

lators, moving walks, dumbwaiters, wheelchair lifts, manlifts, stairway chairlifts and any device within the scope of ASME A17.1 (Safety Code for Elevators and Escalators) or ASME A90.1 (Safety Standards for Belt Manlifts).

“Elevator subcode official” means a qualified person appointed by the municipal appointing authority or the Commissioner, pursuant to the Act and this chapter, to enforce the provisions of any subcode specifically designated for such enforcement in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3, within the jurisdiction of the enforcing agency.

“Enforcing agency” means the municipal or State administrative entity charged with the administration and enforcement of the regulations consisting of the construction official, subcode officials and assistants thereto appointed in accordance with N.J.S.A. 52:27D-126 of the act and the regulations.

“Equipment” means plumbing, heating, electrical, ventilating, air conditioning, refrigerating and fire prevention equipment, and elevators, dumb waiters, escalators, boilers, pressure vessels and other mechanical facilities or installations, which are related to building services and shall not include manufacturing, production or process equipment, but which shall include connections from building service to process equipment.

“Facility” for the purpose of applying for an annual permit means exclusive of a hotel/casino, a building or group of buildings under common ownership or control and whose maintenance work is performed under the direct supervision of a maintenance supervisor.

“Fire protection subcode official” means a qualified person appointed by the appropriate appointing authority or the commissioner pursuant to the act and the regulations to enforce those portions of any subcode, specifically designated for such enforcement in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3, within the jurisdiction of the enforcing agency.

“Ground sign” means a sign mounted on the ground or on a multiple pole supports with its lower edge less than 15 feet above grade measured at the longest pole.

“Group” means the classification of an occupancy (also see “Use Group”).

“Health care facility” means the facility or institution, whether public or private, engaged principally in providing services for health maintenance organizations, diagnosis or treatment of human disease, pain, injury, deformity or physical condition, including but not limited to a general hospital, special hospital, mental hospital, public health center, diagnostic center, treatment center, rehabilitation center, extended care facility, skilled nursing home, nursing home, intermediate care facility, tuberculosis hospital, chronic disease hospital, maternity hospital, outpatient clinic, dispensary, home health care agency, home for the sheltered care of adult persons, and bioanalytical laboratory or central services

facility serving one or more such institutions, but excluding institutions that provide healing solely by prayer.

1. This definition shall not be deemed to include nurses, doctors, or other staff housing not attached in accordance with minimum fire separation standards in the building subcode; administrative offices not attached in accordance with minimum fire separation standards in the building subcode; parking garages, or other such facilities for which the Federal government does not impose standards as a condition of funding.

“Hearing examiner” means a person appointed by the commissioner to conduct hearings, summarize evidence and make findings of fact.

“Lead abatement” means a process designed either to mitigate or to eliminate permanently lead-based paint hazards on a premises and includes, but is not limited to: the removal of lead-based paint and lead-contaminated dust; the containment or encapsulation of lead-based paint; the replacement of lead-painted surfaces or fixtures; the removal or covering of lead-contaminated soil; and all preparation, cleanup, disposal and post-abatement clearance testing activities associated with such measures. “Lead abatement” shall not include painting, woodworking, structural renovation or other indoor or outdoor contracting services that may result in the disturbance of paint, unless it is evident from the statements and/or actions of a person or persons authorizing or performing such services that an objective of the work is the mitigation or permanent elimination of a lead-based paint hazard.

“Lead evaluation” means a surface-by-surface investigation to determine the presence and condition of lead-based paint and the provision of a report explaining the results of the investigation, including, but not limited to, hazards and recommendations for abatement.

“Maintenance” means the replacement or mending of existing work with equivalent materials or the provision of additional work or material for the purpose of the safety, healthfulness and upkeep of the structure and the adherence to such other standards of upkeep as are required in the interest of public safety, health and welfare.

“Manufactured home” means a structure, transportable in one or more sections, which in the traveling mode, is eight body feet or more in width, or 40 body feet or more in length, or, when erected on site, is 320 or more square feet, and which is built on a permanent chassis and designed to be used as a dwelling with or without a permanent foundation when connected to the required utilities, and includes the plumbing, heating, air conditioning and electrical systems contained therein; except that such term shall also include any structure which meets all of the requirements of this paragraph except the size requirements and with respect to which the manufacturer has voluntarily filed a certification required by the Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and complies with the standards established under 42 U.S.C. Section 5401 et seq.

“Minor work” means construction work undertaken in existing structures, requiring no prior approvals and no plan review, not altering in any way the structural members of a building and meeting the definition set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A.

“Municipality” means any city, borough, town, township or village.

“Municipal Procedures Manual” means the book established by the Commissioner, effective January 1, 1984, and any subsequent revisions, detailing the steps to be followed in completing, processing and filing the standards forms, logs and reports required for administration and enforcement of the State Uniform Construction Code.

“Operative date” means the date upon which the Department and local enforcing agencies shall enforce, and all parties shall comply with, an effective rule. Unless otherwise provided in the notice of adoption published in the New Jersey Register, the effective date is the operative date.

“Ordinary maintenance” means restoration or improvement of a routine or usual nature which is done by replacing a part of, or putting together, something that is worn or broken in a building, electrical, plumbing, heating, ventilation or air conditioning system and meeting the definition set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.7.

“Owner” means the owner or owners in fee of the property or a lesser estate therein, a mortgagee or vendee in possession, an assignee of rents, receiver, executor, trustee, lessee or any other person, firm or corporation, directly or indirectly in control of a building, structure or real property and shall include any subdivision thereof of the State.

“Plans and specifications” means and includes all of the written, graphic and pictorial documents prepared or assembled for describing the design, location and physical characteristics of the elements of the project controlled by these rules and necessary for obtaining a permit. They shall be drawn to an appropriate scale. Where the plans and specifications show, describe or document features of the project not controlled by these rules, the portion(s) of the plans and specifications showing features not controlled by these rules shall not be considered to be “plans and specifications” within the meaning of this definition.

“Plumbing subcode official” means a qualified person appointed by the municipal appointing authority or the commissioner pursuant to the act and the regulations to enforce the provisions of the plumbing subcode within the jurisdiction of the enforcing agency.

“Premanufactured system” or “premanufactured construction” means an assembly of materials or products that is intended to comprise all or part of a building or structure and that is assembled off-site by a repetitive process under cir-

cumstances intended to insure uniformity of quality and material content. The term shall include, but not be limited to, manufactured homes and industrialized/modular buildings.

“Primary function space” means a room or space housing a major activity for which the building or tenancy is intended, including, but not limited to, office area, auditorium, assembly space, dining room, bar or lounge, warehouse, factory, dwelling, care, confinement, retail, and educational spaces, but not including kitchens, bathrooms, storage rooms or other spaces supporting a primary function space. A building or tenancy may contain more than one primary function space.

“Prior approvals” means the necessary certifications or approvals issued or authorized by any Federal or State agency, or any political subdivision of the State, which are not inconsistent with this chapter and which are conditions precedent to the issuance of a construction permit or a certificate of occupancy or approval, as the case may be. Prior approvals shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Zoning;
2. Soil erosion and sediment control;
3. Highway curb cuts;
4. Water and sewer treatment works approvals;
5. Coastal areas facilities review;
6. Compliance of underground storage tank systems with N.J.A.C. 7:14B;
 - i. An approval granted by the Department of Environmental Protection or the construction official by authority of N.J.A.C. 7:14B shall be deemed to be a prior approval;
7. Educational adequacy review of public school facilities under N.J.A.C. 6A:26;
8. Pinelands review; and
9. Compliance of abandoned wells with N.J.A.C. 7:9-9.
 - i. Compliance with N.J.A.C. 7:9-9.1 shall be evidenced by a certification issued by a well driller licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection.

“Private inplant inspection agency”, or “evaluation and inspection agency”, means a business entity authorized pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4 or 4A to approve premanufactured construction.

“Private on-site inspection and plan review agencies” means a business entity authorized pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4 to act in lieu of a subcode official.

“Public school facility” means any building or part thereof used by a local, regional or consolidated board of education as a primary or secondary school.

"Pylon sign" means an elevated sign supported either by a monopole or by multiple pole supports and having its bottom edge 15 feet or more above ground level, measured at the base of the longest pole if there is more than one, or an elevated sign mounted on the roof of another structure.

"Reconstruction" means any project where the extent and nature of the work is such that the work area cannot be occupied while the work is in progress and where a new certificate of occupancy is required before the work area can be reoccupied. Reconstruction may include repair, renovation, alteration or any combination thereof. Reconstruction shall not include projects comprised only of floor finish replacement, painting or wallpapering, or the replacement of equipment or furnishings. Asbestos hazard abatement and lead hazard abatement projects shall not be classified as reconstruction solely because occupancy of the work area is not permitted.

"Rehabilitation" means the repair, renovation, alteration or reconstruction of any building or structure.

"Renovation" means the removal and replacement or covering of existing interior or exterior finish, trim, doors, windows, or other materials with new materials that serve the same purpose and do not change the configuration of space. Renovation shall include the replacement of equipment or fixtures.

"Repair" means the restoration to a good or sound condition of materials, systems and/or components that are worn, deteriorated or broken using materials or components identical to or closely similar to the existing.

"Small job" means construction work requiring no prior approvals and the total cost of which is under \$5,000. A "small job" may involve more than one trade and may require plan review.

"State sponsored code change proposal" means any proposed amendment or code change adopted by the commissioner in accordance with subsection c. of section 6 of the act as amended for the purpose of presenting such proposed amendment or code change at any of the periodic code change hearings held by the National Model Code adoption agencies, the codes of which have been adopted as subcodes under the Act. For purposes of this definition a State sponsored code change proposal may also oppose any code change under consideration by a model code agency.

"Stop construction order" means the order provided for in N.J.S.A. 52:27D-132 of the act and N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.

"Structure" means a combination of materials to form a construction for occupancy, use or ornamentation, whether installed on, above, or below the surface of a parcel of land; provided, the word "structure" shall be construed when used herein as though followed by the words "or part or parts thereof and all equipment therein" unless the context clearly requires a different meaning.

"Subcode" means any of the national model codes, parts thereof or other codes or standards as adopted by reference in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3 or as set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:23-7, 8, 10 and 12.

"Tenancy" means an entire building, or that portion of a building or story, which is or is intended to be under the control of a single owner or tenant.

"The Code in effect at the time of permit application" means either the Code in effect on the date of submission of a complete permit application or the Code under which the original plans were reviewed and released pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-1.6.

"Use" means that portion of a building or tenancy which is devoted to a single use group or special use or occupancy, as defined in the building subcode, or as established by the provisions of any other subcode for the purpose of specifying special requirements applicable to that portion of a building or tenancy.

"Use Group" means the classification of an occupancy (also see "Group").

"Wall sign" means a sign mounted on the wall of another structure in a manner such that it is exposed to wind loads from one side only.

"Work area" means any entire use, primary function space or tenancy comprising all or part of a reconstruction project as delineated on the approved permit application and/or plans.

As amended, R.1977 d.256, effective August 1, 1977.

See: 9 N.J.R. 164(a), 9 N.J.R. 358(a).

As amended, R.1978 d.162, effective June 1, 1978.

See: 10 N.J.R. 141(a), 10 N.J.R. 225(a).

As amended, R.1981 d.133, effective May 7, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 119(a), 13 N.J.R. 258(c).

"Certificate of continued occupancy" and "prior approvals" recodified.

As amended, R.1982 d.7, effective February 1, 1982.

See: 13 N.J.R. 717(a), 14 N.J.R. 142(a).

"Manufactured home" was "mobile home", and definition substantially amended. Added "or premanufactured construction" to "premanufactured system", and added "The terms ... homes".

As amended, R.1983 d.611, eff. January 3, 1984.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1789(a), 16 N.J.R. 45(b).

Added definitions of "major work", "minor work", "municipal procedures manual", "ordinary repair" and "small job".

As amended, R.1984 d.120, effective April 16, 1984.

See: 16 N.J.R. 179(a), 16 N.J.R. 873(a).

"Certificate of occupancy" added "N.J.A.C. 5:23-1.4 have ... been found" to definitions.

Amended by R.1985 d.351, effective July 15, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 1029(a), 17 N.J.R. 1756(b).

Definition for "Facility" added.

Amended by R.1990 d.57, effective February 5, 1990.

See: 21 N.J.R. 3345(b), 22 N.J.R. 350(b).

Reference to compliance with N.J. Underground Storage of Hazardous Substances Act, and deletion of language excluding "public school buildings" from definitions of "building" and "structure".

Amended by R.1990 d.313, effective June 18, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 691(a), 22 N.J.R. 1915(b).

Industrialized/modular buildings added to definition of premanufactured system.

Amended by R.1991 d.325, effective July 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 805(a), 23 N.J.R. 2046(a).

Definitions of certificate of approval, elevator and elevator subcode official added.

Amended by R.1992 d.244, effective June 15, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 1147(a), 24 N.J.R. 2243(a).

Definitions added for Class I, II and III structures.

Amended by R.1993 d.420, effective September 7, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 2158(a), 25 N.J.R. 4072(a).

Amended by R.1993 d.580, effective November 15, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 3692(a), 25 N.J.R. 5145(c).

Administrative correction.

See: 26 N.J.R. 2779(c).

Amended by R.1995 d.381, effective July 17, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 970(a), 27 N.J.R. 2715(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.544, effective October 16, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 2827(a), 27 N.J.R. 3933(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.190, effective April 15, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 320(a), 28 N.J.R. 1981(a).

Added "construction documents".

Amended by R.1996 d.236, effective May 20, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 27 N.J.R. 4050(a), 28 N.J.R. 2586(a).

Amended by R.1996 d.323, effective July 15, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 2112(a), 28 N.J.R. 3549(a).

Amended by R.1997 d.409, effective October 6, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2736(a), 29 N.J.R. 4281(a).

Amended "Prior approvals" and "Subcode".

Amended by R.1997 d.417, effective October 6, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3387(a), 29 N.J.R. 4285(a).

Amended "Prior approvals" and "Public school facility".

Amended by R.1998 d.28, effective January 5, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3603(a), 30 N.J.R. 129(a).

In list of definitions, added "Alteration", "Change of use", "Primary function space", "Reconstruction", "Rehabilitation", "Renovation", "Repair", "Tenancy", "Use", "Work area".

Amended by R.1999 d.424, effective December 6, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2428(a), 31 N.J.R. 4001(c).

Changed "Ordinary repair" definition to "Ordinary maintenance".

Administrative change.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1022(a).

Amended by R.2003 d.216, effective May 19, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 16(a), 35 N.J.R. 2203(a).

Deleted "Construction documents"; added "Plans and specifications".

Amended by R.2003 d.473, effective December 15, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 2421(a), 35 N.J.R. 5543(a).

Deleted "Major work".

Amended by R.2004 d.260, effective July 6, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 3474(b), 36 N.J.R. 3274(a).

Added "Billboard", "Ground sign", "Pylon sign" and "Wall sign".

Amended by R.2004 d.393, effective October 18, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 3003(a), 36 N.J.R. 4814(a).

Added "Group" and "Use Group".

Administrative Correction.

See: 38 N.J.R. 3024(a).

Amended by R.2006 d.355, effective October 2, 2006.

See: 38 N.J.R. 1789(a), 38 N.J.R. 4175(a).

Added definition "The Code in effect at the time of permit application".

Case Notes

Citation to definitions of construction permit and certificate of occupancy. Home Builders League of South Jersey, Inc. v. Evesham Twp., 174 N.J.Super. 252, 416 A.2d 81 (Law Div.1980).

Citation to mobile home definition in former regulation (similar to present manufactured home definition); mobile homes acceptable form of moderate cost housing. Southern Burlington County N.A.A.C.P. v. Twp. of Mt. Laurel, 161 N.J.Super. 317, 391 A.2d 935 (Law Div.1978) affirmed in part, reversed in part 92 N.J. 158, 456 A.2d 390, on remand 207 N.J.Super 169, 504 A.2d 66.

Applicant for construction permit must provide assurances that necessary prior approvals obtained. Riggins v. Pinelands Commission, 8 N.J.A.R. 441 (1985).

5:23-1.5 Effective date

(a) The provisions of the regulations shall take effect on January 1, 1977. All construction regulations incorporated in any act of the State of New Jersey, or of any municipality presently in effect, or validly promulgated or enacted by any board, department, commission or agency thereof, shall continue in effect until January 1, 1977, and shall thereafter be superseded and of no further force and effect. Any law or regulation addressing areas for which the commissioner shall not have promulgated a subcode may continue in effect until such time as a subcode therefor is adopted.

(b) Exceptions include:

1. This section shall not apply to those aspects of the act which were capable of taking effect on the effective date of the act.

2. This section shall not apply to those parts of N.J.A.C. 5:23-4 which require the adoption of a resolution or other action prior to the effective date. Such section shall take effect upon adoption.

3. This section shall not apply to laws or regulations specifically saved by the act or the regulations.

5:23-1.6 Grace period

(a) For a period of six months following the operative date of a subcode revision, applicants may submit a complete permit application, including all prior approvals, to be reviewed under the code in force immediately preceding the subcode revision. Provided that the application is complete, the construction official and applicable subcode officials shall perform the plan review and issue construction permit(s) based on the code in force immediately prior to the operative date of the subcode revision. This grace period shall apply only to revisions of subcodes.

Amended by R.2004 d.467, effective December 20, 2004.
See: 36 N.J.R. 2122(a), 36 N.J.R. 5709(b).

In (b), substituted "Ordinary" for "Such" preceding "maintenance" in the introductory paragraph and rewrote 6iii; in (c), rewrote 3iii.

Case Notes

Municipal order under zoning ordinance to remove sleeping trailers and disconnect utilities used by a refinery repair crew proper exercise of police power; action not preempted by Occupational Safety and Health Act. *Twp. of Greenwich v. Mobil Oil Corp.*, 504 F.Supp. 1275 (D.N.J.1981).

5:23-2.8 Installation of equipment

(a) When the installation, extension or alteration of mechanical equipment, refrigeration, air conditioning or ventilating apparatus, plumbing, gas piping, electric wiring, heating system or other equipment is specifically controlled by the provisions of this chapter, it shall be unlawful to use such equipment until a certificate of occupancy or certificate of approval, as the case may be, has been issued therefor by the construction official having jurisdiction. Use of elevator devices shall be subject to N.J.A.C. 5:23-12.9.

(b) The Department shall have exclusive authority to approve systems for indirect apportionment of heating costs in multiple dwellings.

Amended by R.1991 d.509, effective October 7, 1991.
See: 23 N.J.R. 2236(a), 23 N.J.R. 3001(a).

Stylistic changes.

Amended by R.1996 d.323, effective July 15, 1996, (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 2112(a), 28 N.J.R. 3549(a).

Amended by R.2003 d.384, effective October 6, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 2422(a), 35 N.J.R. 4712(a).

Designated the existing paragraph as (a) and added (b).

5:23-2.9 Variations and exceptions

(a) No variations or exceptions from the requirements of any subcode of these regulations may be made, except upon the following findings:

1. That strict compliance with any specific subcode provision, if required, would result in practical difficulty to such owner; and
2. That the exception, if granted, will not jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of intended occupants and the public generally.

(b) Except as may be otherwise specified in this chapter, no variations shall be granted from any of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:23-2, 4 or 5.

Amended by R.1996 d.236, effective May 20, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 27 N.J.R. 4050(a), 28 N.J.R. 2586(a).

Added (b).

5:23-2.10 Applications for variations

(a) An application for a variation pursuant to this section shall be filed in writing with the construction official and shall state specifically:

1. A statement of the requirements of the subcode from which a variation is sought;
2. A statement of the manner by which strict compliance with said provisions would result in practical difficulties;
3. A statement of the nature and extent of such practical difficulties; and
4. A statement of feasible alternatives to the requirements of the subcode which would adequately protect the health, safety and welfare of the occupants or intended occupants and the public generally.

Administrative Correction to (a): Changed "set" to "state".
See: 22 N.J.R. 2503(b).

5:23-2.11 Review of variation applications

Within 20 business days next succeeding the receipt by the construction official of the application, it shall be denied or granted by written order stating the reasons therefor. The application shall be deemed denied for purposes of appeal if no decision is forthcoming within such 20-day period. Records of all applications for variation, and actions taken thereon shall be available for public inspection at the enforcing agency during normal business hours.

5:23-2.12 Final decision on variations

The appropriate subcode official(s) shall make the final determination with respect to matters within their jurisdiction. The construction official shall notify the applicant of that determination. Whenever an application for a variation shall result in contradictory or inconsistent determinations by different subcode officials having jurisdiction pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-3, the construction official shall rule as to which subcode official's determination shall be final, and shall notify the applicant of that ruling. Whenever the construction official shall be certified in a particular subcode, he may modify the determination of the subcode official.

5:23-2.13 Authority to grant variations

The enforcing agency with plan review responsibility shall have the sole authority to grant variations.

5:23-2.14 Construction permits—when required

(a) It shall be unlawful to construct, enlarge, repair, renovate, alter, reconstruct or demolish a structure, or change the use of a building or structure, or portion thereof, or to install or alter any equipment for which provision is made or the installation of which is regulated by this chapter, or to undertake a project involving lead abatement in accordance

with N.J.A.C. 5:17, without first filing an application with the construction official, or the appropriate subcode official where the construction involves only one subcode, in writing and obtaining the required permit therefor.

1. Notwithstanding any provision of (b) below to the contrary, a permit shall be required for any work to abate violations cited in a Notice of Violation and Order to Terminate (F213) issued after a certificate of occupancy has been issued.

(b) The following are exceptions from (a) above:

1. Ordinary maintenance as defined in N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.7 shall not require a permit or notice to the enforcing agency;

2. Minor work as defined by N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A shall require a permit. However, work may proceed, upon notice to the enforcing agency, before the permit is issued;

3. Emergency work not involving lead abatement, except that a permit shall be applied for or notice given as soon thereafter as is practicable, but not later than 72 hours thereafter.

4. Exceptions to permit requirements for temporary structures, tents, tensioned membrane structures, canopies, and greenhouses are as follows:

i. Temporary structures: A construction permit is not required for the erection, operation or maintenance of any temporary structures (excluding tents, tensioned membrane structures, canopies, and greenhouses) covering an area less than 120 square feet, including all connecting areas or spaces with a common means of egress or entrance and which remain in place for less than 180 days;

ii. Tents, tensioned membrane structures, and canopies: A construction permit is not required for tents, tensioned membrane structures, and canopies that meet all of the criteria in (b)4ii(1) through (5) below. Tents, tensioned membrane structures, and canopies meeting the following criteria shall be subject to the permitting requirements of the Uniform Fire Code (N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7).

(1) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy is less than 140 feet in any dimension and less than 16,800 square feet in area whether it is one unit or is composed of multiple units;

(2) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy remains in place or will remain in place for fewer than 180 days;

(3) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy is used or occupied only between April 1 and November 30;

(4) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy does not have a permanent anchoring system or foundation; and

(5) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy does not contain platforms or bleachers greater than 11 feet in height.

iii. A temporary greenhouse, also called a "hoop-house" or "polyhouse," meeting the criteria stated in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.2(d), shall not require a permit.

iv. Regardless of whether the tent, tensioned membrane structure, canopy, or greenhouse requires a permit, a permit shall be required for any electrical equipment, electrical wiring or mechanical equipment that would otherwise require a permit.

5. Gas utility company shall not be required to obtain a permit or give notice to the enforcing agency for replacement of interior gas utility company-owned metering (meter and related appurtenances) by exterior gas utility company owned-metering if the work is performed by qualified employees of the gas utility company.

6. A permit shall not be required for a sign that meets all of the following conditions; provided, however, that the construction official shall have authority to require the removal of any sign that creates an unsafe condition or otherwise to require correction of any such condition:

i. It is supported by uprights or braces in or upon the ground surface;

ii. It is not served by an electrical circuit directly connected to the sign;

iii. It is not greater than 25 square feet in surface area (one side); and

iv. It is not more than six feet above the ground (mounted height).

7. Lead abatement work performed on a steel structure or other superstructure or in a commercial building.

8. A permit shall not be required for garden-type utility sheds and similar structures that are 100 square feet or less in area, 10 feet or less in height, and accessory to buildings of Group R-2, R-3, R-4, or R-5. Such garden-type utility sheds and similar structures are required to comply with the requirements at N.J.A.C. 5:23-9.9.

9. A permit shall not be required for fences six feet or less in height. This exception does not apply to barriers surrounding public or private swimming pools.

10. A construction permit is not required for an outdoor maze, unless it is six feet or greater in height or contains any electrical equipment. Outdoor mazes that do not require a permit are subject to the permitting requirements of the Uniform Fire Code (N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7).

Amended by R.1996 d.297, effective July 1, 1996 (operative October 1, 1996).

See: 28 N.J.R. 1586(b), 28 N.J.R. 3301(a).

In (b) added exception for signs.

Amended by R.1997 d.302, effective July 21, 1997 (operative September 24, 1997).

See: 29 N.J.R. 2202(a), 29 N.J.R. 3242(b).

Added (b)7.

Amended by R.1998 d.28, effective January 5, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3603(a), 30 N.J.R. 129(a).

Rewrote (a); added (a)1 stating exception; amended (e)4 and (e)12iii.

Administrative change.

See: 31 N.J.R. 135(b).

Amended by R.1999 d.424, effective December 6, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2428(a), 31 N.J.R. 4001(c).

In (a)1 and (b)1, substituted references to ordinary maintenance for references to ordinary repairs.

Amended by R.2000 d.166, effective April 17, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 4151(a), 32 N.J.R. 1376(a).

In (b), added 8 and 9.

Administrative correction.

See: 34 N.J.R. 2965(a).

Amended by R.2003 d.187, effective May 5, 2003.

See: 34 N.J.R. 4248(a), 35 N.J.R. 1939(c).

In (b), rewrote 4.

Amended by R.2004 d.67, effective February 17, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4627(a), 36 N.J.R. 949(b).

In (b)8, substituted "that" for " , which" preceding "are 100 square feet or less in area", substituted "Group R-2, R-3, R-4 or R-5" for "Use Groups R-2, R-3 or R-4", and inserted "the requirements at" preceding "N.J.A.C. 5:23-9.9".

Amended by R.2005 d.228, effective July 18, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 163(a), 37 N.J.R. 2673(b).

Added (g).

Amended by R.2006 d.157, effective May 1, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3108(a), 38 N.J.R. 1824(a).

Deleted (a)1; and in (b), rewrote 4 and added (b)10.

Amended by R.2006 d.355, effective October 2, 2006.

See: 38 N.J.R. 1789(a), 38 N.J.R. 4175(a).

Rewrote (a)1.

5:23-2.15 Construction permits—application

(a) The application for a permit shall be submitted on the standard Construction Permit Application form prescribed by

the Commissioner at N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.5(b)2 and shall be accompanied by the required fee, as provided for in this subchapter and N.J.A.C. 5:23-4. The application shall contain a general description of the proposed work, its location, the use and occupancy of all parts of the building or structure and all portions of the site or lot not covered by the building or structure, and such additional information as may be required by the construction official, which shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. The name and address of the owner: Where the owner is not a resident of the State, he shall designate a resident as agent for the purpose of service of any notices or orders which may be necessary. Such address shall not be limited to a post office box, but shall specify a physical location where such owner or agent may be found during normal business hours. Where the owner is a corporation, partnership or other business entity, the application shall indicate the names and addresses of the officers, or other responsible persons upon whom service may be made;

2. The street address and lot and block number of the property upon which the building or structure is proposed to be erected;

3. A description of the proposed work, including the use group classification, proposed construction type, lot ground coverage in square feet, total floor area in square feet, total building or structure volume in cubic feet, the total number of plumbing fixtures, the total number of electrical fixtures, outlets and major appliances, a description of the type of heating system, the source of water supply, the mode of sanitary waste disposal and a listing of any special, unusual or hazardous facilities proposed for inclusion in the building or structure;

5:23-4.17 Municipal enforcing agency fees

(a) Ordinance: The municipality shall set enforcing agency fees by ordinance for the following activities: plan review, construction permit, certificate of occupancy, certificates of continued occupancy, demolition permit, elevator permit and sign permit.

1. The municipality shall include in any such ordinance all fees pertaining to the operations of the enforcing agency, including those for which the department has not set standards, such as fees for reinstatement of lapsed permit. All minimum fees shall be stipulated. Fees may be rounded to nearest dollar amount if the municipality's ordinance so provides.

(b) On or before February 10 of each year, in a municipality that budgets according to the calendar year (January 1 to December 31), or on or before August 10 of each year, in a municipality that budgets according to the State fiscal year (July 1 to June 30), the construction official shall, with the advice of the subcode officials and in consultation with the municipal finance officer, prepare and submit to the governing body a report detailing the receipts and expenditures of the enforcing agency and indicating his recommendations for a fee schedule, based on the operating expense of the agency.

1. The report shall be structured in accordance with (c) below and with such guidelines as shall be issued from time-to-time by the Commissioner so as to accurately portray true enforcing agency expenses in general and for structures of different use groups. This report shall serve as the basis for the ordinance to be enacted by the municipality, as it may deem appropriate, establishing the fee schedule.

2. A copy of the construction official's report recommending a fee schedule and setting forth enforcing agency revenues and expenses shall be filed with the Department when prepared and a copy of the ordinance, together with the fee schedule, shall be filed with the Department when enacted or amended.

3. The appropriation and expenditure of construction code fee revenues generated from the fee schedule established pursuant to (b)1 above shall be audited annually by an independent auditor acceptable to the Department and a copy of the auditor's report shall be provided to the Department when it is issued to the municipality. Submission of a copy of the annual municipal audit required to be submitted to the Division of Local Government Services at the time that it is required to be submitted to that Division shall constitute compliance with this requirement provided, however, that the annual municipal audit tests and contains an opinion that all expenditures of construction code fees have been made for purposes herein permitted.

(c) Costs: The fee schedule shall be calculated to reasonably cover the municipal costs of enforcing the regulations.

1. It is the purpose and intent of this subsection to facilitate the accumulation by municipalities of the funds necessary to offset future construction code enforcement expenses, to ensure that construction code revenue is used only for construction code enforcement purposes, and to provide a means of making such revenue readily available for such purposes from year to year.

2. All fees collected pursuant to the fee schedule established in accordance with (b)1 above shall be appropriated in accordance with the requirements of the Uniform Construction Code Act and the Local Budget Law to be applied solely to meet the municipal costs of enforcing the regulations, which costs shall be defined as including only the following:

i. Salaries and employee benefits for licensed code enforcement officials and inspectors and clerical personnel assigned to the enforcing agency, in an amount proportionate to the time spent in performing work for the enforcing agency provided, however, that detailed time records are kept where employees divide their time between Uniform Construction Code and Non-Uniform Construction Code duties;

ii. Cost of motor vehicles in an amount proportionate to their use by or for the enforcing agency. Payments for this purpose may be in the form of mileage reimbursement paid to employees for use of their own motor vehicles, cost of purchase of motor vehicles by the municipality for the exclusive use of the enforcing agency (which cost may not be amortized), depreciation and operating expenses of motor vehicles made available to the enforcing agency by another municipal agency, and cost of rental of motor vehicles for use by the enforcing agency;

iii. Direct costs in support of the agency such as equipment, supplies, furniture, office equipment maintenance, standardized forms, printing, and safety equipment that are supplied directly to the enforcing agency for its sole use;

iv. Professional expenses of enforcing agency personnel that are directly related to the enforcement of the regulations, including publications, membership dues, license fees, and authorized travel to conferences, meetings and seminars;

v. Fees for services performed under contract by private on-site inspection agencies;

vi. Documented charges for legal services required in connection with construction code enforcement litigation;

vii. Fees for the annual audit of the dedicated fund by an independent auditor; and

viii. Subject to the limitations set forth in (c)3 below, indirect, overhead, and other expenses of the municipality in support of the enforcing agency, including:

- (1) Legislative and Executive expenses;
- (2) Administration, including personnel, payroll, and general training services provided to the agency in common with all other municipal offices;
- (3) Central services shared jointly with other municipal offices, such as telephone, reproduction, centralized computer services, etc.;
- (4) Insurance except for group insurance premiums included under employer fringe benefits;
- (5) General building maintenance expenses;
- (6) Finance, including bookkeeping, purchasing, and auditing;
- (7) Office space expenses, including rent or interest and debt service on municipal capital facilities; and
- (8) Such other expenses as may be properly allocable to construction code enforcement.

3. Indirect and overhead expenses charged to the construction code fee revenues shall not exceed 12 percent of all other costs of the enforcing agency unless the indirect and overhead expenses of the municipality exceed 12 percent of the entire municipal budget, in which case indirect and overhead expense may be charged to construction code fee revenues in proportion to the general municipal overhead and expense ratio. A detailed written justification for any charge for indirect and overhead expenses in excess of 12 percent shall be prepared and made available for inspection both by the Department and by the public.

4. This subsection shall not be construed as precluding the use of money from the general fund of the municipality to pay costs of code enforcement when the construction code fee revenues generated from the fee schedule established pursuant to (b)1 above are insufficient for that purpose or when necessary to compensate the enforcing agency for work done without fee pursuant to statute or ordinance.

(d) The fee for development-wide inspection of homes after issuance of a certificate of occupancy ordered pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.35 shall be an amount equal to twice the hourly base salary paid to any licensed code official performing the work or the hourly fees charged to the municipality by a professional contracted to provide such services pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.35, subject to the accounting procedures and limits set forth below.

1. Such charges or fees shall be only those that are reasonable and necessary in order to ascertain whether a violation exists or to verify that any work performed has abated the violation.

2. The municipality shall place in escrow all monies paid by the developer for this purpose. The escrow shall be held in any account maintained by the municipality in the

same manner as that established for the deposit of escrow funds paid for professional review services, inspection fees and performance and maintenance guarantees as provided for at N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53.1.

3. The developer shall post an initial deposit in the amount of \$200.00 per home or an amount determined by the municipality to be necessary to cover the estimated cost of two months' inspection activity, whichever is greater. At monthly intervals, the developer shall increase the amount in the escrow fund so that it shall be sufficient to pay the cost of the next two months' inspection activity or the cost of completing the inspections, whichever is less.

4. Standards for hourly charges for development-wide inspection of homes after issuance of a certification of occupancy shall be as follows:

i. Hourly charges shall be limited only to municipal or consulting professional charges for inspections, review of plans and supporting documents and preparation of reports and documents and shall accurately reflect the hours engaged in these activities.

ii. The only costs that shall be added to any such charges shall be actual out-of-pocket expenses of any consulting professional engineer or registered architect hired for this purpose including normal and typical expenses incurred in performing inspections and reviewing plans and supporting documents for the required corrective work.

iii. The developer shall not be billed and no charge shall be made to any escrow account or deposit for any municipal clerical or administrative functions, overhead expenses, meeting room charges, or any other municipal costs and expenses except as provided for in this subsection, nor shall a municipal enforcing agency professional add any such charges to his expenses.

iv. Where licensed municipal code officials perform these inspections, the fee shall be 200 percent of the hourly base salary of the inspector(s) multiplied by the number of hours spent on inspections and review of plans and supporting documents for any necessary corrective work.

5. Payments shall be charged to the escrow, and shall be made by the Chief Financial Officer of the municipality, and a final accounting shall be provided, in accordance with the procedure set forth in paragraphs c and d of N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53.2. Payments shall be made from any such escrow by the Chief Financial Officer only upon approval by the Construction Official.

6. Appeals of any charges levied by the municipality pursuant to this subsection shall be made to the construction board of appeals, in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.S.A. 40:55D-53.2a and N.J.A.C. 5:23A.

(e) Interlocal enforcement: When two or more municipalities or a county and one or more municipalities enter into an agreement to administer and enforce this chapter pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.4(a)2 and the Interlocal Service Act (N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et seq.), there shall be one uniform fee schedule which shall be applied by all parties to the agreement. Said fee shall be collected by the interlocal enforcing agency performing the administration and enforcement of the regulations. No additional fee shall be required to be paid or be paid by an applicant to any municipality or county for any Uniform Construction Code enforcement service. The enforcing agency shall maintain financial records showing for each municipality the amounts of money collected and expended in the enforcement of this chapter.

Amended by R.1982 d.401, effective November 15, 1982.

See: 14 N.J.R. 495(a), 14 N.J.R. 1300(a).

Added (d). Prior to recodification of N.J.A.C. 5:23, this section was codified at 5:23-4.8.

Amended by R.1982 d.402, effective November 15, 1982.

See: 14 N.J.R. 943(a), 14 N.J.R. 1300(b).

Added to (b)2 that copy of report ... must be filed every two years.

Emergency amendment, R.1989 d.405, effective July 3, 1989 (expires September 1, 1989).

See: 21 N.J.R. 2127(b).

In (a): added "certificates of continued occupancy, certificate of approval" and deleted "moving of building permit ...".

In (a)1: added language regarding rounding of dollar amounts in fees. Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1989 d.512, effective September 1, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 2127(a), 21 N.J.R. 3086(a).

Provisions of emergency amendment R.1989 d.405 readopted without change.

Amended by R.1990 d.115, effective February 5, 1990 (operative March 1, 1990).

See: 21 N.J.R. 3348(a), 22 N.J.R. 352(a).

Requirements added at (c) for the establishment of a mechanism (dedication by rider) to ensure construction fees are used for no other purpose than to fund annual costs for the operation of enforcing agencies.

Amended by R.1990 d.489, effective October 1, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 1871(a), 22 N.J.R. 3147(a).

Amended to state that appropriation of municipal construction code fees may be done by rider or by estimates in advance, in accordance with the Local Budget Law, N.J.S.A. 40A:4-1 et seq.

Amended by R.1992 d.148, effective April 6, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 169(a), 24 N.J.R. 1399(a).

Construction official may report based on the municipality's fiscal year.

Amended by R.1996 d.544, effective December 2, 1996 (operative February 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 3996(a), 28 N.J.R. 5071(a).

Amended by R.2006 d.355, effective October 2, 2006.

See: 38 N.J.R. 1789(a), 38 N.J.R. 4175(a).

Added new (d); and recodified former (d) as (e).

Case Notes

Fee schedules must be calculated to reasonably cover municipal code enforcement costs. Bureau of Construction Code Enforcement v. Hasbrouck Heights, 4 N.J.A.R. 282 (1983).

5:23-4.18 Standards for municipal fees

(a) General:

1. The fee for plan review, computed as a percentage of the fee for a construction permit, shall be paid at the time of submission of an application for a permit. The amount

of this fee shall then be deducted from the amount of the fee due for a construction permit, when the permit is issued; provided however, that the municipality may provide by ordinance that the plan review fee be paid at the time of granting the permit. Plan review fees are not refundable.

2. The fee to be charged for a construction permit will be the sum of the basic construction fee computed in accordance with (c) below herein plus any applicable special fees, such as elevator or sign fees. This fee shall be paid before a permit is issued.

3. The fee to be charged for a certificate of occupancy shall be paid before a certificate is issued. This fee shall be in addition to the construction permit fee;

4. The fee to be charged for an annual construction permit shall be charged annually. This fee shall be a flat fee based upon the number of maintenance workers employed by the facility and who are primarily engaged in work that is governed by a subcode. Managers, engineers and clericals shall not be considered maintenance workers for the purposes of establishing the annual construction permit fee. Annual permits may be issued for building/fire protection, electrical and plumbing. Annual permit fees shall be non-refundable.

5. Prior to the issuance of the annual permit, a training registration fee of \$140.00 per subcode and a list of not more than three individuals to be trained per subcode shall be submitted by the applicant to the municipal construction official, who shall forward the fee and list to the Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Code Services, Training Section along with a copy of the construction permit (Form F170). Checks shall be made payable to "Treasurer, State of New Jersey." The Department shall register these individuals and notify them of the courses being offered.

(b) Plan review fees:

1. Plan review fees shall be computed as a percentage of the fee to be charged for the construction permit. This percentage shall, to the extent possible, approximate the actual costs incurred in plan review activities, but in any case shall be not less than five percent nor more than 25 percent of the amount that would be charged for the construction permit. For projects which do not require plan review for all subcodes, the fee shall be the appropriate percentage of the subcode fee which is applicable.

2. When plans have been reviewed and released by the Department or when a plan review is waived by the municipality in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.15(e)1x, then the enforcing agency construction permit fee shall be reduced by 20 percent from the amount otherwise specified in the municipal enforcing agency fee schedule.

3. If a municipality has not established a plan review fee by ordinance, 20 percent of the construction permit fee shall be designated as the plan review fee for prototype plans.

4. Whenever a permit application is received based on a released prototype plan, the permit fee shall be reduced by the amount of the plan review fee.

i. For Statewide prototype plans released by the Department or for other prototype plans where the prototype did not include the foundation detail, the construction permit fee shall be reduced by 15 percent from the amount otherwise specified in the municipal enforcing agency fee schedule.

(c) Basic construction fee: The basic construction fee shall be computed on the basis of the volume of the building or, in the case of alterations, the estimated construction cost, and the number and types of plumbing, electrical and fire protection fixtures and devices as herein provided.

1. Fees for new construction or alterations shall be as follows:

i. Fees for renovations, alterations, reroofing, repairs, and site construction associated with pre-engineered systems of commercial farm buildings, pre-manufactured construction, and the external utility connections for premanufactured construction, shall be based upon the estimated cost of the work. The fee shall be computed as a unit rate per \$1,000 of estimated cost.

ii. Fees for renovations, alterations, and repairs shall be based upon the estimated cost of the work. The fee shall be computed as a unit rate per \$1,000 of estimated cost.

iii. Fees for additions shall be computed on the same basis as for new construction for the added portion;

iv. Fees for combination renovations and additions shall be computed as the sum of the fees for the addition and alteration computed separately in accordance with (b) and (c) above;

v. The unit rates may vary for different occupancy groups or structures of different sizes within the same occupancy group, but this shall be clearly indicated in the ordinance and schedule;

vi. Temporary structures and all structures for which volume cannot be computed, such as swimming pools and open structural towers, shall be charged a flat rate;

vii. Fees for minor construction work shall be based upon the estimated cost of the work. The fee shall be computed as a unit rate per \$1,000 of estimated cost or fraction thereof.

viii. Fees for retaining walls shall be as follows:

(1) A retaining wall with a surface area greater than 550 square feet that is associated with a Class 3 residential structure shall have a flat fee.

(2) A retaining wall with a surface area of 550 square feet or less that is associated with a Class 3 residential structure shall have a flat fee.

(3) A newly constructed retaining wall of any size at other than a Class 3 residential structure shall be based on the cost of the construction.

ix. A different unit rate may be established for permits for work done in response to Notices of Violation issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.35.

2. Plumbing fixtures and stacks: Fees shall be based upon the number of plumbing fixtures, devices, plumbing stacks and utility service connections to be installed. Utility service connections include sewer connections and water service connections. The fee shall be a unit rate per fixture, stack, and utility service connection. The unit rate may vary for different types of fixtures and utility service pipes, but this shall be clearly indicated in the ordinance and schedule. There shall be no inspection fee charged for gas service entrances.

3. Electrical fixtures and devices: Fees shall be based upon the number of electrical fixtures or rating of electrical equipment and devices to be installed. The fee shall be a unit rate per fixture or per kilowatt, horsepower or ampere rating of the device or equipment. The unit rate may vary for different types of fixtures or devices, but this shall be clearly indicated in the ordinance and schedule.

4. Fees shall be based upon the number of sprinkler heads, standpipes, and detectors (smoke and heat) and shall be reasonable unit charges. Fees may also be charged for the inspection of premanufactured fire suppression systems, for gas and oil fired appliances not connected to the plumbing system, for kitchen exhaust systems and for incinerators and crematoriums. The municipal ordinance shall clearly set forth what fees are to be charged for what devices.

5. The municipality shall set a flat fee for a mechanical inspection performed by a mechanical inspector or a plumbing inspector in a structure of Group R-3, R-4, or R-5. No separate fee shall be charged for gas, fuel oil, or water piping connections, including the bonding conductor (jumper), associated with the mechanical equipment inspected.

(d) Demolition permit fees: Permit fees for demolition of a building or structure shall be a flat fee. This fee may vary according to type of structure or whether there has been a condemnation, but this shall be clearly indicated in the ordinance and schedule.

(e) Sign permit fees: The fee for a permit to construct a sign shall be either based upon the square foot area of the surface of the sign, computed on one side only for double-faced signs, or a flat fee per sign.

(f) Certificate fees: