Chapter 1 Administration

1) (Q) The owner of a coin operated Ice House is using an approved water tap from the utility. The weekly discharge from the Ice House is about a gallon of water that is drained from the building into a gravel lined trench. Several locations in Charlotte as well as 10 more around the state including the City of Raleigh have allowed the installation without a sanitary sewer connection to drain the Ice House waste. The unit is washed down weekly using a hose bib inside the building and a bio-degradable cleaner is used for the wash down. The owner has ask the Plumbing Code Administrator to waive the sanitary sewer connection requirement. The utility tap fees are $6000.00. Should the CA require the Sanitary Sewer connection? Can the owner use an existing water service on an adjacent property if both properties are owned by the same person? Can the owner run a waste line into the adjacent property septic tank?

(A) It depends on specific site conditions. Per the utility the owner has permission to use the water service on the adjacent property. Code Enforcement will allow the owner to tie into the existing water service if the owner has a deeded easement for the water service from the owner of the adjacent property. Can the sanitary sewer be connected to an existing septic tank on the adjacent property? The utility said no problem. The Code Official would put a hold for approval on the permit pending Wastewater Management Department of Mecklenburg County approval of an additional sewer connection tied to the Septic Tank. Even if the Septic Tank is not allowed as a waste receptor for the Ice House the Code Official will not require a Sanitary Sewer connection for the Ice House wash down waste water.
2) (Q) The City of Charlotte will be installing a water line in my yard soon because my existing well has been condemned by Mecklenburg County Wastewater Management. Due to the fact that I have irrigation and drain lines that I cannot re-locate I would like to have a directional control bore done (at the city’s cost) with hard- pipe plastic installed at around 2 feet deep and 80 feet long. The water line will be pulled through the bore by a license’s plumber in order keep the damage to my yard to a minimum. Can directional boring be approved by the Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement Department?

(A) Directional boring may be approved by the plumbing official on a case by case basis per 105.2 of the NC 2012 Plumbing Code. Contact the Plumbing Code Administrator for approval. Directional boring is usually allowed in unusual situations like boring under existing driveways, streets, parking lots or easements. Generally the Plumbing Official would not allow directional boring strictly for aesthetics (landscape issues) 105.2 NCPC

Chapter 2 Definitions

1) (Q) What is the definition of a branch interval?

(A) BRANCH INTERVAL. A distance along a soil or waste stack corresponding, in general, to a story height, but not less than 8 feet (2438mm) within which the horizontal branches from one floor or story of a structure are connected to the stack. NCPC 2012 Definition Chapter 9 information is critical per the definition above for AAV’s.

917.3.1 Location of branch. The horizontal branch drain shall connect to the drainage stack or building drain a maximum of four branch intervals from the top of the stack.

917.3.2 Relief vent. If the horizontal branch is located more than four branch intervals from the top of the stack, the horizontal branch shall be provided with a relief vent that shall connect to a vent stack or stack vent, or extend outdoors to the open air. The relief vent shall connect to the horizontal branch drain between the stack, the building drain and the most downstream fixture drain connected to the horizontal branch drain. The relief vent shall be sized in accordance with Section 916.2 and installed in accordance with Section 905. The relief vent shall be permitted to serve as the vent for other fixtures.

2) (Q) Is a relief vent required for an AAV in a multistory building?
Land Use and Environmental Service Agency  
(Code Enforcement)  
NC Plumbing Code  

1st Quarter 2013 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar)  
2nd Quarter 2013 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)  
3rd Quarter 2013 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep)  
4th Quarter 2013 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)  

(A) Yes. 917.3.2 NCPC 2012 (See question 1 information above.)  

Chapter 3 General Regulations  

1) (Q) Would a Mecklenburg County plumbing inspector pass an expansion tank being screwed directly into the FIP fitting horizontally without the tank being supported in any other way?  

(A) This installation is approved simply due to the fact that very little weight from the expansion tank will affect this brass connection as close as it is to the riser. If the manufacturer denotes something in their installation instructions that would not allow the tank to be installed in the manner stated above the installer would have to go by the manufacturer’s instructions. 301.2 NCPC 2012  

2) (Q) The health department inspector reported to us that a vendor has plumbed hot and cold permanent water lines but have waste tanks under the counters that have to be physically emptied in an otherwise portable food establishment. 1) Is there any permit that might have been pulled about 2-2.5 years ago for these sinks? 2) I believe that this violates Code Enforcement plumbing rules since they have continuous water intake from the municipal water supply. Can you please get back to me regarding this issue? Additionally, would Code Enforcement allow a hand sink in a permanent setting to go in with a mobile cabinet if it was supplied via a water tank in the cabinet for incoming water and one for waste water?  

(A) Code Enforcement has allowed a mall vendor to use this arrangement for the waste from a mobile Juice cart in a large enclosed mall. (The designer had to show on the drawings where the waste would be dumped). Code Enforcement would not allow a permanent operation, which you have described, to operate without permanent connections for both water and waste. The installation shall meet the NC Building Codes. 301.3, 301.4 NCPC 2012  

3) (Q) It is my understanding that Mecklenburg County will not allow a hydraulic elevator to have a floor drain the goes to the sanitary sewer without an oil water separator. Is that correct?  

(A) No. We will allow the waste to go to the sanitary sewer without going through a grease interceptor. When the waste goes to storm it shall waste either indirectly or through an oil minder. 301.6, 1003.4 NCPC
4) (Q) The floor drain in the elevator machinery room of a 10 story building has been installed without a means to prime the trap. The contractor proposes installing a hose bib in the machinery room to prime the trap. Is this an acceptable means of priming the trap?

(A) Plumbing systems shall not be installed in elevator machinery rooms.
Ref: 301.6 NCPC, 3006.6 NCSBC 2012

5) (Q) Does the new 2012 code still have the sway bracing requirements or have they approved some other engineered systems?

(A) Sway Bracing is still required. See requirements below:
(1) Rigid support sway bracing shall be provided at all changes of direction greater than 45 degrees for pipe sizes 4 inches and larger. An example would be a 4” stack coming down and intersecting a building drain with a combination.
(2) Anchorage shall be provided to restrain drainage piping from axial movement.
(3) For plastic pipe sizes greater than 6 inches (152 mm), and other pipe sizes greater than 4 inches (102 mm), restraints shall be provided for drain pipes at all changes in direction and at all changes in diameter greater than two pipe sizes. Braces, blocks, rodding, backfill and other methods specified as suitable by the coupling manufacturer shall be utilized.
An example of the above could be the same example, EG, a 3” waste stack coming down to a 4” building drain, this meets the two pipe size criteria.
Ref: 308.6, 308.7, and 308.7.1 NCPC 2012

Chapter 4 Fixtures, Faucets & Fittings.

1) (Q) The 10,000sf Warehouse that Borax Corp. is planning to build is for the purpose of receiving, storing and distributing theater sound system components. The building will not have employees in it for any significant length of time. Typically, shipments are received once or twice a week. Our staff helps the delivery driver unload the shipment and they sort the components for subsequent delivery to our clients' theater locations. Project specific shipments are assembled and loaded into our truck for shipment once or twice a week. Usually there are only two of our people (1 full time and 1 part time) in the building for no more than 2 hours total a day with some days having no one in the building.
The company's offices are located in the adjacent, existing building about 40 feet from
this new warehouse. The employee toilet is located in the office building. We would like to request exemption from providing toilets in this Warehouse Building (Storage Occupancy) as our limited time in the building and small staff (1 full time, 1 part time) do not warrant additional toilets beyond the existing one in the company office. Would the code allow the storage building to be exempt for requiring fixtures in the building?

(A) See 1 through 3 below.
1. The warehouse does not meet the code criteria for unheated storage, periodic use.(Table 403.1, # 8, footnote n)
2. Periodic use per DOI and our web site interpretation is twice a month. There was no mention of heated or unheated in your email.
3. Any time you have employees using the building either full or part time you need facilities in the building. (Table 403.1, #8 [see sections 403.2 and 403.4]) 403.4 “facilities shall be from within the employees work area.” (See code references in answers 1 through 3 above)

2) (Q) In the example in question number one above if minimum facilities are required to be installed in the building can a unisex bathroom take care of the minimum facilities required? Would a drinking fountain be required?

(A) Yes. Table 403.1 North Carolina Plumbing Code references section 403.2 and 403.4, 403.2 Exception 2 allows a unisex bathroom when the occupant count is 25 people or less. Table 1004.1.1 under Warehouse has a gross floor area of 500 per occupant, therefore a 10,000 square feet divided by 500 sq. ft. per person is 20 occupants, therefore a unisex bathroom would be allowed by code. Storage facilities are not required to have drinking fountains

3) (Q) I am trying to get a permit for a 5,000 square foot warehouse to use as incidental storage for an office supply company out of Baltimore Maryland. The CTAC representative will not allow me to get a permit until I get permission from the Plumbing CA so I will not have to install a bathroom. This is a new stand-alone building that currently has no power or plumbing facilities. I need power to put in an alarm system so the product will be protected from theft. Again this will be unheated storage for incidental use. Under what conditions could the CA grant the owner permission to get a permit and occupy the building?

(A) This building will be classified as a storage occupancy by the Building Code. It is highly unusual for a standalone building not to have an electrical service or minimum facilities.
An unheated storage facility per table 403.1 footnote “n” to No. 8, 2012 NC Plumbing Code, will be required to meet the provisions in the bullets below. The information below shall be spelled out in a notarized letter to the Plumbing Code Official of Mecklenburg County Code Enforcement on your company letterhead signed by the owner of the company. It shall contain the following information and or statements:

- Legal address of the building and parcel number.
- Statement: “This building shall at all times remain unheated.”
- Statement: “Power provided to the building shall be used for general lighting and alarm systems only.”
- Statement: “The building shall be used as incidental storage. Incidental storage means the building will be accessed no more than twice a month.”
- Statement: “The owner shall not use this building as a satellite office or a sales office nor bring the public to the facility to purchase or view products.”
- Statement: “The owner understands that if an inspector finds the building has heat or is being used for anything other than incidental storage that the Electrical Code official for Mecklenburg County, by virtue of the owners notarized signature on this letter, may immediately, and without prior notice, pull the power to the building. Said power to remain off until such time as the owner meets current code for minimum facilities including handicap accessibility.”

Please submit the notarized letter (hard copy) to the Plumbing Official at the address listed below. (Address included in the email to owner)

4) (Q) The owner agreed to the provisions of the letter, however, he wanted unrestricted access to the building for 90 days so he could move in material from his various warehouses. Should the CA allow unlimited access to the warehouse?

(A) The CA could not grant unrestricted access. The building should have permanent Facilities for 24 hour access. Unlimited access is not incidental. Incidental per DOI is twice a month. Table 403.1, #8, footnote n, 2012 NCPC

5) (Q) An interpretation from the 2008 Q&A for minimum facilities in a multi-story office buildings has not changed under the 2012 NCPC. For new construction, except for medical office buildings, multi-story office buildings require all minimum facilities to be located either in the core or in each tenant space. How should we review minimum facilities in an existing multi-story office building (non-medical) that has all the minimum facilities located in the core bathrooms for tenant spaces that change the occupancy or use of the tenant space such that footnote J to table 403.1 is in effect. Foot note J: “When the rearrangement of an area or space increases the occupant content, the plumbing facilities shall be increased in accordance with this code.”
(A) The previous CA and the current CA have the same interpretation on medical office buildings. The medical office building minimum facilities calculation per table 403.1 may be found on the Mechanical Interpretation page of our web site at meckpermit.com. Scroll down to 2011 Q&A for Plumbing, Chapter #4, question and interpretation # 8. The exception for medical office buildings would be the only place we would allow a “convenience bathroom” for the public and per the exception the facilities do not count when up fitting tenant spaces in the medical office building.

When a multistory office building is in the design stage (not a medical office building) the designer has two choices. 1. Put all the facilities for the floors in the core or provide all the facilities in the tenant spaces. Again, this is for new construction. If you add square footage, change occupancy or use of the tenant space additional facilities per footnote J of table 403 shall apply. (See footnote J requirements in Question number 5 above).

The designer is going to put as few facilities in the building as possible to avoid cost and add to rentable square footage. The totaling of all floors and dividing the fixtures up between the floors for the core facilities calculation is allowed by the DOI Plumbing Engineer for multi-story office buildings. This calculation may be less stringent than providing a per floor calculation. The calculation using floor totaling is a designer option. Once the decision is made to do bare minimums unless all tenants are office only up fits there will be additional minimum facilities required by code at some point.

So now the building is completed as a shell with core. The first up fit of a tenant space is in for review and the designer is distressed to find out he has to provide a calculation for minimum facilities when core facilities have been provided to cover the entire floor (multi-story office upfit). Footnote J requires the designer to re-calculate the floor to adjust the minimum facilities count for the added assembly rooms.

The code official could require the addition of facilities to the core bathrooms. That would be very impractical in most cases. The tightly packed areas utilized by the core is already a crowded space. The core of a shell building typically includes bathrooms, elevators, HVAC equipment, storage rooms, duct supply, return, and ventilation shafts, and structural difficulties with existing columns.

Typically there are plumbing DWV stacks in the tenant spaces that will allow adding facilities within the tenant space.
The Code Official will allow the tenant space designer to utilize at least their portion of the core facilities? The tenant space square footage was included in the original core facility calculations.

I have no problem with letting the designer take partial credit for their portion of the core facilities and providing the rest of the required facilities in their tenant space in existing construction. The designer shall provide calculations to justify the facilities counts.

The code allows totaling two floors for minimum facilities calculations (the tenant floor and one floor up or down as long as facilities are within 500 feet to determine the total minimum facilities count for each floor) to determine the total facilities when re-calculating the new tenant space minimum facilities requirements. Ref: 403.1 employees, 403.6 Public

Facilities NCPC 2012. Remember the designer should be looking for extra fixtures to make up the difference for a deficiency of facilities on the floor they are up fitting. Using adjacent floors is not a way to add to the minimum facilities on the floor that is being up fitted unless the designers calculation shows excessive facilities are provided on adjacent floors. In most cases we find the facilities in the core on the floor above or below will only meet the minimum count for that floor. The designer will still have to add facilities somewhere to meet the new occupancy design.

Note: this is one up and one down. The floor above or below shall be the same tenant or always accessible to the tenants on both floors whether employees or the public. This may not work if card readers are required to access the floor above or below. The designer may use the assembly occupancy fixture count for all conference rooms, waiting rooms etc. The office count has been used in the past for spaces less than 750 square feet because the building Code Administrator has allowed these spaces to be considered business for egress calculations. By allowing this deviation from classifying the area as assembly the Building CA is giving the designer a break on number of occupants when determining egress. The problem with this practice is that if the Plumbing Reviewer uses the office calculation to determine the minimum facilities for these areas the fixture count would increase not decrease as it would if the small conference rooms used the assembly minimum facilities calculation for those spaces. The plumbing reviewers shall use the less stringent assembly minimum facilities calculation for the small conference room(less than 750 sq. ft.) to determine minimum facilities. The actual use should prevail.

Ref: 2008 & 2011 Q&A web site CH. 4, Table 1004.1.1 NCBC, Table 403.1, 102.4, NCPC
6) (Q) I am designing a swimming pool for an apartment complex in the City of Charlotte. The plan reviewer at a preliminary meeting tells me there is a new interpretation on how to calculate swimming pool minimum facilities determined by Bill Moeller at the Department of Insurance that changes the interpretation that has been used for the last 10 years in North Carolina. Can you tell me what the new change is?

(A) Yes. We have received an informal interpretation from Bill Moeller. We now have that change on our web site as an interpretation for Mecklenburg County. The interpretation shall be used for all future pool minimum facilities calculations for pools in Mecklenburg County. See interpretations page on the Meck permit web site for the Swimming Pool minimum facilities requirements. Table 403.1

7) (Q) I am up fitting a space in a strip shopping center for a beauty salon. The original shell business space has an existing area blocked out for a unisex bathroom. The plumbing examiner is requiring two bathrooms per the egress occupancy count of the building reviewer on the appendix “B”. The space will not have that many occupants, less than 25, so I should be able to have a unisex bathroom per 403.2 exception 2 of the NCPC. Why is the plumbing plan examiner requiring two bathrooms?

(A) Occupancy calculations to determine minimum facilities are determined by the NC Building Code. The Building Plans Examiner checks the appendix “B” and determines if the occupancy count is correct per table 1004.1.1 NCBC and the use of the space. The plumbing plans examiner is required by 403.1 of the NC Plumbing Code to use the occupancy count determined by the Building Reviewer to determine the minimum facilities for the occupancy. 403.1 NCPC 2012

8) (Q) Top and side fed water heaters- what are the prescribed clearances to combustible construction including plastic piping? How much transition material is required?

(A) Install per the WH manufacturer’s instructions. 403.4, 403.6 2012 PC

9) (Q) Do we require school modular units that have an existing DOI approved manufacturers label to meet current handicap code requirements when they are moved to a new location?

(A) NO. Plan review will check for the handicap requirements and the minimum facilities requirements for moved modular classrooms. Inspections shall be made per the plans
10) (Q) Would a take-out only restaurant, without seating for dining, or a dry cleaning facility with only a small pick-up area for the public require public bathrooms?

(A) The code would require public bathrooms; however, there is a proposal in the 2015 code that has been approved by the ICC to eliminate public bathrooms in these types of occupancies for the public if the pick-up area is less than 1500 square feet. Per Bill Moeller, DOI Plumbing Chief Engineer, we should look at approving these types of occupancies without requiring public bathrooms. We have allowed these occupancies to supply only employee bathrooms in the past and will continue to do so.

DOI- These are some links to the recently approved P35-12 proposal to eliminate public restrooms at the front of takeout businesses for the 2012/2013 IPC code cycle, group A.
http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes/Documents/2012-13cycle/Summary-FinalAction-
Bill Moeller

11) (Q) What are the measurements for handicap bathroom fixtures? Who checks for these measurements?

(A) For commercial buildings the plumbing inspector checks the measurements per 405.3.1 Water closets, urinals, lavatories and bidets. A water closet, urinal, lavatory or bidet shall not be set closer than 15 inches (381 mm) from its center to any side wall, partition, vanity or other obstruction, or closer than 30 inches (762 mm) center-to-center between adjacent fixtures. There shall be at least a 21-inch (533mm) clearance in front of the water closet, urinal, lavatory or bidet to any wall, fixture or door. Water closet compartments shall not be less than 30 inches (762 mm) wide and 60 inches (1524 mm) deep (see Figure 405.3.1). Exception: For one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses, see the North Carolina Residential Code.

12)(Q) A shower pan has been installed that is custom made at the factory for the shower Stall in a single family home. It is IAPMO approved but the approval is not current (2012). The inspector has a problem with the minimum height on the sides and the wrap over the threshold. The contractor says he got approval from our office over a year ago to install the shower pans.

(A) The information on the shower pan with the IAPMO testing agency has been checked
on the IAPMO web site. We did find the approval updated to 2013. The pan meets the table 417.4 requirements. Normally we accept ICC instead of IAPMO but we have approved the pan on several large projects without any reported problems. 417.4 exception, table 417.4 NCPC

13) (Q) I have been installing shower pan liners for 20 years, and your inspector is telling me according to the manufacturer instructions, I am not reinforcing the threshold corners. All he can enforce is what’s inside of the pan, not the outside, right?

(A) The manufactures instructions must be followed for the product used if more stringent than the code (NCPC 301.7) exception. There is also a u- tube instruction on this product. http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dRwu1SE_Ass

14) (Q) I am the minimum facilities for a pool at an apartment complex. According to the exception in the interpretation for Bill Moeller, DOI Chief Plumbing Engineer, there is an exception if none of the apartments are over 300 feet travel distance from the pool the fixture requirements listed as required in the interpretation document do not apply and therefore no facilities are required at the pool. On the other hand if the travel distance is 301 feet all the fixture requirements in the on line example are required. Is that the intent of the interpretation?

(A) Yes. If you cannot meet the exception you are required to meet the requirements of the tables similar to the 500 foot compliance distance in the Building Code. See examples provided in the interpretation on the Meckpermit.com web site under plumbing interpretations for pools. **Note: There has been a recent code change submittal by the Apartment Association to change the travel distance information. At the time of putting this question on line there is not an approval from BCC on NC.

15) (Q) Would a set up person be allowed to connect to existing water and sewer for the moved classroom Modular units?

(A) Yes. Set up personnel would be able to hook up the moved modular classroom to existing water and sewer without obtaining a plumbing contractor license.

Chapter 5 Water Heaters
1) (Q) In a residential dwelling unit, a water heater is installed in an attic.

1. Is a drain pan required?
2. Can the pan drain from the water heater drain into the standpipe of a washer box direct?
3. Can the pan drain from the water heater drain into the standpipe of a washer box Indirect?
4. Does the code address this issue directly?
5. Would a trapped hub drain be required for an indirect connection into the hub drain from the pan drain?
6. Can you install an unstrapped hub drain in the attic for the termination of the pan drain?
7. Does the drain from the water heater pan have to be indirect to a hub drain?
8. Can the pan drain line terminate in the hub drain as an air brake?
9. The pan drain has to be 1 inch minimum by code. What size should the hub drain be to prevent splashing?
10. Are there any special requirements for the connection to the standpipe for the washer box?
11. How many alternatives are there for stand pipe connection?

(A) 1. Yes. 504.7 NCPC 2012
2. No. 504.7.2 NCPC 2012
3. Yes. 504.7.2 NCPC 2012 Interpretation Meck. County/DOI 18 inches down maximum from the washer box to the standpipe connection. 802.4
4. No. Interpretation.
5. No. 1002.1 no double traps NCPC 2012
6. No. 504.6 #7 “readily observable”
7. No. It can go to the exterior or to the outside. 504.7 NCPC 2012
8. No. 504.7 NCPC 2012
9. To prevent splashing per 802.3.1. Should be 2 inch to prevent splashing.
10. Yes. 18 inches minimum from the washer box drain opening per DOI.
11. One. Indirect into the washer box itself.

2) (Q) A tankless WH has been specified for an outdoor application. Off hand, do you know if this model is listed for outdoor use and have we previously approved in the field? It will be installed in a cabinet beneath the sink.

1st Quarter 2013 Code Answers in brown (Jan-Mar) 2nd Quarter 2013 Code Answers in green (Apr-Jun)
3rd Quarter 2013 Code Answers in blue (Jul-Sep) 4th Quarter 2013 Code Answers in red (Oct-Dec)

(A) Cannot find anything other than stainless steel in manufacturer’s literature. We need a letter from the manufacturers engineering department that the Water Heater is approved for outdoor use. 502.1 NCPC 2012

3) (Q) What is the minimum width we would allow for an alcove at the end wall of a garage where a water Heater has been installed so extra protection of the water heater would not be required?

(A) Five feet or less within the site lines of the garage entrance at the back wall of the Garage is an acceptable minimum. An alcove larger than 5 feet, where the water heater is located out of the garage entrance line of site area would not be required to be protected from physical damage. 502.5 2012 NCMC

4) (Q) How much clearance is acceptable for mounting a pressure relief valve on a tankless water heater in a crawl space? How high can the device be above the base of the water heater?

(A) Piping should be no more than 6 inches away from the water heater and the valve should be mounted no more than 30 inches from the water supply connection at the bottom of the water heater. Commentary: For tankless water heaters that are gas-fired they do require over temperature protection as part of the burner control system. 504.4, 504.4.1

5) (Q) Where does the NCPC state that water heaters are to be raised in pans? What type of material are we going to allow in the pans for the WH to sit on? If required how will contractors be informed of this change and when would inspectors start enforcing this change?

(A) Chapter five, water heaters, in the IPC does not address this issue. The NCPC has a change from the IPC in 504.7.1 which states the pan drain shall not be less than 1.5 inches “and shall not be obstructed by the appliance.” This code section requires the water heater to be raised to allow free flow of water in the pan around the base of the water heater. This can be accomplished by installing treated wood or bricks in the pan to raise the water heater. The 2012 code has been in force since July 1, 2012 and could be used six months prior to that date. The Q&A including this question will be on the web site Q&A for 2013. 504.7 NCPC 2012

6) (Q) In our class it was brought to our attention about this in the code that the appliance had to be elevated above the pan so the water can travel under the unit instead
around the outer perimeter of the water heater to the drain of the pan. This space is usually narrow when the water heater is in the pan. I don't think we require it and let it just sit in the pan. What do you think?

(A) I agree that all equipment should not be "in" the pan (NCMC 307.2.3.2) and per the NCPC 502.1, if it is gas it shall comply with the NCFGC so that is covered, the whole idea behind it is to keep equipment from being submerged in a pan with a stopped up drainline, e.g. mold issues, etc. I think 507.1 covers the problem. The pan drain shall not be less than 11/2 inches (38 mm) deep and shall not be obstructed by the appliance.

Ref: 507.1 NCPC 2012

7) (Q) Are pans required under 2.5 gallon water heaters serving one fixture?
   (A) No in general, however, the location shall be assessed by the inspector.

8) (Q) Are pans required for the e max inline water heaters?
   (A) NO

9) (Q) In general where are pans required under water heaters?
   (A) Where water heaters or hot water storage tanks are installed in: (a) remote locations such as a suspended ceiling, (b) attics, (c) above occupied spaces, or (d) unventilated crawl spaces a tank type water heater shall be installed in a galvanized steel pan having a material thickness of not less than 0.0236 inch (0.6010 mm) (No. 24 gage), or other pans approved for such use.
   Exceptions:
   1. Electric water heaters may rest in a high-impact plastic pans inch (1.6 mm) thickness.
   2. Water heater mounted on concrete floor for floor drains.

10)(Q) I have been getting calls regarding issues with 400 degree labels on water heaters. Water heaters shall comply with the State Statute regardless of the language in the 2012 NCPC. (BS)
   The General; Statute is as follows:
   66-27.2. Certain hot water supply storage tank or heater baffles, heat traps, etc. to be tested before installation or sale.
   (a) No individual, firm, corporation or business shall install, sell or offer for sale any hot water supply storage tanks or heaters of 120-gallon capacity or less which utilize dip tubes, supply and hot water nipples, supply water baffles or heat traps that have not been tested to withstand a temperature of 400 degrees Fahrenheit without deteriorating in any manner, and such tank or heater so labeled by the manufacturer.
(b) No individual, firm, corporation or business shall install, sell, or offer for sale any water baffles or heat traps, which are not constructed and tested to withstand a temperature of 400 degrees Fahrenheit without deterioration in any manner and such baffles or heat traps to be so labeled by the manufacturer. (1965, c. 860, s. 2.)

(A) As long as the water heater manufacturer has labeling that shows compliance with the General Statute (NCGS 66-27-2(a) it shall be considered as meeting the intent of the statute. It may not have the same sticker that we used to see, however if it says it meets this statute (and lists the statute) it is the same. There are some heaters that do have metallic internal parts, which would mean they do not have to install this label. The installation instructions should advise of same.

Chapter 6 Water Supply & Dist.

1) (Q) Who is responsible for looking at fire lines on new buildings when the fire line and domestic water are one in the same?

(A) On a combined fire and domestic loop (typical example apartment complex) the water supply shall be considered a domestic water line first and a fire line second by the plumbing inspector and shall meet the installation and material requirements of chapter 6 of the 2012 NCPC.

2) (Q) Are there some basic requirements I need to be aware of to tie my existing house to a new city water tap?

(A) 601. 3 states that you shall provide a new electrical ground if replacing metallic piping with non-metallic piping. (Requires driven grounds). 604. 8 requirements kick in if the new water pressure exceeds 80 psi. An approved pressure reducing valve conforming to ASSE 1003 shall be installed. 606. 1 requires a full open valve accessible to the home owner that serves the entire residence. 607. 3 requires a means of controlling increased pressure caused by thermal expansion. (Watts govern 80), (expansion tank) or another expansion device would be required. 601. 3 NCPC 2012

3) (Q) I want to hire a plumbing contractor to connect my house to my new city water tap. My water currently comes from an existing well. The well is located within 60 feet of house. As best we can tell there is an existing 1" PVC line feeding house now. Will I be allowed to tie the new water distribution line into the existing 1" PVC line saving my
4) (Q) Are multiple main shut-offs required in a strip shopping center for each tenant space?

   (A) No. Per DOI we would allow only one main readily accessible shut off valve for the building with supplemental shut off valves in the ceiling of each tenant space. “Tenant space shutoffs should be marked on the ceiling. 606.1 (2), (4), 606.2, 606.3 NCPC

5) (Q) Is there anything in the code that addresses water heating or sizing in the code? I couldn’t find anything. And, as a matter of fact, I couldn’t find anything mandating a water heater at all in a residential dwelling?

   (A) Water Heater sizing is up to the designer for any dwelling unit. Commercial Water Heater sizing is also up to the designer, however, if the Health Department is involved in the approval they have certain sizing requirements they enforce. Chapter 5 of the North Carolina Plumbing Code (Commercial) and the North Carolina Residential Code (Plumbing Section) is devoted strictly to the installation of water heaters. You may also check out Meckpermit.com web site to get further information on water heaters from the 2012 Q &A on the interpretations page. 607.1 Of the North Carolina 2012 Plumbing Code requires that each dwelling unit shall be provided with a source of hot water for each family unit. This applies to single family dwellings, duplexes and townhomes with land for sale up to three stories in height in the North Carolina Residential Code and for apartments and condominiums in the North Carolina Plumbing Code. 607.1 NCPC

6) (Q) I have an inspector who has turned me down requiring me to install a new expansion tank when all I am doing is replacing the water service line outside a single family home. I am not doing any work inside the home. I understand the Q&A for 2011 required an expansion tank or expansion device to be installed when installing a new
water service. If there is no PRV required and no BFP installed at the meter why would an expansion device be required?

(A) In the situation you have expressed above we are not going to require and expansion device to be installed. The Q&A from 2011 has changed to include this new exclusion. The 2011 Q&A should read as follows:

10) (Q) When is a Thermal expansion control device required on a water distribution system?

(A) An expansion device is required per the instances below. Ref: 607.3
   1. When a tank type water heater is installed: See below Change
   * 2. When a tank type water heater is present and a new water service is installed. No if the water pressure is below 80 psi and there is not an existing PRV or BFP on the water service or distribution piping.
   3. When a tank style water heater is present and a new PRV is installed: Yes
   4. When a BFP is installed: Yes
   5. When a tankless water heater is present or has been installed: No
   Ref: 607.3 NCPC 2012

7) (Q) Who is responsible for looking a fire main backflows?

(A) The plumbing inspector is required to look at backflow preventers on domestic water lines that are installed downstream of the utility backflow preventer. The plumbing inspector is also responsible for checking the backflow preventer required in an apartment building at the common termination point of the interior sprinkler piping and the domestic water line and at other locations as determined by the degree of hazard. Section 608, Table 608.1, NCPC 2012

8) (Q) What is the maximum water temperature at public lavatory? What is the temperature at a handicap lavatory? What is the maximum water temperature at a hot tub? What if the maximum temperature of a residential water heater?

(A) Single or multi-family water heaters shall be set at 120 degrees. Ref: GS 66-27.1 “Water thermostat settings”
   Individual shower valves in a residence shall be set at 120 degrees. 424.3 NCPC
   Hot tubs and showers in the HC code Lavatories 120 degrees, nothing listed, Bath Tubs 120 degrees per 607.8, Showers 120 degrees per 608.8 ANSI 117.1, 2009
   Commercial occupancy Energy Code Requirements. 504.3 Temperature Controls.
“Service water-heating equipment shall be provided with controls to allow a set point of 110 degrees F for equipment serving dwelling units and 90 degrees F for equipment serving other occupancies.
Note: (The outlet temperature of lavatories in public rest rooms shall be limited to 110 Degrees F. “504.3 NC Energy Code 2012) See Chapter 6 references above.

9) (Q) How will Mecklenburg County enforce the new lead reduction requirements for material and installation per the safe water act which takes place in January of 2014?

   A) DOI Plumbing Engineer Bill Moeller is submitting a code change to the state BCC in the September meeting. When it is adopted they will have the information on enforcement on their web site.

10) (Q) Is plastic water piping (example CPVC) allowed to be installed in a return air plenum?

   (A) No. Unless the manufacturer’s literature specifically states the product will comply with the 25-50 requirement for plenum rated material.

Chapter 7 Sanitary Drainage

1) (Q) In accordance with the attached letter, we are requesting that PVC piping be allowed for the plumbing systems in this high rise building. We will be updating the entire building to the current life safety code requirements. The installation is allowed by the 2009 Plumbing Code. The rehab code we are using is the 2009 re-hab code and therefore this should be allowed. Will this installation be allowed by the plumbing CA?

   (A) You are required to meet the current 2012 NC edition of the plumbing code for all plumbing installed in the Rehab Code per the Department of Insurance. The only exceptions to the plumbing code are specifically spelled out by the text in that code. 702.1, 702.4, 1102.2, 1102.7 NCPC 2012 Ref: DOI web site letter see below.

NC Department of Insurance
Office of the State Fire Marshal - Engineering Division
1202 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1202
919-661-5880
References to the 2009 NC Building Codes
Code: 2009 NC Rehabilitation Code Date: April 24, 2012
Section: 1
Question:
When the 2012 NC Building Codes become mandatory are the references to the 2009 NC Building Codes found in the 2009 NC Rehab Code still valid?

Answer:
No. When the 2012 codes become mandatory the 2009 codes are no longer valid codes. 2009 NC Building Code references in the 2009 Rehab Code must be cross referenced to the 2012 NC Building Codes.

Keywords:
Edition

2) (Q) We have heard the “Chevrolet” caps are allowed in the new 2012 code for clean outs. We are getting a number of complaints from our builders about cleanout caps, in the yard mostly, that have the square head caps. Of course they are raised to a degree. We try to get them low enough for the mower to clear but high enough to be visible. We have requests in from just about all of our builders to go to the flat caps (chevy caps). Can we use these under the new code?

(A) The state board issued a statement several years back saying that "Chevrolet" clean outs are not allowed, because they are usually glued to the inside of a pipe, they say this is not acceptable. 708.2 NCPC2012

3) (Q) What are the code requirements I must meet for building drains and sewers that cannot discharge by gravity into the sanitary sewer system?

(A) Building sub-drains that cannot be discharged to the sewer by gravity flow shall be discharged into a tightly covered and vented sump from which the liquid shall be lifted and discharged into the building gravity drainage system by automatic pumping equipment or other approved method. In other than existing structures, the sump shall not receive drainage from any piping within the building capable of being discharged by gravity to the building. 712.1 NCPC 2012

4) (Q) Would the forced main (pump discharge line) require a clean out?

(A) Yes. A check valve, a full open valve, and cleanout located on the discharge side of the check valve shall be installed in the pump or ejector discharge piping between the pump or ejector and the gravity drainage system. 712.2 NCPC 2012 (Fittings required)
5) (Q) Where the discharge pipe from an ejector pump is below grade may the valve access may be allowed from inside the ejector?

(A) Access shall be provided to such valves. Such valves shall be located above the sump Cover as required by Section 712.1 or, where the discharge pipe from the ejector is below grade, the valves shall be accessibly located outside the sump below grade in an access pit with a removable access cover. 712.2 NCPC 2012

6) (Q) Does a pump for a single lavatory waste line need to have an alarm?

(A) No. We only require alarms on whole house or zone pump systems. 712.3.4.1 NCPC

7) (Q) The 2012 NCPC requires 3" horizontal drain line for a washing machine. Would this change be required to the drain piping if we moved the machine to a different wall in the same room?

(A) No. This would be considered a minor change we would only require the 3 inch drain in an existing situation where the washing machine was moved to a completely new location in the occupancy. 406.3, 102.2 NCPC

Chapter 8 Ind. /Special Waste

1) (Q) I am a mechanical engineer installing acid waste sinks in the lavatories of two public middle school chemical lavatories. We found some acid waste rated AAV's that just came on the market last week. Can they be used on the lavatory island sink venting?

(A) No. The code still does not allow the use of acid waste rated AAV’s. If the AAV's are part of an engineered acid waste system that includes an acid waste branch tied to the sanitary sewer through an acid waste interceptor with monitoring (see our web site interpretations for acid waste system requirements) we would allow the acid waste rated AAV as part of that system. The system shall be sealed by a NC licensed Mechanical Engineer. 803.2, 805.5, 105.4 (105.4.1 through 105.4.5) 105.5 NCPC 2012

2) (Q) Can a Plumbing Contractor drain a closed-loop hot water system to a local floor drain or sanitary drain?
(A) You may drain the waste water from a hot water closed loop system to the sanitary sewer under the following conditions:
1. The waste shall drain indirect to a code approved waste receptor.
2. The waste water temperature and corrosive waste requirements shall meet the 2012 NC Plumbing Code 803.1 and 803.2.
3. For the requirements of 803.2, neutralization device, see the interpretation from our web site for installing an acid waste system. Go to meckpermit.com, Mechanical, Interpretations.

3) (Q) What is the minimum height of stand pipe for washer box off floor? Is there a maximum measurement?

(A) There is no maximum height, the minimum is found in 802.4 Standpipes. Standpipes shall be 2 inches (51 mm) in diameter and not less than 18 inches (762 mm) or more than 48 inches (1219 mm) in height as measured from the crown weir. The standpipe shall extend 34 inches (864 mm) minimum above the base of the clothes washer unless recommended otherwise by the manufacturer. The connection of a laundry tray waste line may be made into a standpipe for the automatic clothes-washer drain. The outlet of the laundry tray shall be a maximum horizontal distance of 30 inches (762 mm) from the standpipe trap. 802.4 NCPC

Chapter 9 Vents

1) (Q) A multistory parking deck has a 6 inch vent running from an ejector pump in the basement to the roof. The vent has to dip under a beam so it can exit through the roof which means the vent cannot meet code because the vent cannot slope back to the fixture per code nor can it slope to a vent stack or stack vent per the plumbing commentary. The designer wishes to install an automatic ball drip valve with a 1 inch drain to a floor drain to capture condensate and rainwater from the low point of the vent. Would this be allowed by code? As an alternate would the one inch line be allowed to be tied directly back into the 6 inch vent on the vertical without an air gap or automatic ball drip valve?

(A) 1. In 905.2 Grade. All vent and branch vent pipes shall be so graded and connected as to drain back to the drainage pipe by gravity.
2. The code commentary does differ from the raw code requirement by allowing the vent to slope to a stack vent or vent stack. I have no problem with allowing the grade (slope) to a vent stack or stack vent, however, I do not think an automatic ball drip valve with a drain serves the same purpose. The automatic ball drip valve will have to be maintained at some point and could potentially fail and lead to the
vent being cut off. The methods specified by code are not likely to fail. I will not approve the automatic ball drip valve and drain as an alternate method to sloping the vents per code. The piped drain back to the vertical vent would still not meet code and could cause the vent to clog with debris at the low point of the vent bend. Ref: 905.2 2012 NCPC

2) (Q) Is the distance from the trap to vent based on the size of the trap arm, or the size of the trap?

(A) Per Table 906.1; the size of the trap. E.g.: 1½” trap to vent is 6’ long. This is required even on a 2” Trap arm. Table 906.1 NCPC 2012

3) (Q) Can two traps be vented by one vent downstream of both traps?

(A) Yes. Per 908.1 an individual vent is permitted to vent two traps or trapped fixtures as a common vent. The traps or trapped fixtures being vented shall be located on the same floor level. Also 908.2: “Where the fixture drains being common vented connect at the same level, the vent connection shall be at the interconnection of the fixture drains or downstream of the interconnection.” Code Reference 908.1, 908.2 NCPC 2012

4) (Q) AAV’s: When shall they be installed in a building? The Plumbing Code says not until after the DWV is tested. When vents terminate in an attic space at the rough-in we have no way of knowing if the intent is to use an AAV or vent through the roof.

(A) We had a similar question in the 2011 Q&A (Q) the plumbing inspector notices a specific contractor installing the AAV’s on the attic vents during the rough in inspection. What should the inspector do? The answer as follows: (A) The inspector should turn down the job until the contractor removes the AAV’s. AAV’s should only be installed after all DWV testing has been completed. Ref: 917.2 NCPC 2012

5) (Q) We are running into a situation where AAV’s are being installed on third floor attic Areas (some partial floors Expel: bonus rooms) just above the insulation level. Equipment is being set in front (Expel: HVAC/water heating equipment) and the AAV is no longer accessible.

(A) Advise contractor(s) that they must be accessible on final. 917.2, 917.5 2012 PC
6) (Q) The 2012 Plumbing Section of the North Carolina Residential Code has deleted the Code section allowing AAV’s to be used in single family dwellings, duplexes and townhomes up to 3 floors. Can AAV’s still be used in these occupancies?

   (A) Yes. Per Bill Moeller they may still be used. See information from DOI below. Section 917 was deleted from the residential plumbing code by the plumbing adhoc committee which eliminates the use of Studor (or other brands of AAV) vents from residential construction. We have been using the statement on page 671 of the residential code to use the plumbing code requirements versus the residential plumbing code requirements. “Where differences occur between the provisions of this abridged text and the North Carolina Plumbing Code, the provisions of the North Carolina Plumbing Code shall apply. Requirements not specifically covered by this text shall conform to the North Carolina Plumbing Code.” This is the catchall for any mistakes or omissions. It works well in most cases, not so much with lavatory sidewall clearances.

   Bill Moeller
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   Fax: 919-662-4414

   Bill,
   Just so I am clear on this issue. We can use Air Admittance Valves in residential single family homes? We are using 671 of the residential code language to allow the use of AAV’s in single family construction. Am I correct in my assessment of your email?

   Willis,
   You are correct.
   Bill Moeller

Chapter 10 Traps, Inter. & Sep.
1) (Q) One quick question I had on the 2012 Plumbing code. Chapter 10 item 1002.4 concerning trap primer valves. Does the new code not allow for the hose bib or mop sink to prime the trap? I understand the concern is with maintaining the seal, and a trap primer does provide an alternate means to achieve this.

(A) We have allowed a hose bibs with a deep seal traps as an alternate method to achieve priming of the trap. The code has changed slightly to identify the location of the connection point of the trap priming line to the trap. We will continue to allow a deep seal trap with a hose bibs as a substitute for a direct trap priming line to the trap. 1002.4, 105.2 NCPC 2012

2) (Q) The Plumbing Plans Examiner is checking the plans for storage capacity calculations of an oil/water separator. The engineer has run the calculation for the area drained in sludge capacity pounds. What should the plans examiner do to check the OWS capacity per code?

(A) The Engineer shall provide sizing and capacity information for code compliance including code required capacities converted to cubic feet of drained area when required by the Plumbing Plans Examiner. 1003.4.2 NCPC 2012

3) (Q) On small grease interceptors in restaurant floors do we require flow restrictor to be accessible?

(A) Ready access is required. 1003.3.5 NCPC.

4) (Q) Are there any Mecklenburg County approved ways to calculate the capacity requirements of a grease interceptor other than the two stated in the 2012 NC plumbing code?

(A) Section 1003.3.4 of the 2012 plumbing code references PDI G101, ASME A112.14.3 Appendix A, or ASME A112.14.4. The commentary discusses four methods of sizing, the PDI method, the seats method for restaurants, the meals method for hospitals, and the dfu method. The code does not stipulate which to use and also states the grease interceptor designs can also be an engineered system.

5) (Q) When serving coffee what is the threshold for requiring a grease interceptor? When serving coffee to the public, restaurants, bars, coffee kiosks, and similar locations.

(A) A grease interceptor would not be required in a normal office break room setting.
An interceptor for coffee grounds in a Starbucks or similar establishment is required by the utility to keep the coffee grounds out of the sanitary system. 1003.1, 1003.2, 102.9 2012

Chapter 11 Storm Drainage

1) (Q) I am building a Middle Eastern style single family home with a flat roof and parapet walls. Does the NCPC address single family residential storm drainage, testing and material for my building?

(A) Yes. See R903.4 and R903.4.1 residential building code. Also references NCPC for sizing. R903.4 Roof drainage. Unless roofs are sloped to drain over roof edges, roof drains shall be installed at each low point of the roof. Where required for roof drainage, scuppers shall be placed level with the roof surface in a wall or parapet. The scupper shall be located as determined by the roof slope and contributing roof area. R903.4.1 Overflow drains and scuppers. Where roof drains are required, overflow drains having the same size as the roof drains shall be installed with the inlet flow line located 2 inches (51 mm) above the low point of the roof, or overflow scuppers having three times the size of the roof drains and having a minimum opening height of 4 inches (102 mm) shall be installed in the adjacent parapet walls with the inlet flow located 2 inches (51 mm) above the low point of the roof served. The installation and sizing of overflow drains, leaders and conductors shall comply with the North Carolina Plumbing Code. Overflow drains shall discharge to an approved location and shall not be connected to roof drain lines.

Ref info: Scuppers and Roof drain sizing code references Per the Director of Inspections. The scupper sizing, location etc. information has always been handled by the Plumbing Reviewers. The field Building inspectors usually check the installation. Information from the Building Code and the Plumbing Code should be utilized by the Plumbing reviewer to check the primary and secondary scuppers. The Plumbing reviewer should coordinate with the Building reviewer because both codes have specific requirements that are critical to a code compliant installation.


APPENDIX A-H
Appendix C

1) (Q) Heidi, weren’t you involved with a group that was looking at developing local plumbing standards for rainwater catchment systems? I thought you might share the link below with that group unless they are already involved with it. Is rainwater catchment in the plumbing code or is it an appendix for reference only?

(A) The North Carolina 2012 Plumbing Code has information in appendix C1 for installing Rain Water Recycling Systems. The C1 appendix is referenced and is a part of the 2012 code per section 301.3 NCSPC General Regulations. Plumbing Inspectors working in code enforcement departments statewide are required to inspect Rain Water Recycling Systems using appendix C1 for minimum code requirements. The web site in your email references ASPE 210 Standard: Rainwater Catchment Systems. Without ordering the book I do not know how the standard compares to the code already in place and approved as State Law in North Carolina. The ASPE web site also has information about ordering ASPE Standard 45: Siphonic Roof Drainage. We already have approved two buildings in Charlotte using Siphonic Roof Drainage design criteria. No system standards are currently in the North Carolina State Plumbing Code for Siphonic Roof Drainage.

POLICY

1) (Q) Do you know what the NC Building Code is doing to comply with the following requirement in the amended Safe Drinking Water Act becoming effective January 5, 2014? See definition below:

““(d) DEFINITION OF LEAD FREE.—
“(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purposes of this section, the term ‘lead free’ means—
““(A) not containing more than 0.2 percent lead when used with respect to solder and flux; and
““(B) not more than a weighted average of 0.25 percent lead when used with respect to the wetted surfaces of pipes, pipe fittings, plumbing fittings, and fixtures.”

Is there something that the inspection side of things will be able to see that shows compliance with the lead free act?

(A) To my knowledge nothing has been proposed to the BCC to comply with the Federal Act. As of January 4, 2014 the definition of lead-free pipe and fittings will go from 8
percent lead to 0.25 percent lead per Federal Law as signed by the President in 2011. This will have a major impact on suppliers and manufacturers that stock these products. See attached email from the EPA.

DOI-Bill Moeller
Jerry L. Ellis, Jr. --- Environmental Scientist Standards and Risk Management Division Office of Ground Water & Drinking Water U.S. Environmental Protection Agency 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW (4607M) Washington, DC 20460

Mr. Moeller,

Thank you for the call this morning. Attached is the Bill that passed both houses and was signed into law January 2012. According to the Bill, the change in definition of "lead free" will not be effective until early 2014. The process for changing Section 141.43 in the Code of Federal Regulations is complicated right now and I don't have a time-line yet for when it will be completed. I recommend checking back in with us periodically to see where we are. You may contact me or Jeff Kempic who is involved with updating the CFR

(See attached file: Change to SDWA Definition of Lead Free PL 111-380-Jan.4, 2011. pdf)
http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-111publ380

2) (Q) The health department would like one of our inspectors to investigate a clogged floor drain in the vending area in front of one of the buildings on the UNCC Campus. They emailed a picture of the problem to the department. Should an RQ be requested to look at the problem?

(A) No. We cannot send an Inspector out for this, as we have no authority on state owned property. We would recommend a contractor look at it, from the picture that you attached, it appears that they are using a point of use Grease trap. These devices usually have a small orifice flow restrictor built in to the incoming side of the device. That precludes any fast drainage to keep the flow rate of the GT at factory settings to prevent washout of the Interceptor. Is this one Interceptor per food stand? If so, I would think this is the problem. They should go back to their designer of record for a fix...thanks GS 143-135.1 (a) (b) & (c)

3) (Q) Below I’ve highlighted a question that was raised concerning how far down the path of bringing existing plumbing up to current code a person needs to go for a fire restoration project. Could you shed some light on how I should respond? As far as total rebuild is concerned, this project does not fall into that category and is why the specifications as far as what Meck. County requires is blurry. For instance when you said I will have to bring drain lines up to code, I understand this to mean all the way to the 4" sewer line
that goes out of the house. Can you specify this more clearly for me?

(A) Our policy is if you do not change the roughs and put back exactly what was taken out we have allowed it as far as mechanical/plumbing and fuel gas work is concerned.

4) (Q) Is a Plumbing Inspector required to inspect the entire CMUD low Pressure System on a given project?

(A) As a reminder to all plumbing Inspectors, if you have a lift station that is a true CMUD low pressure system (waste goes to a CMUD lock box at the street) all the Mecklenburg County Plumbing Inspector is required to inspect is the gravity line going into the tank, and, of course, the electrical installation. CMUD requirements deem them to be special equipment provided by CMUD, therefore they inspect the installation not the Mecklenburg County Inspector. Please make a note on your inspection history of these locations. If you have a lift station that goes to a gravity conventional tap, then we inspect everything, as this is not a low pressure sanitary pumped system. Policy for inspectors.

5) (Q) When is a permit and inspection required if the utility moves the water service and meter location within the right of way? How about a move onto private property within 10 feet? Within 5 feet?

(A) We should continue enforcing this requirement on line repairs, as stated below:
   a) If it’s in the ROW, it’s outside of our authority and getting a permit from us isn’t required.
   b) If it’s on the property (outside the ROW), the installing contractor is required to take out a permit, but no M/P plan review is required by Code Enforcement. The burden is on the contractor to take out the permit.
   c) The Department’s “damage repair” local interpretation would continue; that allows work without a permit if the damaged section is less than 5 feet long, noting that only applies to damage repair and not line moves, maintenance, etc.

**OTHER: Handicap Accessibility,**

1) (Q) Discuss the key items to inspect in the plumbing code that are different from a standard handicap bathroom when the bathroom is designed for a hearing impaired person? What should the inspector look for?
(A) Chapter 7 of ANSI 117.1 2009 calls for visual alarms to be installed per NFPA 72.

2) (Q) Attached are the shop drawings for a typical pantry. We are installing plumbing fixtures in the pantry. (See drawing attached) The inspector is questioning ADA compliance and handicap access. Can you advise where the dimensions are incorrect?

(A) There is only one dimension on the drawing that is incorrect and does not meet the ANSI 117.1 provisions. The 8 inch dimension from the face of the cabinet to the Plam Door should be 11 inches minimum. Ref: 306.3 and Knee figures 306.3 on page 10 of the 2009 ANSI 117.1 code.

3) (Q) The code section we were talking about yesterday is 602.4 out of the ICC/ANSI A117.1-09. Section 604.10 talks about Ambulatory Accessible Stalls, but 602.4 gives the location of the centerline of the WC as 17” – 19”. The requirement for the Ambulatory Accessible Stall comes from the NCBC section 1109.2.2. Why are the center lines for Ambulatory and Standard Accessible stalls different?

(A) For standard handicap accessible stalls the Center Line of the dimension is from 16 to 18 inches. See Fig. 604.2, ANSI 117.1-09. For the Ambulatory Stall the Center line is between 17 and 19 inches. The standard accessible stall has grab bars on the rear and side of the stall so the dimension difference requires the water closet to sit closer to the corner of the stall to facilitate handicap access. (See grab bar configuration in Fig. 604.2 as ref.)