



Safety to Life Through Code Enforcement

COEO

North Carolina Council of Code Officials

From NCDOI Deputy Commissioner Carl Martin

Well, "March Madness" is over, and what did we learn? Did the best team always win? What contributed to each team's winning or losing? One thing is for certain, although an individual may have made a great or bad last-minute play, it was not any one person that won or lost a

game. Some teams had a strong defense, others had a strong offense, and some had both. But, what made the difference in winning and losing was individual skill, teamwork, communication, a game plan, and the ability to adapt to a new game plan as the game progressed. The good coach always assesses a game as it progresses and makes appropriate adjustments. Usually, adjustments are made at halftime to improve their chances of success. Jim Valvano, Dean Smith, and Mike Krzyzewski (Sorry Duke fans. I had to look up the spelling on the web), to name a few, were masters at this. As we go into "spring construction madness" what is going to make the season successful or unsuccessful? Well, it is the team. Who is the team? Let's take a look.

The owner/client has the responsibility of establishing the needs of the building (size, occupancy, budget, etc.), relaying those needs to the designer, establishing the budget, and establishing a schedule.

The designer has the responsibility of converting the client's needs to a building that is structurally sound and meets the minimum requirements of the NC Building Codes. The designer is then responsible for producing documents that clearly convey those needs and code requirements to the builder and the code enforcement official.

The builder has the responsibility of constructing to the owner's needs, the designer's documents, maintaining a profit margin that allows his

business to survive, and constructing to the NC Building Codes.

The supplier has the responsibility of providing an approved product to the builder that complies with the designer's specifications in a time frame that matches with the owner's schedule.

The code enforcement official has the responsibility of verifying that the construction meets or exceeds the requirements of the NC Building Codes for the purpose of protecting the safety, health, and welfare of the citizens of NC.

All these team members need to communicate with all the other members of the team in order to have the most successful outcome. Owner's, for instance, may need to explain to the team the reason behind their requirements so that an acceptable variance from that requirement can be made either by the designer or the builder. The designer may need to explain some details of a project to the team so that the intent is known, and any issues can be resolved before the detail is actually constructed and thus saving the cost of rework. The builder may need to discuss proposed cost saving changes with the team before implementing them for that same reason. The code official needs to convey to the team, up front, any specific expectations that the jurisdiction has that may be specific to the jurisdiction such as optional sheathing inspections.

Because construction team membership is not controlled by any one entity, communication becomes even more important. When in doubt, communicate. I prefer email because I typically need a record of what was determined, but the fastest is typically a phone message. In person usually resolves larger issues the quickest. In short: Use whatever works best for the situation and the team. Always remain focused on the goal, successful construction of the building, and not on distractions such as conflicts in personalities or past performance.

As always, I appreciate your work and offer the assistance of our staff whenever needed. Together we are successful. Good luck with the "spring construction madness".



News from the NC Building Inspectors Association

The NCBIA kicked off 2022 with three Winter Code Seminars. One was held in Greenville, NC in January, one in Aberdeen, NC in February and one in Hickory, NC in March. Again, this year the WCS in-person attendance continued to increase at each venue. It's great to see fellow inspectors in person again. All total, approximately 700-800 inspectors received their con-ed for the year, either in person or virtually.

The BIA Education Team purchased new audio and video equipment this past year in continuing to upgrade the audio/visual quality to better serve the customers across the State.

The Legislation Committee continues to track the many bills floating around Raleigh that has a direct effect on the building inspections department as well as the building safety industry. All of these bills are listed on the ncbia.org website.

The NCBIA encourages all jurisdictions to become BIA members. This allows the BIA the ability to increase communications and promote consistency across the State.

The NCBIA is always looking for folks willing to serve on any of



the committees. If you have any interest in serving on a committee, visit ncbia.org and fill out the application and submit it to the Membership Committee.

The COCO Quadrennial conference is scheduled for August. Further information and registration is now open through CVENT, located on the BIA website. Also, look soon for the 2022 General Contractors and CEO's 1-day CE schedule and registration on the website.

Robby Wilkinson - NCBIA President



News from the NC Fire Marshal's Association

Several continuing education opportunities will be offered in May and June of 2022 for fire code inspectors. Each of these classes require pre-registration and this can be accomplished by visiting the NCFMA website (www.ncfma.com) for the locations that would be most convenient for the student. The classes will be delivered by Mr. Joseph Starling, OSFM, on Electricity and the Fire Inspector, and by Mr. Jeff Vernon, Chief Building Inspector in Mecklenburg County, on Appendix B of the Building/Fire Codes, and the impacts on fire inspectors. A Plans Review Class will be offered by Mr. Scott Adams, with the International Code Council, on June 15th.

Each of these classes will be offered virtually as well. Continuing education hours will be awarded for both seated students, and those that attend virtually. The only exception is the ICC Plans Review Class in Concord on June 15th, as continuing education credit hours are only able to be credited to those that are seated, however, the information covered in the Plans Review class will enhance the virtual student's skill set for those that choose to attend in this manner.

The registration for the classes has a fee that will be assessed, which supplements our college scholarship funds that are awarded to deserving high school students that aspire for formal education for the NCFMA.

NCFMA Spring Con-Ed - Electrical and Appendix B Classes

- May 10th	Charlotte FD 500 Dalton Ave. Charlotte, NC 28206	Colin Triming	704.562.5286
- May 11th	Conover FD 1776 Village Sq. Dr., NW Conover, NC 28613	Jackie Lail	828.320.5337 828.695.2871
- May 18th	WF Renaissance Centre 405 S. Brooks St. Wake Forest, NC 27587	Eric Wiseman	919.426.7960
- May 25th	Winterville FREMS 2593 Railroad St. Winterville, NC 28590	Tony Smart	252.702.3730

Class Instructors: 00900-1200 Electricity and the Inspector - **Joe Starling**
1300-1600 Appendix B Review - **Jeff Vernon**

ICC Plans Review Class

- June 15th	Concord Fire Dept. Sta. 9 1020 Ivey Cline Rd. Concord, NC 28027	Tony Smart Adam Ryerson	252.702.3730 704.239.0757
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Class Instructor: 0830-1630 - **Scott Adams**



News from the Mechanical Insulators Association

**From: Troy Allgood,
NCMIA President**

Well, it certainly has been a long few years through this Covid mess. And, we will more than likely be dealing with the effects for several years to come, from staffing shortages, equipment shortages, and material shortages along with rising fuel prices and soaring inflation. It is forcing many to think outside of the box for ways to make it through these trying times. A few ways being looked at are materials like R-value on flex with House Bill 243.

On March 18, 2022, the State Board of Examiners of Plumbing, Heating & Fire Sprinkler Contractors issued a letter addressed to all NC Licensed HVAC Contractors announcing that the NC General Assembly advanced House Bill 243 to Governor Roy Cooper, who signed this legislation on March 17th. This new law temporarily changes the Commercial and Residential insulation R-value for ducts installed in ventilated and non-ventilated unconditioned spaces (crawlspaces and attics). This law will allow for reduced duct insulations values for a period of two years. This law is now in effect.

Based on this legislation, contractors can install ducts in Residential ventilated and non-ventilated unconditioned spaces (crawlspaces and attics) with a minimum of R-4.2 insulation. Any changes in duct insulation values are required to be included in your load calculation. Please be aware that if you install any duct work under R-6 in an attic space, you will be increasing the potential of condensation formation on the ducts and the potential for mold growth in the attic and the home. The actual language for this legislation can be viewed at the following: <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookUp/2021/h243>

Once you click on the link, you will need to click on "SL 2022-6" in the tool bar on the left side of the web page. The duct work language is on pages 46-47.

Unlisted and Labeled Flex

Another issue that has risen up lately is the use of unlisted and labeled flex. Below is the reply from David Rittlinger, from the NC Department of Insurance - Office of State Fire Marshal, about the use of unlisted flex.

Question: Are flexible ducts not listed and labeled in accordance with UL-181 permitted for use in North Carolina?

Answer: Yes, under the following conditions: A NC registered engineer may provide a letter of judgment to the local code official indicating that a specific flexible air duct product complies with or exceeds all the requirements of the 2005 edition or later of UL-181. **This can be done using the "alternate materials" method indicated below.** By doing so, the engineer issuing the letter certifies that a specific product complies with or exceeds all the requirements of UL-181. It would be the full responsibility of the engineer issuing the letter to determine if the test data provided is valid. The letter of judgment from the engineer shall: contain his or her signature and seal; indicate his or her full responsibility for the safety of the product and its use as approved by him or her; and, indicate its equality to UL-181 and indicate the edition of UL-181 used for the evaluation. The 2018 NC Mechanical Code (NCMC), Section 105 Approval and the 2018 NC Administrative Code and Policies (NCAC), Section 105 Alternate Material, Design or Methods, lists the required steps for review of proposed alternative materials. For an alternative material to be approved, sufficient supporting data shall be provided that demonstrates the intent of the code for performance, health, life and fire safety is met. If a proposed flexible air duct product complies with or exceeds all UL-181 requirements, it can be considered for approval under the 2018 NC Mechanical Code, Section 105 Approval with a letter of judgment from a NC registered engineer.



News from the Plumbing Insulators Association

2022 NCPIA WORKSHOPS

The North Carolina Plumbing Insulators Association will hold two more scheduled workshops to address the RCI Changeout and Inspecting Water Heaters-Plumbing.

Mark Burns and Jimmy Lawson are the instructors for these workshops that will provide six hours of continuing education credit for

the North Carolina Plumbing Code Inspector certificate as required by the North Carolina Code Officials Qualification Board.

Smithfield - September 15, 2022
Burlington - October 19, 2022

See the NCPIA website for more information: <https://www.ncpia.us>

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