but also affect other assorted projects including plumbing, low voltage wiring, HVAC and general building maintenance when asbestos is involved. The State's Department of Environmental Quality Engineering (DEQE) already requires that persons undertaking demolition or major construction involving asbestos notify DEQE. For additional information about Department of Labor and Industries new rules, contact Steven Troiano or Michael Mard at that agency (Tel: (617) 752-6504).

NOVEMBER PUBLIC HEARING

By the time of this issue of CODEWORD reaches you, the Board of Building Regulations and Standards will have held its November Public Hearing at which twenty-seven (27) code change proposals will have been presented. The possible adoption of these amendments shall occur upon an affirmative vote by the majority of the members of the Board at a regularly convened meeting within ninety days of the final public hearing on the given amendment. The following list highlights some of these proposed changes.

Three of the Standing Advisory Committees to the Board have proposed amendments:

The Mechanical Systems Advisory Committee has proposed new definitions of "Atrium", "Open Well" and "Floor Opening" and consequent changes should these definitions be adopted.

The Loads Advisory Committee has proposed extensive changes to Article 7 (Sections 707, 708, 709, 710, 711, 717, 718)

The Geotechnical Advisory Committee has proposed extensive changes to Article 7 (Section 720, Table 720, a new Appendix, Sections 723.1 through 723.5).

The Board wishes to commend the members of these committees and the staff which supports them for their great efforts to produce a "state-of-the-art" code.

Other proposed changes include:

A new Section 436 and/or a new Section 440 to create a new special occupancy for staffed apartment programs, "Department of Mental Health Group Units" proposed by the Executive Office of Human Services, or "Group Dwelling Units"; a BBRS staff revision of the E.O.H.S. submittal.

Various amendments have been proposed to update the reference standards and engineering practice standards.

The code change process continues in a twice per year cycle and changes are currently being accepted for the May public hearing. These changes must be received at least sixty (60) days prior to the public hearing so it is not too early to begin your consideration of changes you would like to see. Code Change Proposal Forms are available from the Board's office.

FLAME SPREAD RATINGS OF WOOD

Building officials are accustomed to and experienced in the analysis of structural wood framing and sheathing. However, more and more in superior types of construction, wood is being used as "decorative" interior finish. This use of wooden planking or panels is not as interior trim, which Section 920.6 restricts to ten (10) percent of the aggregate wall and ceiling areas of any room or space. Whether this use of wood is structural (see Section 920.2, Exposed Construction) or decorative, it must be considered as interior finish and comply with the flame spread ratings in accordance with Section 920.5 and Table 920.

The following table (drawn from an information sheet of the Western Wood Products Association) lists untreated wood species tested to the ASTM E-84 standard:

<u>Western Softwoods</u>	<u>Flame Spread</u>	<u>Other Softwoods</u>	<u>Flame Spread</u>	<u>Hardwoods</u>	<u>Flame Spread</u>
Cedar, Pacific Coast Yellow	73-78	Cedar, Eastern Red	110	Birch, Yellow	105-110
Cedar, Western Red	70	Cypress	145-150	Gum, Red	140-155
Fir, Douglas	70-100	Pine, Eastern White	85	Maple, Hard	104
Hemlock, West Coast	60-75	Pine, Northern White	120-215	Oak, Red or White	100
Pine, Idaho White	72	Pine, Red	142	Poplar,	
Pine, Lodgepole	65-110	Pine, Southern Yellow	130-195	Walnut	170-185
Pine, Ponderosa	105-230*	Pine, Western White	75		130-140
Spruce, Western	100	Redwood	70		
		Spruce, Northern	65		

* In 18 tests of Ponderosa Pine, three had values over 200 and the average of all is 154.

CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR'S LICENSE - REVOCATIONS AND SUSPENSIONS

On November 12, 1987, the Board of Examiners of the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards convened to hear testimony and vote on the recommendations of the Board of Survey on three complaints against licensed Construction Supervisors. The results follow:

- Construction Supervisor's License Number 005951, Mr. Wilfred Dunnebier, Jr. of Franklin, MA License suspended indefinitely to be reinstated only upon examination.
- Construction Supervisor's License Number 031008, Mr. David Flemming of Stoneham, MA - License revoked.
- Construction Supervisor's License Number 013997, Mr. Leonard G. Fleurent of Fairhaven, MA - License suspended indefinitely to be reinstated only upon examination.

ENERGY CODE ACTION

Acting on a request from the Home Builder's Association of Massachusetts, the Board of Building Regulations and Standards has voted to delay the effective date of its new Energy Code provisions until July 1, 1988. The action will allow more time for materials and equipment suppliers to stock newer, more energy efficient products and will also give designers and contractors more lead time in adapting their practices to the new standards. For building officials the Board plans to offer additional training on the Energy Code in the near future, and will be producing an updated version of its "Illustrated Guide to the Massachusetts Energy Code", which will focus on changes to residential energy conservation requirements.

RECENT LEGISLATION

The following recently enacted legislation is of particular interest to building officials.

Chapter 354 of the Acts of 1987 (enacted August 11, 1987):

Chapter 142 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after Section 21 the following section:

Section 21A. Notwithstanding the provision of any general or special law to the contrary, no permit for the performance of plumbing and gas fitting work pursuant to this chapter shall be issued by any city or town unless the licensee provides proof of liability insurance, including "completed operation" coverage, which has been issued by an insurance company licensed to do business within the Commonwealth, or a bond or other type of indemnity against liability providing substantially equivalent coverage.

Chapter 481 of the Acts of 1987 (enacted November 10, 1987):

An Act further regulating of the illegal use of buildings and structures.

Section 1. The second paragraph of Section 7 of Chapter 40A of the General Laws, as appearing in the 1986 Official Edition, is hereby amended by inserting after the word "law" in line 36, the words: "; and provided, further, that no action criminal or civil, the effect or purpose of which is to compel the removal, alteration, or relocation of any structure by reason of any alleged violation of the provisions of this chapter, or any ordinance or by-law adopted thereunder, or the conditions of any variance or special permit granted by a permit granting authority, shall be maintained, unless such action, suit or proceeding is commenced and notice thereof recorded in the registry of deeds for such county or district in which the land lies within ten years next after the commencement of the alleged violation.

RECENT STATE BUILDING CODE APPEALS BOARD DECISIONS

Section 126.7.11 (Contents of Decision) of the Code states, "An decision shall not be considered by any person or agency as a precedent for future decisions".

APPEALS DOCKET #87-16

The building official while conducting a periodic inspection of several eight (8) unit apartment buildings (as required by Table 108) refused to issue Certificates of Inspection. The official cited Section 612.5.1.1, Locks in multi-family dwellings, which in turn cites the Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 143, Section 3R. This general law which applies to all buildings erected prior to its effective date, as well as to buildings erected thereafter, requires; "At least one of the doors of the main common entryway into every apartment house having more than three apartments shall be so designed and equipped as to close and lock automatically with a lock, including a lock with an electrically-operated striker mechanism, a self-closing door and associated equipment."

The Appellant testified that all exterior doors had locking devices, (not equipped with electrically operated striker mechanisms), but none were equipped with closers. The Appellant offered an alternative of installing "peep holes" in each apartment door to provide the security required by the Code.

The Board found no compelling reason to accept this alternative and voted in support of the building official to require full compliance with Section 3R.

APPEAL DOCKET #87-28

The building official conducted a plan review and refused a permit for a proposed interior alteration to an unlimited area manufacturing building. The proposed alteration involved the removal of a fire wall separating the unlimited area building from an adjoining structure. The building official determined that without the fire wall, the exterior wall of the adjoining structure would become the exterior wall of an unlimited area building, and as such would violate the requirements of Table 307. This "new" exterior wall would have less than the required minimum fifty foot (50') fire separation (exterior fire exposure) from an interior lot line.

The Appellant testified that after the removal of the fire wall, the two buildings, now considered as one structure, would meet all the requirements of Section 307 with the exception of the fire separation. The "new" exterior wall would be located adjacent to a railroad right of way, accessible to fire fighting equipment.

The Board voted to classify the entire structure as an unlimited area building and granted a variance from the requirements of Table 307 given the special conditions created by the railroad right of way.

CODEWORD

This issue's CODEWORD is FIRE DOOR. A more descriptive term for FIRE DOOR, however, and the term as properly used in Section 915.1, is FIRE DOOR ASSEMBLY.

Fire door assemblies, in addition to serving as doors and egress components, must also retard the spread of fire and reduce smoke hazards. These several functions can only be performed by a proper assembly as identified in Section 903.4.1, "Fire assembly: Shall include the fire doors, ... and all required hardware, anchorage, frames and sills necessary for the assembly." It is the assembly which is tested for labeling under the conditions required by the ASTM E152-76 - Fire Test of Door Assemblies.

This test of fire endurance and the impact, erosion and cooling effects of a hose stream requires the recording of the materials of construction of the door and frame, and the details of the installation, hardware, trim, finish and clearance or lap of the assembly. The conditions of acceptance require not only that the door (panel) remain in place, but also set limits on its movement and separation which are controlled by its frame, its hardware and installation.

When approving fire door assemblies, the following requirements (among others) should be kept in mind:

1. Is the size of opening acceptable? (See Section 918.2)
2. Does the labeling of the door assembly indicate the required fireresistance rating (acceptance test) appropriate to the fireresistance rating of the wall into which it will be placed? (See Table 915)
3. Has the assembly including frame and specified hardware been installed in accordance with the conditions of the acceptance tests? (See Manufacturer's Installation Instructions or NFPA 80)
4. An additional requirement for the performance of fire door assemblies is set by Section 616.6.3, Door construction of stair exitway doors. "Labeled fire doors shall have a maximum transmitted temperature end point of not more than four hundred and fifty (450) degrees F. above ambient at the end of thirty (30) minutes of standard fire test exposure." It is possible for a fire door assembly to pass the ASTM-E152-76 test and not meet this additional performance requirement. To approve the fire door assembly of a stairway exitway door the building official must look beyond the label and require additional certification (test results) to establish that this requirement has been met.

AN INSPECTOR'S OPINION ON CERTIFICATION

The October issue of CODEWORD featured the article "A Safe Investment" in which the benefits of building official certification were explored. Mr. M. R. Scoppettuolo, Building Inspector of the Town of Kingston, has responded to CODEWORD with a letter expressing his agreement with the article and with the concept that: "The best investment you can make is in yourself." Inspector Scoppettuolo itemized four steps in a process of certification he felt would ensure a high standard of professionalism. His four steps are:

1. An analysis of the many facets of a building official's job, each to be itemized and scrutinized.
2. An "apprenticeship" period (3 to 5 years) to be served prior to certification.
3. Formal education and/or training in related fields and a minimum of three years experience as a Construction Supervisor.
4. An examination that would encompass all aspects of a building official's duties.

Inspector Scoppettuolo states, "If we are going to be considered professionals, then we must be willing to submit ourselves to nothing less than any other professional." This is one inspector's outlook towards professionalism and certification; what is yours?

BUILDING OFFICIAL VACANCIES

We have received notice that the following communities are seeking building officials:

Falmouth and North Andover

If you are interested in these positions, please contact the appointing authority or personnel officer in these towns.

SEASON'S GREETINGS

The Board of Building Regulations and Standards, the Division of Inspection and all of the staff want to wish each of you a:

MERRY CHRISTMAS

and a
HAPPY NEW YEAR