



**OFFICE OF STATE
FIRE MARSHAL**
NC DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE

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Introduction

Welcome to the March 2026 OSFM Engineering Newsletter. This Newsletter is meant to update our readers on the most recent Building Code Council meeting results, but there have been no changes since our December 2025 newsletter in regard to the seating of a Building Code Council. After this occurs, we anticipate regularly scheduled meetings to resume.

However, we would like to update our readers on other items pertinent to building code, as construction and code enforcement is ongoing under the 2018 NC Building Code.

Current Topics

2024 North Carolina State Building Code – Legislative Update

The following is a link to our website that addresses the steps required before the 2024 NC Building Code will become mandatorily effective. It is still a moving date, and we will update this as it changes, but as of this writing this letter is still current.

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/letter-re-2024-state-building-code-effective-date>

A quick update on the A2L refrigerant transition

Installation cutoff date summary

As discussed in the prior newsletter, December 2025, there has been legislative discussions to eliminate the installation date mandate, but this is still in limbo with the Technology Transitions Reconsideration, but the current position of the EPA for enforcing the installation cut off date is as shown in Figure 1. For further background on this refer to the December 2025 Engineering Newsletter.

<https://www.epa.gov/climate-hfcs-reduction/regulatory-actions-technology-transitions>

FIGURE 1: SNIP OF EPA ENFORCEMENT STATEMENT

Enforcement Statement

EPA is aware of the circumstances and equities created by the Agency's decision to reconsider the 2023 Technology Transitions Rule through the rulemaking process. While EPA intends to extend the compliance dates through this reconsideration, known as the "TT Rule Reconsideration," the current deadlines remain effective until modified through this rulemaking. Enforcement of the current deadlines subject to the TT Rule Reconsideration is a low enforcement priority for the Agency and EPA intends to focus its resources on compliance with the new compliance dates that will be established by this rulemaking. However, EPA may take any action necessary to protect human health and the environment. Consistent with the March 12, 2025, memo entitled "Implementing National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives Consistently with Executive Orders and Agency Priorities," concurrence from the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) or his/her delegee shall be sought before any enforcement or compliance assurance actions regarding the requirements of this rule under reconsideration are taken. This memo can be found on [EPA's Enforcement Home Page](#).

Recurring Articles

Building Code Council – Quarterly Meetings (2026)

There were no Building Code Council meetings held to date in 2026.

Code Officials Qualification Board

Regularly scheduled meetings, past and future, are located at the following location:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/licensing-cert/code-officials-qualification-board-coqb/coqb-meeting-dates>

Department Notes

Engineering Department

As of December 2025, here is the staff list and respective responsibilities for the NC Building Code:

- Hany Senada: **Building** Code (non-accessibility)
919-647-0071 hany.senada@ncdoi.gov
- Charlie Johnson: **Fire** Code (includes Chapter 9 of the NCBC)
919-647-0094 charlie.johnson@ncdoi.gov
- Robert L Key: **Residential** Code:
919-647-0009 robert.key@ncdoi.gov
- Pam Schooler: **Existing Building** Code 919-647-0011: pam.schooler@ncdoi.gov
- Tara Barthelmess: **Accessibility**
919-647-0014 tara.barthelmess@ncdoi.gov
- C. Maggie Bowers: **Plumbing** Code
919-647-0062 maggie.bowers@ncdoi.gov
- Kate Whalen: **Mechanical** and **Fuel Gas** Code
919-647-0033 kathryn.whalen@ncdoi.gov
- Dan Dittman: **Energy** Code
919-647-0012 dan.dittman@ncdoi.gov

State Electrical Division Contacts

- Joe Starling: State **Electrical** Engineer
919-397-6159 joseph.starling@ncdoi.gov
- Ben Wesley: Chief Electrical Code Consultant & State Electrical Inspector
919-532-4175 ben.wesley@ncdoi.gov

In addition, the following topics will be addressed by:

- **Division Chief-Codes & Inspections: David Rittlinger** - contact for Statutes, Appeals, NCBC and NCRCC Council items, including meeting minutes and agenda, Rules Review Commission, Administrative Code

- 919-647-0008 david.rittlinger@ncdoi.gov
- **Chief Code Consultant, Pak Yip:** Formal interpretations
919-647-0007 pak.yip@ncdoi.gov
- **Sam Whittington:** Investigator, Complaints
919-647-0028 sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov
 - **Jeff Griffin:** Investigator,
Complaints 919-647-0102
jeff.griffin@ncdoi.gov
 - **Bonnie Bentley:** Investigator,
Complaints 919-647-0105
bonnie.bentley@ncdoi.gov

New Code Interpretations, Guidance Papers, and Appeals Posted

Since the prior full newsletter (Dec 2025), the following web interpretations, guidance papers, and appeals have been posted. Since we are 7+ years into the present code cycle, there have not been many web interpretations required as of late. However, there have been six formal interpretations and several other web interpretations made and posted since the prior full newsletter that are updates to already posted web interpretations.

Formal Interpretations

2026-0223 Durham City-County 2018 NCRC G2435 Vented Gas Fireplace Heaters
 2026-0130 Kass Wilson Architects 2018 NCRC Section R202 Definitions – Townhouses versus Three- and Four-family Dwellings
 2026-0105 ISG 2018 NCBC Section 506 Frontage Increase
 2026-0105 Mattamy Homes 2018 NCRC Section R302.2 Townhouse
 2025-1205 NCHBA 2018 NCACP Section 107 Inspections
 2025-1003 NCHBA 2018 NCFC B103.3 Areas without water supply systems.

Guidance Papers

No additional since prior newsletter

Administrative

106.1 - Permit Required for Closed Crawl Space – **updated Dec of 2025**

Energy

C303.1.4 Insulation product rating

Reminders and other Resources

Although the 2026NCBIA/NCMIA winter code seminars have concluded, there are still other opportunities, please refer to the NCOSFM website for more information. In particular, the 97th annual North Carolina Electrical Institute seminar is taking place April 14 – 15, 2026. Refer to www.ncbeec.org/institute for details.

The most up-to-date training schedule for all building codes are available at the following link:

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/licensing-cert/code-officials-qualification-board-coqb/coqb-code-education>

Once the web page is accessed, click the “**FIND A CLASS**” button to refine your search. Please check out the available on-line courses, and carefully read the locations and means of course offering. It is suggested that you contact the organization or individual providing the training to verify the locations and means of training before traveling to any given site or registering

for a class. As always, please consider the use of Standard Courses for fulfilling Con-Ed requirements, as they are an underutilized tool for that purpose.

Other websites of Inspector Organizations that offer training

<http://www.ncbia.org/> (Building Inspectors Association)

<http://ncpia.us/> (Plumbing Inspectors Association)

<https://www.nc-mia.com/> (Mechanical Inspectors)

<http://www.ncfma.com/> (Fire Marshals association)

www.ncbeec.org (NC State Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors)

<https://nceia.com/> (Electrical Inspectors, note the new website address)

End of Newsletter