The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

STATE BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

CODEWORD

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Governor

THOMAS C. RAPONE
Secretary

December, 1992

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Administrator

CERTIFICATION - A REALITY !

The October, 1987 issue of **CODEWORD** ran a front page article titled: *A Safe Investment*. The subject of the article was investment in thyself. For a building official, the article stated, the best investment is certification. Certification it explains, conveys professionalism to the field of endeavor, and professionalism, according to the *American Heritage Dictionary*, describes "one who has an assured competence in a particular field or occupation". The key words in this definition, the article continues, are "*assured competence*". To assure something, is to certify it. Therefore, certification is something every competent building official should strive for.

That was 1987. Today, the wait is over. As most of you are aware, November 12, 1992, was the date that Chapter 168 of the Acts of 1992 became effective. This Act amended Massachusetts General Law (MGL) c 143 § 3. It created the requirements for certifying building officials within the Commonwealth, and surely, it marks the beginning of a new era in code enforcement. After many years of struggle, certification is now a reality, not just a goal. And, as illustrated above, with certification comes a pride and confidence in one's self.

A Safe Investment was written over five years ago, but the concept of certifying building officials has been around much longer. In fact, if one were to track previous publications of **CODEWORD**, he would find that a good percentage carried some information with respect to certification. So, it is no surprise that the Board of Building Regulations and Standards has long advocated certification. But, the Board itself could not have implemented the requirements for certification without the hard work and dedication of a particular group of individuals. This group, known as the ***Original Certification Committee***, was created by the Board to study methods and develop recommendations for the certification of building officials within the Commonwealth. After much effort, the group completed its task in mid 1991 (specifics of which are discussed in the coming articles). At this time, the Board would like to identify each member of this committee and commend him for his work. The make up of the ***Original Certification Committee*** is:

- Bruce Austin, Building Inspector, Town of Greenfield
- Robert Betit, Inspector of Buildings, Town of Dalton
- Francis Calnan, Building Inspector, City of Lynn
- Steve Crawford, Building Inspector, Town of West Bridgewater
- William Gedraitis, Inspector of Buildings, Town of Middleborough
- John Grover (Former Chairman) Inspector of Buildings (soon to be retired), Town of Norwood
- Frank Magliano, Building Commissioner (retired), City of Brockton
- Matthias Mulvey (Chairman) Inspector of Buildings, City of Quincy
- Paul Nonni (Vice Chairman) Building Inspector, City of Somerville
- Bradford Nyhan, Former Building Inspector, Town of Concord (now living in Florida)
- Dan O'Sullivan, Building Inspector, City of Springfield
- Bart Thomas, Building Commissioner, Town of Holyoke
- David Thyng, Inspector of Buildings, Town of Brewster
- Don York, Building Inspector, Town of Holyoke

Some of the members of the ***Original Certification Committee*** have moved on to other areas of the country to pursue new career goals. Others have (or are considering) retirement. Regardless of where he is at this point in time, each member of this committee deserves commendation for his work and dedication to this cause.

THE MECHANICS OF CERTIFICATION

One of the goals of the *Original Certification Committee* was to establish legislation that would enable the "grandfathering" of all those who were employed as and qualified as a building official. As stated in the opening article, this legislation was passed and became effective on November 12, 1992. Following the passage of the legislation, the staff to the Board was responsible for acquiring an accurate list of all those who were employed as a building official on the effective date of legislation. Therefore on (or about) November 9th of this year, each city and town **clerk** received a form that listed the names of each building commissioner/inspector of buildings and/or local building inspector employed by his/her community. This list reflected the latest record of names available to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards. The clerk along with the appointing authority for each community simply needed to sign the form in recognition that the information shown was correct, or make the necessary corrections, and return the information to the Board's office.

With this data, the Board could then forward a certificate to each building official indicating that he is now considered a duly certified building official in accordance with the provisions of Massachusetts General Law c 168 of the Acts of 1992. Along with the certificate, each official will receive wallet sized identification card that should be carried on his/her person at all times.

It is important to note that a building official may not have seen the form sent by the Board, since it was sent to the office of the clerk, not to the office of the building official. Therefore, there is no need to panic if you (the building official) do not recall seeing the form. However, the building official should take care to ensure that his clerk has properly replied to this Board. In an effort to assist in this regard, the following is a list of those communities who had not responded to the Board's request as of December 16, 1992.

- Abington
- Acushnet
- Ashby
- Ashfield
- Attleboro
- Avon
- Bedford
- Belmont
- Blackstone
- Bridgewater
- Brookfield
- Cambridge
- Charlemont
- Chelmsford
- Chelsea
- Clinton
- Colrain
- Cummington
- Erving
- Fairhaven
- Florida
- Georgetown
- Glouster
- Gosnold
- Grafton
- Granville
- Greenfield
- Groveland
- G. Barrington
- Hardwick
- Hawley
- Hingham
- Heath
- Huntington
- Ipswich
- Leyden
- Longmeadow
- Lowell
- Lunenberg
- Manchester
- Millville
- Monroe
- Monterey
- Montgomery
- Mt. Washington
- Northbridge
- N. Dartmouth
- Quincy
- Savoy
- Shutesbury
- Stoneham
- Sunderland
- Swansea
- Tolland
- Wales
- Ware
- Webster
- Wendell
- Westminster
- Weymouth
- Whitinsville
- Woburn
- Worcester

If a building official sees his/her city or town listed above, please contact your clerk to determine what is causing the delay. The Board has extended the deadline for receipt of this information until **January 29, 1993**. After this date, anyone who wishes to be considered "grandfathered" into the certification program will need to state his case before the Board.

FURTHER TO - CERTIFICATION

The Original Certification Committee was charged with a number of tasks. The first (the "grandfathering" process), we have addressed above. The main purpose of the Committee, however, was to develop a workable program for certifying building officials. Presently, staff to the Board of Building Regulations and Standards is working on regulations to govern

the certification process based on the recommendations of the *Original Certification Committee*. The main points of the regulations are to define the required examinations that one now needs to take in order to **become** certified as a building official in the Commonwealth, as well the requirements for follow-up education that one needs to satisfy in order to maintain his/her certification.

The required examinations are as follows:

Examination required for certification as a local inspector (as defined in MGL c 143 § 3):

- The Building Officials and Code Administrators, International (BOCA) **Building Inspector** examination, **or**
- The BOCA **Plan Reviewer** Examination.

Examination required for certification as a building commissioner/inspector of buildings (MGL c 143 § 3):

- The BOCA **Building Inspector** examination, **or**
- The BOCA **Plan Reviewer** examination, **and**
- The CABO **Administrators** examination.

These examinations are generally offered twice each year by the BOCA and CABO organizations, and consist of varied parts, testing ones knowledge and familiarity of the building code and associated regulatory documents. Of course, only those who have not been "grandfathered" into the program will need to be tested. However, if one is now certified or becomes certified as a local inspector and wishes to gain certification as a building commissioner or inspector of buildings he/she will need to successfully take the CABO Administrators examination.

Regardless of whether or not certification has been achieved through examination or through the "granfathering process, all who wish to maintain his/her certification must complete forty-five (45) hours of acceptable educational credit per each three (3) year period during the life of his/her certification. Some things that would be considered acceptable are; continuing education courses offered by the BOCA organization, courses or seminars offered by the Commonwealth as well as meetings of the various building official organizations that deal with building code or related regulation matters.

The above is not an exhaustive list of acceptable credit items. Courses offered by community colleges or by BOCA, through their continuing education process have an inherent credit value assigned to them. However, knowledge gained through association meetings or district meetings are less definable. However, most likely, these meetings will also count towards continuing education credit. (Look for specifics regarding this topic in upcoming issues of **CODEWORD**.)

Realizing that certification will require close scrutiny and maintenance, the original certification committee recommended the creation of a *Standing Certification Committee*. The purpose of this committee is to oversee the certification process, and address problems that may arise as the process matures. For instance, an individual may have been employed as a building official for a number of years, but due to circumstances beyond his control (layoff), he was not in office on the effective date of legislation (November 12, 1992). This person **may** still be entitled to take advantage of the "grandfathering" process (dependent upon the situation). This is just one example of the types of issues the with which the *Standing Certification Committee* would be interested. There are a number of scenarios that may warrant review before this committee. If someone feels he/she has standing before the committee, he/she should forward a letter describing his qualifications and circumstances to:

the Standing Certification Committee, c/o Rob Anderson
Board of Building Regulations and Standards
One Ashburton Place - Room 1301
Boston, MA 02108-1618

Each request will be examined and, if deserving, a hearing will be conducted before the committee to explore the facts. The Board of Building Regulations and Standards will have ultimate and binding authority in these matters.

Further facts regarding certification will be provided in upcoming issues of **CODEWORD**. For now, we will close with these final points.

The *Standing Certification Committee* has been voted and approved by the Board and will be active shortly. The make-up of this committee will be identified in the next issue of **CODEWORD**. The finer points of the process are being worked out, and the regulations are underway. Before all is finalized, there are likely to be questions. If so, do not hesitate to call the office at the number shown on the cover sheet for assistance.

NEW BUILDING CODE APPEALS FORM

The Board is pleased to announce that it has revised its *Building Code Appeals Application*. A copy of the new form is attached to this publication. The new form was modeled after a building permit application. The form requires one to identify the use group classification, type of construction, and whether the building is new or existing, as well as other general information regarding the make-up of the building and the nature of the appeal. The new form will help Board members get acquainted with the overall building and the reason for appeal. Also, it will force the appellant to think about the matter, in the hope that he/she will be better prepared to address the appeal before the Board.

This document supersedes all other appeals forms. Please ensure that all other forms are discarded. And, please make copies of the revised form available at your office.

RETIREMENTS

It is always difficult to announce the retirements of those whom you have worked with over the years. However, it is also pleasant to ponder the lifestyle that these individuals will now be able to lead.

First, we must announce that Mr. John Grover, Inspector of Buildings for the town of Norwood, has submitted paperwork relating to his retirement, that will become effective early 1993. Along with performing his duties within the town, John was a member of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards, representing town building officials throughout the Commonwealth. John's hard work and dedication was portrayed in his efforts with the *Building Code Appeals Board*, the *Fire Protection, Fire Prevention Board*, and the *Original Certification Committee*. John's thoughtful and professional manner will be missed. However, John probably will not miss his work. Now he will be able to concentrate on his passion; fishing.

Second, Mr. Jim Hallisey, Fire Chief from the City of Brockton, has also submitted his retirement papers to the city, effective January 2, 1993. Jim also served on the Board of Building Regulations and Standards, representing the fire services of the Commonwealth and served on the *Building Code Appeals Board* as well as other varied committees as the need arose. Jim's honesty and integrity was apparent in his every word and action. His work on the board was thoughtful and thorough. But, unlike John, Jim has decided that he has a little more work to do before settling down. Therefore, he has accepted a position with the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association.

Both John and Jim will be dearly missed around our office. But we know each looks forward to the next stage of life, and we wish each much success in all future endeavors.

CONSTRUCTION SUPERVISOR LICENSE - SUSPENSION & REVOCATION

On November 4, 1992, the License Review Committee for the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards voted unanimously to revoke the Construction Supervisor's License of Mr. Andris H. Perekrests, License Number 046399, effective immediately.

CODEWORD

This issue's **CODEWORD** is **corner bracing**. The purpose of corner bracing in wood frame construction is to stabilize the frame against lateral displacement. However, considering today's construction methods, is this requirement antiquated code language?

Section 3403.2.3 of the Fifth Edition of the building code states that "Exterior walls of wood frame residential buildings shall be constructed in accordance with Figures 3403-1 and 3403-2, and Tables 3403-2 and 3403-3". Figure 3403-1 is an isometric view of a corner of a wood frame house. It illustrates the construction of a platform framed wood structure. From this figure, we reference specific details of the construction in Figure 3403-3. This figure, part of which is shown below, depicts three framing conditions that would corner bracing. The first shows a frame wall without any openings at the corner. The second and third figures show frame walls with window openings at or near the corner. In each condition, corner bracing of least 1" x 4" wood stock set at a forty-five degree (45°) angle are applied. Alternatively, metal "T" straps may be applied.

If one were to stop reading after discovering the size and material to be used in bracing the corners of a wood frame house, he would be unaware of one important fact. That is, corner bracing is **not** required when plywood or composite sheathing is employed, regardless of whether it is set vertically or horizontally. Inevitably, one of these two materials is used in today's new home construction, so the language may appear somewhat obsolete. However, there are an abundance of older homes that were constructed with variously sized pine boards (or other type of wood boards) used as a sheathing material. Many of these homes will undergo renovations at some point in time. In doing so, some may choose to remove the old lath and plaster walls and replace this system with contemporary construction (gypsum wall board). Depending on the framing condition of the wall, one may then need to install corner bracing (in accordance with the provisions of Article 32) before enclosing the space. Therefore, the language remains pertinent, even today.

One final point, Irrespective of the type material one is installing; whether wall sheathing, roof sheathing or floor joists, a building official should always take care to check the fastener schedules contained within Article 34 to ensure that the materials have been properly secured. Without the correct fastenings, materials may not behave in the manner that was intended.

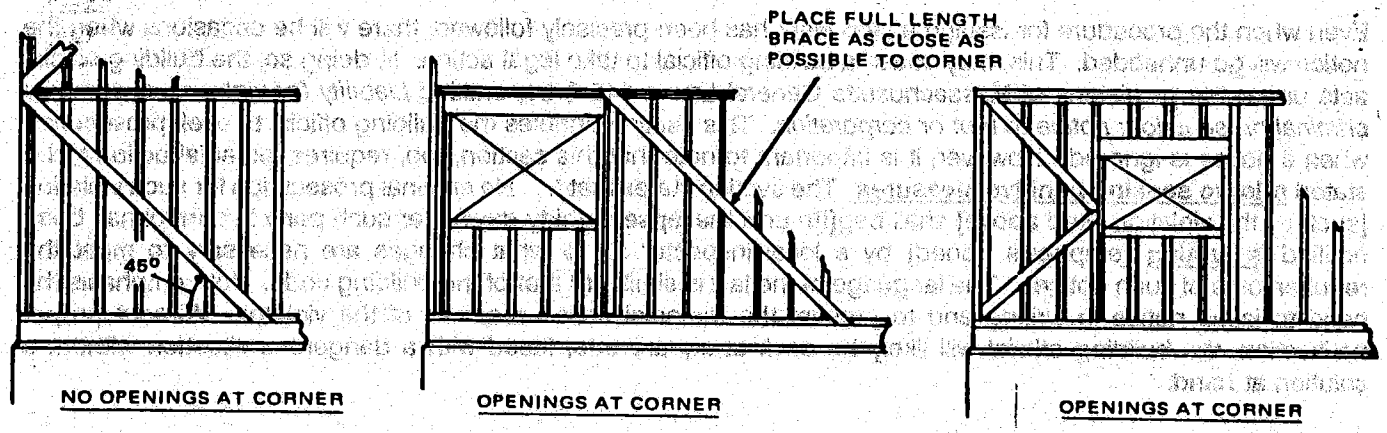

FIGURE 1

CORNER BRACING REQUIRED
Min. 1" x 4" @ 45° angle or
Metal "T" Strips

FIGURE 2

FIGURE 3

NOT REQUIRED With 4' x 8'
Plywood or Composition Sheathing
Applied horizontally or vertically

PELLET STOVES

Just a reminder. The December, 1991 issue of **CODEWORD** introduced an affidavit process with respect to the installation of pellet stoves. This process remains valid today and until further notice. Each building official should take care to examine the **CODEWORD** article to re-familiarize himself with the procedure governing the use of pellet stoves in the Commonwealth.

STOP WORK ORDERS

Section 122.1 of the building code addresses *Stop Work Orders*. This order is a powerful tool of code enforcement and should not be misused. The language of this section clearly states its purpose; it reads: "Upon notice from the building official that any work is being prosecuted contrary to the provisions of this code or in an unsafe or dangerous manner, such work shall be immediately stopped". Since the building code deals almost exclusively in life safety issues, one could argue that any violation of its provisions would result in a dangerous situation, and therefore, should be stopped. However, it is incumbent upon the building official to determine if the situation warrants a stop work order or whether some other action may be pursued.

In most instances a building official does not have much difficulty evaluating the urgency of a matter, so the decision of issuing a stop work order comes fairly easily. However, some difficulty seems to arise with respect to the manner in which the notice of a stop work order is served. Consequently, this article will examine the language of both the law and regulation governing the procedure relating to stop work orders.

Key language appears in the remaining portion of Section 122.1 which states that ". . . The stop work order shall be **In writing** [emphasis added] and shall be served on the owner or on the person doing the work . . . ". Probably the most important part of this section are the words that follow; ". . . and [the stop work order] **shall state the conditions under which work may be resumed** . . ." [emphasis added].

Since stop work orders often deal with sensitive matters, and may ultimately lead to court action, the building official should take care to ensure that the order has been issued correctly. Although, the final language of Section 122.1 affords the building official the ability to issue the order verbally, when he feels immediate action is necessary. Nonetheless, it also requires the order to be followed **In writing within forty-eight (48) hours**. Regardless of the relationship that may exist between the parties involved in this process, written notice should be standard procedure. In this notice, the code requires a building official to state the conditions under which work may be resumed. This is not meant to require him to **design** the solution for the problem. Rather, it is meant to identify the problem; ie: construction began without benefit of building a building permit, and the condition that will resolve the problem; ie: apply for and receive a building permit. With this, the owner is given notice of the violation, and is also guided as to the proper corrective action so he is not left fumbling for a solution.

Even when the procedure for issuing a stop work has been precisely followed, there will be occasions when the notice will go unheeded. This, may cause a building official to take legal action. In doing so, the building official acts under the provisions of Massachusetts General Law c 143 § 51, entitled *Liability for violation of statutes; criminal prosecution; notice to firm or corporation*. This section enables the building official to seek prosecution when a notice is ignored. However, it is important to note that this section, too, requires remedial action to be stated **prior to seeking punitive measures**. The section states that ". . . No criminal prosecution for such violation [such as the violation cited above] shall beg[i]n until the lapse of thirty days after such party in control has been notified **in writing** [emphasis added] by a local inspector as to what changes are necessary to meet the requirements of such notice". The language of the law is similar to that of the building code. Both emphasis the need to issue notice in writing and to present the remedial action required of the violator. Without proper notification, the building official will likely be back at square one; faced with a dangerous situation without a solution at hand.

WHAT "KIND OF" FOAM IS THAT, AND WHERE IS IT BEING USED?

Section 3420.3 relates general requirements for the use of foam plastics in one and two-family dwellings. Similarly, Section 2002 of the main body of the Code (Basic Code), sets general requirements for the use of foam plastics.

Whenever foam plastics are to be utilized in buildings, the Building Official has the right to ask to see the ASTM E84 "flame spread" and "smoke-developed" data, if applicable. Additionally, the Code generally, but not always, requires foam plastics to be separated from habitable space via an approved thermal barrier. When encountering these products, the Building Official should look to see what type of separation is being proposed/provided, and reference the cited sections to ensure conditions of the code are met.

CONTROLLING CONSTRUCTION

Section 127.0 of the code governs construction control in the Commonwealth. This provision is meant to ensure that a registered professional is charged with projects that are considered complicated in terms of construction methods and code compliance. It is clear that the requirements of Section 127 are invoked when one is designing and erecting a new building encompassing thirty-five thousand cubic feet of enclosed space or greater. But, a nagging question remains in terms of renovating small spaces within large buildings. Specifically, the question most often asked is: if an individual renovates a portion of an existing building, and that portion is comprised of less than thirty-five thousand cubic feet of enclosed space, but the total building is greater in size (ie: larger than thirty-five thousand cubic feet), does the renovation fall under the provisions of Section 127, Construction Control?

The simple answer to this question is, yes. In explanation, Section 127 of the Fifth Edition of the State Building Code states that a registered professional architect or engineer is required to control (monitor) job progress for all buildings and structures unless such buildings or structures are excepted from the requirement under the provisions of Section 127.1. The first exception under this section states that; "Any building less than thirty-five thousand (35,000) cubic feet of enclosed space. . ." does **not** require the services of a registered professional architect or engineer. The thirty-five thousand (35,000) cubic feet figure is excerpted from the registration laws governing the practice of architecture. It is also the figure used to establish the threshold in the licensing of construction supervisors in the Commonwealth. Notice, however, that the word **building** is used in the exception, and that it is not followed by the term; or parts thereof. It seems clear that the intent of this language is to exempt only those **buildings** that meet the provisions of the exception, not portions of buildings.

The real question, then, is; why? At first glance it may seem unreasonable to require the services of a registered professional when dealing with small renovation projects within larger buildings. However, if one stops to think of the complexity of a large building, things begin to become clear. For instance, if someone wished to erect a series of new offices within an existing space of a high rise building, he may be faced with a number of uncooperative building systems. The sprinkler system, as one example, would likely need to be reconfigured in order to properly serve the new offices. If the sprinkler heads were not realigned properly (in accordance with NFiPA 13), the system may be rendered ineffective. The same would hold true for the public address system (fire announcement warning system) and for the required paths of egress. In fact, this scenario could be repeated with any number of building systems, from smoke detection to lighting to HVAC systems. Therefore, a registered professional, who is educated in such matters, must design the space and coordinate the associated building systems and must monitor ongoing construction.

A second reason that the code requires construction control over such situations concerns handicapped accessibility. The Rules and Regulations of the Architectural Access Board (AAB Regulations) are promulgated with the intent of providing physically handicapped persons with " . . . full and free use of all buildings and facilities so that all such persons may have the educational, employment, living and recreational opportunities . . ." that are available to all other citizens. Section 3 of these regulations is entitled, Buildings Under Jurisdiction. This section states that: "All construction, **reconstruction**, **alteration**, **remodeling** [emphasis added] and change of use of public buildings or other facilities open to the public shall conform to these (AAB) regulations". The section continues to list a number of methods by which one would invoke accessibility requirements. In a renovation project, an individual could very well trip these provisions, knowingly or unknowingly, and the scope and cost of the project could be drastically altered.

Part of the responsibility of a registered architect or engineer is to keep abreast of the regulations and building standards (such as NFiPA standards) that affect building construction and, consequently, his profession. These professionals are also expected to understand entire building systems, not just certain aspects of a building. Therefore, the building code relies upon the expertise of these individuals in designing (and constructing) large buildings, and spaces within large buildings. To allow an individual who is less familiar with these issues, could lead to disaster.

CONCRETE TESTING LABORATORIES LICENSED TO OPERATE IN THE COMMONWEALTH
(As of December 17, 1992)

Allied Testing Labs, Inc. 115 St. George Rd. Springfield, MA	The Haller Testing Labs of MA 11A Walkup Drive Westborough, MA	Miller Engineering & Testing, Inc. 100 Sheffield Rd. Manchester, NH	Tibbetts Engineering Corp. 716 County St. Taunton, MA
American Engineering & Testing 14 Roc Sam Park Rd. Braintree, MA	Holmes & Geisser 120 Pershing St. E. Providence, RI	PSI-CWB Assoc. Division 427 Turnpike St. Canton, MA	Trow-Protze Consulting Engineering 70 Jaconnet St. Newton Highlands, MA
Boston Testing Inc. 1831 Broadway Saugus, MA	R. J. Kenney Assoc., Inc. 72 Washington St. Plainville, MA	PSI, Inc. 12 Ashmont Ave. Worcester, MA	UTS of Mass. Inc. 5 Richardson Lane Stoneham, MA
Briggs Assoc., Inc. 400 Hingham St. Rockland, MA	MBTA Mtls. Testing Lab. 170 Freeport St. Dorchester, MA	Rosenfeld Concrete Corp., Testing Lab. 75 Plain St. Hopedale, MA	Yankee Engineering & Testing, Inc. 10 Mason St. Worcester, MA
Briggs Assoc., Inc. Deer Island Boston, MA	MDC Mtls. Field Lab. 148 Newton St. Waltham, MA	Soil & Material Testing Inc. 57 S. Main St. Castleton, NY	
CA/T Construction Materials Testing Laboratory Harding Building, 335 "B" Street Extension Boston, MA	Massport Auth. Mtls. Lab. 239 Prescott St. E. Boston, MA	The Thompson & Lichtner Co., Inc. 11 First St. Cambridge, MA	

NOTE: Enforcement of regulations relating to Concrete Testing Laboratories licensed in the Commonwealth:

1.) Only the laboratories, at the specific addresses, listed above, are currently considered certified in Massachusetts. Please pay particular attention, not only to the laboratory name, but also, to the laboratory address!

2.) Concrete Testing Laboratories licensed within the Commonwealth are governed by the provisions of 780-CMR-1, entitled: *CONCRETE TESTING LABORATORIES LICENSING RULES AND REGULATIONS*. These regulations are found at the back of the Fifth Edition of the State Building Code. Personnel conducting tests of concrete in these labs must possess a valid Class "A" Field Concrete Technicians License, and are bound by the provisions 780-CMR-2, entitled: *CONCRETE TESTING PERSONNEL LICENSING RULES AND REGULATIONS*, also found at the back of the code. Further to these regulations, Section 127 (Controlled Construction) requires licensing of laboratory facilities and personnel. Therefore, when dealing with projects subject to the provisions of Controlled Construction, the Building Official has the right to request the Class "A" license numbers and license expiration dates of all those involved in concrete testing procedures.

CONCRETE LABS & TECHNICIANS - CONTINUED

3.) Concrete test cylinders made in the field are typically **6" x 12" cylinders** (6" diameter mold by 12" high). Often, Concrete Testing Laboratories will make 4" x 8" test cylinders. These cylinders are **only** allowed when **explicitly specified in the project specifications**. Otherwise, they are not allowed. If the Building Official encounters cylinder sizes different from the required 6" x 12" size, the official should question the testing procedure. If it is determined that improper test cylinders are being made, a citation should be issued. Additionally, the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards should be notified so that appropriate action can be taken against the license holder and/or the licensed laboratory.

4.) As a final note, it is important to realize that a non-certified laboratory may be involved in the testing of concrete if such laboratory testing is subcontracted to a licensed concrete testing laboratory. However, all concrete test cylinders made in the field must be made by qualified technicians, possessing a valid Class "A" Concrete Technicians License.

LIMITED APPROVAL OF *BLAZEGUARD*

At it's December 15, 1992 monthly meeting, the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) unanimously voted to grant **limited** approval of Weyerhauser Company, Fire Protective Products Division's *BLAZEGUARD* (marketed by Citadel Architectural Products, Inc. of Tacoma, Washington).

BLAZEGUARD is a composite panel consisting of a fiberglass reinforced inorganic calcium silicate facing, laminated to wood structural panels of plywood or oriented strand board or similar material. Since the calcium silicate sheet is glued to the wood panel, the APA span rating for the panel is not affected.

The Board's vote was to allow the use of *BLAZEGUARD* in the manner dictated by BOCA's Evaluation Services Research Report No. 90-73. However, because the current State Building Code is based on the 1987 version of the BOCA Code, and the research analysis was performed with respect to the 1990 BOCA Code, there are differences in some of the section numbers referenced in the report. Where the research report refers to Sections 906.5 and 907.6.2 of the BOCA Code, the comparable sections of the Fifth Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code are Sections 906.6 and 908.5.2, respectively. Applicable portions of the research report (BOCA # 90-73) are presented below. Massachusetts Section numbers substituted this excerpt.

EXCERPTS FROM BOCA RESEARCH REPORT (with Massachusetts Code Section Numbers Substituted)

"BLAZEGUARD IS PERMITTED TO BE USED AS ROOF SHEATHING OR WALL SHEATHING FOR BUILDINGS OF TYPE 3, 4 AND 5 CONSTRUCTION. BLAZEGUARD IN 3/8" OR GREATER NOMINAL THICKNESS (WITH CDX PLYWOOD ONLY) IS ABLE TO BE UTILIZED AS A ROOF SHEATHING FOR A DISTANCE OF FOUR FEET (MINIMUM) ON BOTH SIDES OF A FIRE WALL, OR FOUR FEET (MINIMUM) FROM AN EXTERIOR WALL, WHEN IT IS DESIRABLE TO TERMINATE AN EXTERIOR WALL OR A FIRE WALL AT THE UNDERSIDE OF A ROOF DECK. BLAZEGUARD IS AN ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE TO COMPLY WITH SECTIONS 906.6 AND 908.5.2 (MASS. CODE SECTION NO.'S CITED)...".

In summary, such approval allows the use of *BLAZEGUARD* primarily as a substitute for "Fire Retardant Treated" (FRT) wood, but only in limited applications. In particular, the approval would allow the use of *BLAZEGUARD* as a substitute for FRT roof sheathing on either side of a fire wall or fire separation wall, thus providing the construction industry a substitute for FRT in Types 3, 4 and 5 construction. If possible, it would be wise to obtain a copy of the referenced BOCA report to examine further details of the product.

RECENT STATE BUILDING CODE APPEALS BOARD DECISIONS

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

Appeal Docket #91-070

The Appellant testified that he represented the owner of an office building located in the Western part of the state. Within the lobby of this structure lies a small fast-food (salad bar style) restaurant. The restaurant operates from approximately 7:00 am until 8:00 pm. However, the remainder of the building, essentially, is in operation at all times. During the lunch and dinner hour rush, the restaurant is quite busy. Often times patrons spill out into the surrounding lobby areas. In an effort to accommodate these patrons more comfortably, the Appellant continued, the architect selected sliding entry doors, as opposed to swing doors, that could be secured in an open position. Sliding doors are a viable option for this arrangement. However, to be considered part of a means of egress, horizontal sliding doors must comply with all criteria set forth under Section 613.4 of the Fourth Edition of the Building Code (813.4 of the Fifth). The selected doors met all provisions under this section except the final point that requires the door assembly power supply to be electrically supervised at a constantly attended location. Therefore, the local building official has cited a violation of Section 613.4 (8) of the Fourth Edition of the Code. Because of the constant activity in the area, he Appellant argued, that electrically operated and supervised doors would actually impede safe egress from the space rather than enhance it. Consequently, the Appellant requested a variance from the cited section.

The Local Building Official was unable to attend the hearing, but did present written evidence of the violation.

Following testimony, the Board found that the Local Building Official had correctly interpreted the provisions of the building code with respect to this matter. The Board, however, concurred with the Appellant's contention that the safety of the patrons would be better served if the sliding doors were not electrically supervised. Thus, the Board unanimously voted to grant the variance to the provisions of Section 613.4 of the Fourth Edition of the State Building Code, provided the sliding doors remain in the open position at all times, and that the variance relates only to the use described in this decision. If, at time in the future, the space were to change Use Group Classification, the matter would need to be re-examined by the Board to determine if the new arrangement warranted alternative methods of compliance.

END OF THE YEAR

Again, another year has come to an end. As each year passes, and we all get a little older, it sometimes becomes difficulty to remember what happened in which year. Was it last year that both the Pats and the Sox were at their best? No, that was 1986/87. This was the year that each took up residency in that basement apartment; you know, the one without a view [of the future].

Although, the country continued to see some difficult times in 1992, all indicators point to a brighter 1993. We hope that each of you enjoyed the holiday season, and we wish all a very happy and healthy new year.

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