

New Rule, R.1988 d.283, effective June 20, 1988.  
See: 20 N.J.R. 699(a), 20 N.J.R. 1343(c).  
Old text repealed and new text substituted.

#### Case Notes

Contractor not liable for injuries caused by failure of subcontractor to provide and install material in conformance with State building code. *Miltz v. Borroughs—Shelving, a Div. of Lear Siegler, Inc.*, 203 N.J.Super. 451, 497 A.2d 516 (App.Div.1985).

#### 5:23-3.7 Municipal approvals of nonconforming materials

(a) Approvals: Except as otherwise provided in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.8, the appropriate subcode official may approve the use of fixtures, appurtenance, materials and methods of a type not conforming with the requirements of, nor expressly prohibited by, the regulations after determination that such fixture, appurtenance, material or method is of such design or quality, or both, as to appear to be suitable and safe for the use for which it is intended. A record of such approvals shall be maintained and shall be available to the public.

1. Any person desiring to install or use a fixture, appurtenance, material or method of a type not conforming with the requirements of, nor expressly prohibited by, the regulations shall, prior to such installation or use, submit to the appropriate subcode official such proof as may be required to determine whether such fixture, appurtenance, material or method is of such design or quality, or both, as to appear to be suitable and safe for the use for which it is intended.

(b) Research and investigations: The appropriate subcode official shall require that sufficient technical data be submitted to substantiate the proposed use of any material or assembly, and if it is determined that the evidence submitted is satisfactory proof of performance for the use intended, he may approve its use subject to the requirements of the regulations. The cost of all tests, reports and investigations required under these provisions shall be paid by the applicant.

(c) Research reports: The appropriate subcode official may accept, as supporting data to assist in this determination, duly authenticated research reports from approved authoritative sources for all materials or assemblies proposed for use which are not specifically provided for in the regulations.

Amended by R.1992 d.390, effective October 5, 1992.  
See: 24 N.J.R. 1844(a), 24 N.J.R. 3515(b).  
Reference to exception in 3.8 added.

#### 5:23-3.8 Departmental approval of nonconforming materials

(a) Approval: Whenever the commissioner shall approve any fixture, appurtenance, material or method, such shall be binding and accepted in each municipality.

(b) Notice: Notice of intention to approve any such fixture, appurtenance, material or method shall be published

in the New Jersey Register at least 45 calendar days prior to its final approval. Thereafter, notice of final approval, stating operative date, shall be published in the New Jersey Register.

(c) Prospective effect: Any approval issued pursuant to this section shall be prospective in nature and shall not alter the ruling of a subcode official already rendered in a specific instance relating to a specific permit or structure.

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

Amended by R.1992 d.390, effective October 5, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 1844(a), 24 N.J.R. 3515(b).

Exception added at (d).

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

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

#### 5:23-3.8A Products violating the Code

(a) The Department shall, after public hearing and in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act (P.L. 1968, c.410, as amended), establish and distribute to all enforcing agencies a list of items, devices and materials the regular and intended use of which would violate any provision of the State Uniform Construction Code. A list of such items is set forth in (d) below.

(b) Upon determining that any manufacturer or distributor in the State is selling or offering for retail sale any product on the list which does not have a regular and intended use that does not violate the Code, or any product which may have one or more such non-violative regular and intended use but which is being advertised or promoted for a use that does violate the Code, the Department or any enforcing agency having jurisdiction shall give written notice of the violation of N.J.S.A. 52:27D-138a(5) to such seller. Such notice shall forbid the further sale or offering for retail sale of such product within the State and shall specify a date and time by which such product shall be removed from display to customers.

(c) Any person who, having received a notice of violation pursuant to this section, continues to sell or offer for retail sale products specified in such notice, shall be deemed to be knowingly selling or offering the product for sale in violation of the Code and shall be subject to penalty as provided by statute, in accordance with the procedures set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.31.

(d) The Commissioner has determined that the following materials and supplies are not in conformance with the State Uniform Construction Code:

##### 1. Building materials and supplies:

i. Wood paneling being used as an interior finish not in conformance with section 803.2 of the building subcode. This section specifies that finish shall be classified in accordance with ASTM E84;

ii. Carpeting used as an interior floor finish material not in conformance with section 805.2 of the building subcode. This section specifies that interior floor finish shall be classified in accordance with ASTM E648; and

2. Electrical materials/supplies:

i. As stated in the National Electric Code (sections 90-6, 110-2, 110-3, and 100), only products listed, labeled, approved, and identified are acceptable. Approval is to be based on tests and listings of testing laboratories such as Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), or Factory Mutual (FM), etc.

3. Plumbing materials/supplies:

- i. All purpose solvent cement;
- ii. Clear PB piping;
- iii. Flexible traps and tailpieces;
- iv. Sheet and tubular copper and brass trap and tailpiece fittings less than B & S 17 gauge (.045 in.);
- v. Water closets requiring in excess of an average of 1.6 gallons per flush, that either have a manufacturer's date stamp of July 1, 1991 or later or were not purchased by the distributor prior to July 1, 1991.

4. Miscellaneous materials and supplies:

i. Portable unvented natural gas, liquified petroleum gas and kerosene heaters when offered for sale for use in buildings for human occupancy, unless they are tested, listed, labeled and certified by a nationally recognized testing laboratory such as the American Gas Association Laboratories (AGA), Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) or Factory Mutual (FM);

ii. Urea formaldehyde foam insulation, unless offered for sale for use elsewhere than in buildings.

R.1983 d.296, effective August 1, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 587(a), 15 N.J.R. 1247(a).

Amended by R.1985 d.38, effective February 19, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 3074(a), 17 N.J.R. 421(a).

(d) added.

Amended by R.1987 d.374, effective September 21, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 1024(a), 19 N.J.R. 1720(b).

(d)1i and ii: 904.2 was 1404.2; 904.3 was 1404.3.

Amended by R.1990 d.507, effective October 15, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 2208(a), 22 N.J.R. 3214(a).

Text conformed to BOCA National Code/1990.

Amended by R.1992 d.47, effective February 3, 1992.

See: 23 N.J.R. 3602(a), 24 N.J.R. 405(a).

Low volume water closet exception added at (d)4iii.

Amended by R.1993 d.662, effective December 20, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 3891(a), 25 N.J.R. 5918(a).

### 5:23-3.9 Interpretations and opinions

(a) Whenever the commissioner shall, in accordance with applicable provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, make any rule constituting an interpretation of any provision of the regulations, such shall be binding provided, however, that such interpretations shall be prospective in nature. Such interpretations shall not alter the ruling of a subcode official already rendered in a specific instance relating to a specific permit or structure. Requests for interpretations shall be in the form, and submitted in accordance with the procedure, set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:29.

(b) In response to a written inquiry or request setting forth a specific factual situation, or upon its own initiative, the Construction Code Element may issue a formal technical opinion to clarify provisions of the adopted subcodes. Such formal technical opinion shall be signed by the Assistant Director of the Element and shall be binding upon the Element and upon other code enforcement agencies and licensed officials. Formal technical opinions shall be prospective in nature, shall be based upon adopted subcodes or upon authoritative test results or standards incorporated by reference into an adopted subcode and shall not alter the ruling of a licensed official already rendered in a specific instance relating to a specific permit or structure, except that any such formal technical opinion may be considered in the context of an appeal from any such ruling.

(c) The Construction Code Element may issue bulletins to provide advice to code enforcing agencies, builders, and designers. Bulletins may be issued when the Element finds that an issue that is in need of clarification is adequately dealt with by existing rules and that rulemaking is therefore not appropriate or necessary. Consultation with the Code Advisory Board shall be required prior to the issuance of any bulletin.

(d) In response to a written or oral inquiry or request setting forth a specific factual situation, a staff member of the Construction Code Element may issue an informal opinion as to the proper application of the regulations if the issue is one with which he has authority to deal. Such informal opinion shall only be in writing if it is issued in response to a written inquiry or request and shall not be binding upon the Element or any other party.

Amended by R.1981 d.454, effective December 7, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 561(a), 13 N.J.R. 886(a).

Section substantially amended.

Administrative Correction: Name change.

See: 22 N.J.R. 2503(b).

Amended by R.1995 d.340, effective June 19, 1995.

See: 27 N.J.R. 1512(a), 27 N.J.R. 2388(a).

Redesignated (c) as (d) and added a new (c).

### 5:23-3.10 (Reserved)

Amended by R.1987 d.509, effective December 7, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 1264(a), 19 N.J.R. 2270(a).

Substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.507, effective October 15, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 2208(a), 22 N.J.R. 3214(a).

Text conformed to BOCA National Code/1990.

Recodified to 5:23-4.3A by R.1992 d.272, effective July 6, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 1446(a), 24 N.J.R. 2424(a).

Section was "Enforcing agency classification".

### 5:23-3.11 Enforcement activities reserved to the Department

(a) Except as otherwise provided in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.11A(c) and (d), the Department of Community Affairs shall be the sole plan review agency for the following structures: