MECKLENBURG COUNTY CodeEnforcement

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MEMO: Transition of New Requirements in Special Inspections

Date: March 4th, 2019

Re: 1705.17 Fire Resistance Penetrations and Joints

The following information is being distributed to Code Enforcement staff, Special Inspections firms (SIF), Designated Special Inspectors (DSI), and Registered Design Professionals in Responsible Charge (RDPIRC).

The 2018 North Carolina State Building Code (NCSBC), contains a new requirement for Special Inspections of fire resistance penetrations and joints which may impact your project.

The new section, 1705.17, directly relates to certain project types, requiring additional Special Inspection services for high rise buildings and buildings that have a risk category III or IV classification as referenced in section 1604.5. The RDPIRC shall identify when additional Special Inspection services are necessary during the design and plan submittal phase for code compliance.

To help capture these requirements in plan review and our existing Meck-SI process, we are requesting the RDPIRC identify additional required Special Inspections on the current (2012) version of the Schedule of Special Inspections document.

To illustrate the new requirement on construction plans, please use the **IT-19** box labeled Special Cases. You can list the specific code section 1705.17 and designate Fire Penetrations and Joints.

☐	IT-1	Verification of Soils	☐	IT-11	Structural Masonry
☐	IT-2	Excavation and Fill	☐	IT-12	Welding
☐	IT-3	Pilings and Drilled Piers	☐	IT-13	High- Strength Bolting & Steel Frame Inspections
☐	IT-4	Modular Retaining Walls	☐	IT-14	Spray Fire-Resistant Materials
☐	IT-5	Reinforced Concrete	☐	IT-15	Exterior Insulation & finish System (EIFS)
☐	IT-6	Post Tension Slab on Ground & Post Tension Concrete	☐	IT-16	Seismic Resistance
☐	IT-7	Precast Concrete Erection	☐	IT-17	Smoke Control
☐	IT-8	Prestressed Concrete	☐	IT-18	Wood
☐	IT-9	Inspection of Precast Concrete Fabricators	☐	IT-19	Special Cases
☐	IT-10	Inspection of Structural Steel Fabricators			

During Preliminary Review and Plan Review, the Code Enforcement Official/Plans Examiner will help verify the criteria, the risk category classification, and standards to be applied within the process for either penetrations and/or joints, if required for your project.

Once the permit is issued, an inspection request will be automatically generated for a pre-construction meeting with our Building Official. This provides an opportunity for the RDPIRC, Contractors and "Authorizing Authority" (AA) Inspector to understand the options being considered, including the necessary paperwork that must be uploaded to obtain approval and receive Certificate of Occupancy issuance for the project. The pre-construction meeting should be scheduled by the contractor at least **5 days** in advance of the start of permitted work (see the meck-si.com website for details). Any other building inspection cannot be requested until the pre-construction meeting has taken place and an approval has been granted to release the project. All permits having Special Inspections will be included in the pre-construction meeting review.

The login to Meck-SI is (www.meck-si.com) for approved Special Inspections firms and/or Designated Special Inspectors of these type projects have yet to be installed. The certification process will be verified in the field. One of the certifications being recognized at this time is through Intertek Fire Stop Council (IFC) (www.intertek.com). Additional qualifications are located in the standards set forth for each inspection type, listed as a "contract inspector".

As we move forward in this transition of education and process changes, we will be upgrading current Meck-SI technology. The upgrade will include refining forms and language for the new 2018 North Carolina Codes changes.

If you have any questions about the process or need additional assistance, please contact:

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