

INSPECTIONS & ZONING UPDATE

Volume 3 Issue 3

Summer 2008

BUILDING CODE & ZONING NEWS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT CATAWBA COUNTY

Building Code News

Legislative Review of Building & Electrical Code Rules:

The NC General Assembly began the short session on May 13th 2008. During this session several rules were sent to the legislature for review by the NC Rules Review Commission. July 3rd, 2008 was the 31st legislative day for the state legislature. All Building Code Council items that were held over for legislative review, but were not filed as a bill, go into effect:

- R202 NC Residential Code-Wind-Borne Debris Region-1 January 2009
- R324 NC Residential Code-Elevators & Platform Lifts-1 January 2009
- NEC 210.12 Arc -Fault Circuit Interrupter Protection-1 January 2009
- NEC 338.10 (B)4(a) SE Cable-3 July 2008
- NEC406.11 Tamperproof Receptacles-3 July 2008

Items that will go into effect on the **last day** of the legislative session include:

- A-2 sprinkler threshold modification from 100 persons to 300 persons, except for nightclubs, in the 2006 NC Codes.

Items that have been delayed for legislative review for the 2009 session include:

- Adoption of a new Chapter 11, including reference to the ANSI Accessibility Code.

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ELECTRICAL CODE NEWS

National Electrical Code:

As the summer season of 2008 arrives so does the new 2008 National Electrical Code.



North Carolina has adopted the 2008 National Electrical Code as of June 1st 2008 as the 2008 North Carolina Electrical Code.

With this code as with all new codes there comes change, with the summer season in full swing comes the rise in applications for the installation of swimming pools.

One of the questions that has been asked: Is a 240 volt pool pump motor that has a direct connection to a branch circuit required to be GFCI protected? The answer

with new 2008 code in effect is “yes”. Refer to Article 680.22 (B), which states as follows: “Outlets supplying pool pump motors from branch circuits with short circuit and ground-fault protection rated 15 or 20 amperes, 125 volt or 240 volt single phase, whether by receptacle or direct connection, shall be provided with ground fault circuit-interrupter protection for personnel”.



Another question that has been asked recently is: If you have a fiberglass pool with walk in steps and no metallic handrails or ladders of any kind in contact with the water do you have to bond the water? Again, under the 2008 code the answer is “yes”. Refer to Article 680.26, which states: “An intentional bond of a minimum conductive surface area of 9 sq. in. shall be installed in contact with the pool water”. This bond shall be permitted to consist of parts that are required to be bonded in 680.26(B).

This is just a small sample of the codes changes that effect the electrical wiring installation of swimming pools. Please take time to review Article 680 of the 2008 North Carolina Electrical Code prior to installing the electrical system for a swimming pool.

OSHA CODE NEWS

Electrical Safety at Construction Sites:



1. Employees involved in electrical work must be trained in the control of hazardous energy through the lockout/tag-out program.
2. Prohibit work on new and existing energized (hot) electrical circuits until all power is shut off and a positive lockout/tag-out system is in place.
3. Only persons authorized by the lockout/tag-out program can connect and disconnect electricity.
4. Circuits that are to be rendered inoperative must be locked and tagged to prevent

accidental energizing.

5. Do not use frayed or worn electrical cords or cables.
6. Use only three-wire type extension cords designed for hard or junior hard service. (Look for any of the following letters imprinted on the casing: S, ST, SO, STO, SJ, SJT, SJO, SJTO.)
7. Maintain all electrical tools and equipment in safe condition and check regularly for defects.
8. Remove broken or damaged tools and equipment from the jobsite.
9. Protect all temporary power (including extension cords) with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Plug into a GFCI-protected temporary power pole, a GFCI generator, or use a GFCI extension cord to protect against shocks.
10. Do not bypass any protective system or device designed to protect employees from



contact with electrical current.

11. Locate and identify overhead electrical power lines. Make sure that ladders, scaffolds, equipment and materials never come within 10 feet of electrical power lines.

LOCAL CODE COMPLIANCE NEWS

Prefabricated Metal Buildings & Carports:

Metal free-standing carports and prefabricated sheds **DO** require permits if the structure exceeds 12 foot in any dimension: length, width or height.



A **Zoning Permit** is always required first, regardless of size. Set-backs and other restrictions may apply. Zoning permits may be obtained at the appropriate municipality or at either one of the two County Permit Centers.

A **Septic Tank Check Permit** may be required to verify that the new structure is not located on top of an existing tank or drain lines. Septic Tank Check permits can be obtained at either one of the two County Permit Centers.

A **Building Permit** is required for any structure over 12 foot in any direction (length, width or height). Zoning and Septic Tank Check (if applicable) permits are required before Building Permits can be issued. A copy of specifications and/or drawing, sealed by an Engineer registered in the State of North Carolina, that lists wind and snow load information and footing/anchor details must be submitted. Building Permits can be obtained at either one of the two County Permit Centers. For more information please contact a Local Code Compliance Technician or one of the Catawba County Permit Centers (828) 465-8399.

PLUMBING CODE NEWS

Section 421 Whirlpool Bathtubs pump access.

The 2006 North Carolina Plumbing code per section 421.2 requires that the pump motor for the whirlpool tub be accessible for the purpose of repair and removal. In most cases the electrical contractor has also installed a GFCI protected receptacle for the pump motor very near the pump and will utilize the same access to be able to reset the GFCI receptacle and or replace it in the future if needed. The Department of Insurance has on their website an interpretation that lists the details of the access. The details listed below are not contained in the code but must be referenced by the interpretation.



Question:

Is access to the whirlpool bathtub pump required for repair and removal ?

Answer:

Yes, the Plumbing Code states access shall be provided to the pump. An access door large enough to remove the motor and/or pump shall be provided at the side or end of the whirlpool bathtub (clearance of 21" minimum in front of the access door) and pump connections shall be within 15" of the access door. The access maybe (continued on Page 5)

COUNTY PERMIT CENTER NEWS



Permits Issued from April 2008 through June 2008: The Catawba County Permit Center issued a total of 2,475 permits in the last quarter, with a total cost of construction of \$87,700,800. There were 388 new single-family dwelling permits issued during this same time period. A few of the larger projects were: Hampton Inn, Bandy's High School addition, Lenior Rhyne College dorm alteration and Hickory High School Alteration.

Permit Center Software: The Catawba County Permit Center is in the process of updating the current software used in issuing and maintaining permits. Venders and their software are currently being evaluated and a product should soon be decided on. The new software will have many features that were not available eight years ago when the current software was purchased. The new software will be a fully integrated system that will provide better access to the public and contractors. New features will include online inspection scheduling, online permitting for simple projects, online access to all associated permits to allow the contractor better management of projects, an Interactive Voice Response system for telephone calls, an integrated mobile inspection application for the inspectors, and many other features. Some of the features listed above are already provided, but are separate applications from the current database. This generally causes limitations and failures that can be avoided with a fully integrated system.



Plumbing Code News (Continued from page 4):

through a cabinet (double doors with no stile) and/or from below the whirlpool bathtub in a basement or crawl space (travel path to the access to the whirlpool bathtub shall be a minimum height of 24" in the crawl space).

Also, the following as per the 2006 International Plumbing Code maybe used: "where the manufacturer's instructions do not specify the location and minimum size of field-fabricated access openings, a 12-inch by 12-inch minimum sized opening shall be installed to provide access to the circulation pump.

Where pumps are located more than 2 feet from the access opening, an 18-inch by 18-inch minimum sized opening shall be installed. A door or panel shall be permitted to close the opening. In all cases, the access opening shall be unobstructed and of the size necessary to permit the removal and replacement of the circulation pump."

A minimum clearance of 21" is required in front of the access door.

Local Government Contacts

Catawba County Planning & Zoning

Ph. 828-465-8380 / Fax 828-465-8484

Catawba County Building Services Safety Inspections

Ph. 828-466-5130 / Fax 828-322-6814

Catawba County Fire Marshall

Ph. 828-465-8230 / Fax 828-464-4820

Catawba County Environmental Health

Ph. 828-465-8270 / Fax 828-465-8276

Catawba County Erosion Control

Ph. 828-465-8161

Catawba County Permit Centers

Ph. 828-465-8399

Fax 828-465-8962 *Newton* / Fax 828-322-6814 *Hickory*

City of Claremont Zoning

Ph. 828-459-7009 / Fax 828-459-0596

City of Claremont Fire Department

Ph. 828-459-9296

City of Conover Zoning

Ph. 828-464-1191 / Fax 828-465-5177

City of Conover Fire

Ph. 828-464-1295 / Fax 828-464-1253

City of Hickory DAC/Zoning

Ph. 828-323-7556 / Fax 828-323-7474

City of Hickory Fire

Ph. 828-322-7522 / Fax 828-323-7476

City of Newton Zoning

Ph. 828-465-7400 / Fax 828-465-7412

City of Newton Fire

Ph. 828-695-4284 / Fax 828-465-7453

Town of Catawba Zoning

Ph. 828-241-2215 \ Fax 828-241-9968

Town of Catawba Fire Inspections

Contact County Fire Marshal's Office

Town of Longview Zoning

Ph. 828-322-3921 / Fax 828-322-1567

Town of Longview Fire Inspections

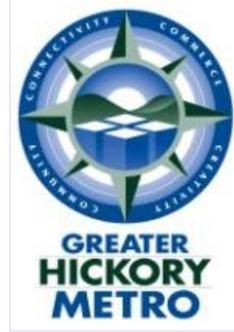
Contact County Fire Marshal's Office

Town of Maiden Zoning

Ph. 828-428-5007 / Fax 828-428-5017

Town of Maiden Fire Inspections

Contact County Fire Marshal's Office



CATAWBA COUNTY GOVERNMENT

Building Services Division

100-A SW Blvd

PO Box 389

Newton, NC 28658-0389

For additional information regarding building codes and services in Catawba County please visit the Catawba County website at <http://www.catawbacountync.gov/depts/u&e/building.asp>

For additional assistance please contact the following personnel:

Armin Wallner, Chief Building Services Official

828.217.1091 or Awallner@catawbacountync.gov

Joel Herman, Assistant Chief Building Services Official

828. 312.5713 or joelh@catawbacountync.gov

Jeff Hinkle, Plan Review Supervisor

828.217.1034 or Jhinkle@catawbacountync.gov

David Smith, Permit Center Supervisor

828.217.3037 or dsmith@catawbacountync.gov

Reid Goforth, Eastern Area Supervisor

828.312.5709 or reid@catawbacountync.gov

Rick Frady, Western Area Supervisor

828.312-5718 or rfrady@catawbacountync.gov