

CHAPTER 23
UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE

Authority

N.J.S.A. 52:27D-123, 123a, 123.2, 123.5, 123.8, 124, 124f and 133.4.

Source and Effective Date

R.2003 d.70, effective January 15, 2003.
See: 34 N.J.R. 351(a), 35 N.J.R. 1054(a).

Chapter Expiration Date

Chapter 23, Uniform Construction Code, expires on January 15, 2008.

Chapter Historical Note

Chapter 23, Uniform Construction Code, was adopted as R.1976 d.344, d.345, d.346 and d.347, effective January 1, 1977 and codified as Subchapter 1, General Provisions; Subchapter 2, Administration and Enforcement Process; Subchapter 3, Subcodes, and Subchapter 4, Enforcing Agencies: Duties, Powers, Procedures. See: 8 N.J.R. 216(b), 319(a), 370(d), 414(a); 8 N.J.R. 546(a). Chapter 23, Uniform Construction Code, superseded N.J.A.C. 5:16, Standard Building Code and N.J.A.C. 5:20, Safety Glazing Materials, which were repealed by R.1978 d.360, effective October 6, 1978. See: 10 N.J.R. 377(a), 10 N.J.R. 470(a). Chapter 23, Uniform Construction Code, also superseded N.J.A.C. 5:21, Uniform Standards Code for Mobile Homes, which was repealed by R.1982 d.7, effective February 1, 1982. See: 13 N.J.R. 717(a), 14 N.J.R. 142(a).

Subchapter 5, Licensing of Code Enforcement Officials, was adopted as R.1977 d.304, effective October 1, 1977. See: 9 N.J.R. 257(b), 9 N.J.R. 413(b). Subchapter 6, Tax Exemption for Solar Facilities, was adopted as R.1978 d.334, effective September 18, 1978. See: 10 N.J.R. 222(b), 10 N.J.R. 418(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Subchapter 6, Tax Exemption for Solar Facilities, was readopted as R.1980 d.303, effective July 1, 1980. See: 12 N.J.R. 249(c), 12 N.J.R. 452(c).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 23, Uniform Construction Code, was readopted as R.1983 d.144, effective April 26, 1983. See: 14 N.J.R. 1247(a), 15 N.J.R. 803(c).

Subchapter 7, Barrier Free Subcode, was adopted as R.1986 d.448, effective November 3, 1986. See: 18 N.J.R. 757(a), 18 N.J.R. 2194(a).

Subchapter 8, Asbestos Hazard Abatement Subcode, was adopted as Emergency New Rules R.1985 d.362, effective June 18, 1985 (expired August 17, 1985). See: 17 N.J.R. 1782(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), the provisions of R.1985 d.362 were readopted as R.1985 d.472, effective August 16, 1985. See: 17 N.J.R. 2249(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 23, Uniform Construction Code, was readopted as R.1988 d.168, effective March 22, 1988. N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.1, 6.2 and 6.3, concerning tax exemption for solar facilities, were not readopted and expired on April 1, 1988. See: 20 N.J.R. 223(a), 20 N.J.R. 893(a).

Subchapter 9, Code Interpretations, was adopted as R.1988 d.195, effective May 2, 1988. See: 20 N.J.R. 224(a), 20 N.J.R. 977(a).

Subchapter 10, Radon Hazard Subcode, was adopted as R.1990 d.226, effective May 7, 1990. See: 21 N.J.R. 3696(a), 22 N.J.R. 1356(a).

Subchapter 4A, Industrialized/Modular Buildings and Building Components, was adopted as R.1990 d.313, effective June 18, 1990, (operative July 1, 1990). See: 22 N.J.R. 691(a), 22 N.J.R. 1915(b).

Subchapter 11, Indoor Air Quality Standards and Procedures for Buildings Occupied by Public Employees, was adopted as R.1992 d.33, effective January 21, 1992. See: 23 N.J.R. 1730(b), 24 N.J.R. 229(c).

Subchapter 12, Elevator Safety Subcode, was adopted as R.1991 d.325, effective July 1, 1991. See: 23 N.J.R. 805(a), 23 N.J.R. 2046(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 23, Uniform Construction Code, was readopted as R.1993 d.106, effective February 3, 1993. See: 24 N.J.R. 1420(b), 25 N.J.R. 920(a).

Subchapter 4B, Manufactured Homes and Manufactured Home Add-On Units Not Subject to Federal Regulation, and Subchapter 4C, Enforcement of Federal Manufactured Home Standards, were adopted as R.1994 d.96, effective February 22, 1994. See: 25 N.J.R. 5388(a), 26 N.J.R. 1073(a).

N.J.A.C. 5:23-7.1 through 7.99 were repealed and 7.100 through 7.116 were recodified as 7.2 through 7.18 by R.1995 d.144, effective March 20, 1995 (operative July 1, 1995). See: 26 N.J.R. 2698(a), 26 N.J.R. 2524(a), 27 N.J.R. 1180(a).

Subchapter 11, Indoor Air Quality Standards and Procedures for Buildings Occupied by Public Employees, was repealed by R.1995 d.612, effective December 4, 1995 (operative July 1, 1995). See: 27 N.J.R. 3518(a), 27 N.J.R. 4885(a).

Pursuant to Executive Order No. 66(1978), Chapter 23, Uniform Construction Code, was readopted as R.1997 d.409, effective September 9, 1997. As a part of R.1997 d.409, effective October 6, 1997, Subchapter 6, Tax Exemption, was repealed. See: 29 N.J.R. 2736(a), 29 N.J.R. 4281(a).

Subchapter 6, Rehabilitation Subcode, was adopted as R.1998 d.28, effective January 5, 1998. See: 29 N.J.R. 3603(a), 30 N.J.R. 129(a).

Subchapter 12A, Optional Elevator Inspection Program, was adopted as R.1998 d.480, effective September 21, 1998. See: 30 N.J.R. 1119(b), 30 N.J.R. 3461(a).

Subchapter 11, Playground Safety Subcode, was adopted as R.1999 d.351, effective October 18, 1999. See: 31 N.J.R. 1838(a), 31 N.J.R. 3082(a).

Subchapter 3A, State-Jurisdiction Subcodes, was adopted as R.2001 d.303, effective September 4, 2001. See: 33 N.J.R. 1991(a), 33 N.J.R. 2989(a).

Chapter 23, Uniform Construction Code, was readopted as R.2003 d.70, effective January 15, 2003. See: Source and Effective Date.

Cross References

Child care center physical facility requirements, see N.J.A.C. 10:122-5.1 et seq.

Children's group home physical facility requirements, see N.J.A.C. 10:128-4.1 et seq.

Children's shelter physical facility requirements, see N.J.A.C. 10:124-5.1 et seq.

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SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL PROVISIONS

5:23-1.1 Title; division into subchapters

(a) These regulations shall be known as the "Regulations for the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code" and are referred to herein as "the regulations".

(b) The chapter consists of the following subchapters:

1. "General provisions" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-1 and when referred to in subchapter 1 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

2. "Administration and enforcement; process" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-2 and when referred to in subchapter 2 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

3. "Subcodes" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-3 and when referred to in subchapter 3 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

i. N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.11B contains references to the Department of Environmental Protection's rules concerning underground storage tanks, codified at N.J.A.C. 7:14B, which are jointly enforced by this Department and local enforcing agencies pursuant to this chapter.

4. "Enforcing agencies: duties, powers, and procedures" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-4 of this chapter and when referred to in subchapter 4 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

5. "Industrialized/Modular Buildings and Building Components" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-4A and when referred to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4A may be cited as this subchapter.

6. "Manufactured Homes and Manufactured Home Add-On Units Not Subject to Federal Regulations" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-4B and when referred to in subchapter 4B may be cited as this subchapter.

7. "Enforcement of Federal Manufactured Home Standards" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-4C and when referred to in subchapter 4C may be cited as this subchapter.

8. "Licensing of Code Enforcement Officials" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-5 and when referred to in subchapter 5 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

9. "Rehabilitation Subcode" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-6 and, when referred to in subchapter 6 of this chapter, may be cited as this subchapter.

10. "Barrier Free Subcode" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-7 and when referred to in subchapter 7 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

11. "Asbestos Hazard Abatement Subcode" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-8 and when referred to in subchapter 8 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

12. "Code Interpretations" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-9 and when referred to in subchapter 9 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

13. "Radon Hazard Subcode" which may be cited throughout the regulations as N.J.A.C. 5:23-10 and when referred to in subchapter 10 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

14. "Playground safety subcode" which may be cited throughout this chapter as N.J.A.C. 5:23-11 and, when referred to in subchapter 11 of this chapter, may be cited as "this subchapter."

15. "Elevator Safety Subcode" which may be cited throughout the rules as N.J.A.C. 5:23-12 and when referred to in subchapter 12 of this chapter may be cited as this subchapter.

16. "Optional elevator inspection program" which may be cited throughout the rules as N.J.A.C. 5:23-12A and, when referred to in subchapter 12A of this chapter, may be cited as "this subchapter."

Amended by R.1978 d.350, eff. October 1, 1978.

See: 10 N.J.R. 378(a), 10 N.J.R. 469(f).

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

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

(b) substantially amended.

Amended by R.1990 d.226, effective May 7, 1990.

See: 21 N.J.R. 3696(a), 22 N.J.R. 1356(a).

Added 9 and 10 to (b).

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

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

Text added at (b)5.

Amended by R.1990 d.562, effective November 19, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 2629(c), 22 N.J.R. 3482(d).

Added reference to N.J.A.C. 7:14B.

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

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

Text on elevators added at (b).

Amended by R.1992 d.183, effective April 20, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 167(a), 24 N.J.R. 1475(b).

Reference to Indoor Air Quality Subcode added at (b)12.

Amended by R.1994 d.96, effective February 22, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 5388(a), 26 N.J.R. 1073(a).

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

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

Deleted (b)14.

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

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

In (b)9, substituted "Rehabilitation Subcode" for "Tax Exemptions".

Amended by R.1998 d.480, effective September 21, 1998.

See: 30 N.J.R. 1119(b), 30 N.J.R. 3461(a).

In (b), added 16.

Amended by R.1999 d.351, effective October 18, 1999.

See: 31 N.J.R. 1838(a), 31 N.J.R. 3082(a).

Rewrote (b)14.

Case Notes

Councilperson violated local ethics law; project manager for private construction company. *Bleeker v. Local Finance Board*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 122.

5:23-1.2 Authority

These regulations are promulgated by the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs pursuant to the authority of the "State Uniform Construction Code Act" (P.L. 1975, c.217, as amended).

5:23-1.3 Intent and purpose

(a) It is the intent and purpose of the regulations:

1. To encourage innovation and economy in construction and to provide requirements for construction and construction materials consistent with nationally recognized standards.

2. To formulate such requirements, to the extent practicable, in terms of performance objectives, so as to make adequate performance for the use intended as the test of acceptability.

3. To permit to the fullest extent feasible the use of modern technical methods, devices and improvements, including premanufactured systems, consistent with reasonable requirements for the health, safety and welfare of occupants or users of buildings and structures.

4. To eliminate restrictive, obsolete, conflicting and unnecessary construction regulations that tend to unnecessarily increase construction costs or retard the use of new materials, products or methods of construction, or provide preferential treatment to types or classes of materials or products or methods of construction.

5. To insure adequate maintenance of buildings and structures throughout the State and to adequately protect the health, safety and welfare of the people.

6. To eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and fees in the review of construction plans and the inspection of construction.

Case Notes

Intent is elimination of construction regulations by local government units. *Home Builders League of South Jersey, Inc. v. Evesham Twp.*, 174 N.J.Super. 252, 416 A.2d 81 (Law Div.1980).

Uniform Construction Code codified in regulations. *Bureau of Construction Code Enforcement v. Hasbrouck Heights*, 4 N.J.A.R. 282 (1983).

5:23-1.4 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Alteration” means the rearrangement of any space by the construction of walls or partitions, the addition or elimination of any door or window, the extension or rearrangement of any system, the installation of any additional equipment or fixtures and any work which affects a primary structural component.

“Billboard” means any sign which exceeds 32 square feet in area on any face, except for signs which advertise or otherwise identify activities performed upon the property on which the sign is located.

“Building” means a structure enclosed with exterior walls or fire walls, built, erected and framed of component structural parts, designed for the housing shelter, enclosure and support of individuals, animals or property of any kind. When used herein, building and structure shall be interchangeable except where the context clearly indicates otherwise.

“Building 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 building subcode within the jurisdiction of the enforcing agency.

“Business day” means any day of the year, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays.

“Certificate of approval” means a certificate issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-2 upon completion of work that requires a construction permit but not a certificate of occupancy.

“Certificate of compliance” means the certificate provided for in N.J.A.C. 5:23-2 and 12, indicating that potentially hazardous equipment is being maintained in accordance with the Act and this chapter.

“Certificate of continued occupancy” means the certificate provided for in N.J.A.C. 5:23-2, indicating that as a result of a general inspection of the visible parts of the building, no violations of N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.14 have been determined to have occurred and no unsafe conditions violative of N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.32 have been found, and that the existing use of the building has heretofore lawfully existed.

“Certificate of occupancy” means the certificate provided for in N.J.A.C. 5:23-2, indicating that the construction authorized by the construction permit has been completed in accordance with the construction permit, the act and the regulations.

“Change of use” means a change from one use to another use in a building or tenancy or portion thereof.

“Class I structure” means a structure not listed in N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.3A(d)1i through vii or 2ii through xxi.

“Class II structure” means a structure listed in N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.3A(d)2ii through xxi.

“Class III structure” means a structure listed in N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.3A(d)1i through vii.

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs.

“Construction Board of Appeals” means the board provided for in N.J.A.C. 5:23A.

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

“Construction permit” means an authorization to begin work subject to the conditions established in subchapter 2 of this chapter.

“Department” means the Department of Community Affairs.

“Effective date” means, in the case of a new rule, amendment or repeal, the date of promulgation in the New Jersey Register. The effective date of a readoption is the date of filing with the Office of Administrative Law.

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

“Elevator” or “elevator device” means a hoisting and lowering device equipped with a car or platform which moves in guides for the transportation of individuals or freight in a substantially vertical direction through successive floors or levels of a building or structure; or a power driven, inclined,

continuous stairway used for raising or lowering passengers; or a type of passenger carrying device on which passengers stand or walk, and in which the passenger carrying surface remains parallel to its direction of motion and is uninterrupted. This includes, but it is not limited to, elevators, escalators, 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 circumstances 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.

“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.424, 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).

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.

(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).

i. For the purposes of applying this requirement, an outdoor maze is an attraction that lacks a roof and is designed to disorient patrons, reduce vision, present barriers, or otherwise impede the flow of traffic and does not consist solely of living rooted plants such as corn stalks or trees, but includes mazes created from plants that have been cut and attached to an object to support them.

(c) An annual construction permit may be issued by the construction official to educational, industrial, institutional, mercantile, business and government facilities based upon submission of the following in duplicate:

1. Identification of the facility and the buildings covered by the application for the annual permit.
2. Identification of the location within the facility where the annual permit records will be maintained.
3. A listing of the names, titles and trade specialties of the facility's full-time maintenance staff.
4. The name of the person responsible for the maintenance logs, job assignments and quality control.
5. A statement from the management of the facility attesting that the maintenance staff performing work under the annual permit are under the direct supervision of a qualified individual, as set forth under N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.14(e)1, or are individually qualified in their respective trades.
 - i. Evidence of qualification shall be journeyman status, civil service status, trade experience, trade school certification, college degree, State licensure pursuant to law or other appropriate evidence of competence.
 - ii. No person employed on the maintenance staff of a facility shall be deemed to be qualified to engage in lead abatement unless he or she has been certified by the New Jersey Department of Health pursuant to section 3 of P.L. 1993, c.288 (N.J.S.A. 26:20-3) (see N.J.A.C. 8:62).
6. A statement from the management explaining their procedures for providing training at Department seminars on construction codes on a regular basis for at least one, but not more than three, individuals per subcode.
7. A statement from the management explaining the procedures of the applicant to ensure proper quality control of the work performed under the annual permit.
8. Receipt of the required annual permit fee and training registration fee.

(d) The Construction Official, upon review of the application may issue or deny an annual construction permit in whole or in part. The construction permit (Form F-170C) shall state that the permit is an annual permit and indicate the technical subcodes in which the facility is approved to do work under the annual permit. A copy of the annual permit shall be forwarded by the Construction Official to the Department of Community Affairs Training Section along with the appropriate training registration fee.

(e) Conditions of the annual permit are as follows:

1. The "annual permit" may be issued for building/fire protection, electrical, mechanical or plumbing work or any combination of those classifications of work, providing that

the individual responsible for work done under the annual permit possesses knowledge as evidenced in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.14(c)5, in the technical work classification for which the annual permit is sought.

- i. An approved copy of the annual permit application shall be kept at a facility's maintenance office within the municipality having jurisdiction for review by the Construction Official and appropriate subcode official. The Construction Official shall be notified of the location of the facilities maintenance office.

2. The life of the annual construction permit shall be limited to one year;

3. The facility shall maintain a construction log of all work performed. The construction log shall contain the date, a brief description and estimated or actual cost of the project. This log shall be subject to a quarterly inspection by the construction official or his authorized representative. Any business record showing when and where work was done and the extent of such work shall be deemed to be a construction log: Applications for the renewal of the "annual permit" shall be filed with the Construction Official at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the current annual permit. The facility application shall make current the information previously submitted to the Construction Official. The application for renewal shall be accompanied by the established fee.

4. The annual permit covers all work subject to this chapter done by the facility's full-time maintenance staff, but shall not include work performed by outside contract even if the contractor is hired by the facility and is working under direct supervision of the facility's maintenance staff. Work performed by outside contract shall be subject to applicable UCC regulations and State Licensure Law.

5. A permanent work log, approved by the construction official, of all work done under the "annual permit" must be maintained at a facilities maintenance office on site or must be available at the time of the inspection upon 24 hours notice of such inspection. The log must contain the date, a brief description of the work, photographs for any work which was not inspected prior to closing as set forth in (e)8 below, and the name of the person supervising the work. The log shall be retained for three years.

6. Architectural or engineering drawings, as required by law for work done under the annual permit, shall be prepared by a registered architect or licensed engineer as defined by the statutory requirements of the professional registration laws of this State and shall be kept permanently on file and be made available to the Construction Official and appropriate subcode official, for review upon request.

7. The appropriate subcode official, at least two (2) times a year, shall perform inspections of the facility for

which an annual permit has been issued. The maximum time between inspections shall be a six month period.

8. Work that is normally inspected prior to closing shall be ordered to be reopened by the facility upon written notice from the Construction Official or appropriate subcode official if he has reason to believe that a violation is present. A photograph shall be taken of any work intended to be enclosed without inspection.

9. Any work that is done under the supervision of the facilities maintenance staff and under a regular construction permit shall be entered into the annual permit log. The construction permit number shall be listed as a part of the entry.

10. Training for annual permits shall be provided at the seminars for code officials.

i. The facility shall provide a list of at least one, but not more than three, individuals per subcode who are required to complete five hours of continuing education per year.

ii. The Department shall maintain the training records for each annual permit. The annual permit shall not be renewed unless the facility completes the training for each issued subcode.

iii. The Department shall notify the construction official who issued the permit if the training has not been completed.

11. Any changes to the annual construction permit application shall be forwarded to the Construction Official within 30 days of the change.

12. The following work is not permitted under an annual permit:

i. Any work done on a facility that would result in a change of use of a building or part of a building;

ii. New buildings and additions regardless of size;

iii. Renovation, alteration or reconstruction work completed between inspection periods in an area in excess of 5,000 square feet per building;

iv. Any work done on a facility that would result in an increase to the area of a building;

v. The installation or alteration of a sprinkler system;

vi. Any work that affects the required means of egress;

vii. Any modification work, other than routine maintenance, that affects life safety systems, such as, but not limited to:

- (1) Emergency lighting systems;
- (2) Smoke and heat detection systems;

(3) Stand-by generator systems;

(4) Emergency smoke evacuation systems.

viii. Any work which would disturb asbestos and require a permit to perform.

(f) Construction requirements for commercial farm buildings shall be as set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.2(d).

(g) No person shall construct, enlarge, alter, reconstruct, or demolish a retaining wall or series of retaining walls having a total height four feet or greater, or a retaining wall less than four feet having a negative impact on a foundation, without first obtaining a construction permit. The height of a retaining wall shall be the sum of the heights of all retaining walls on the same slope.

1. Exception: This requirement shall not apply to any retaining wall that is intended to be dedicated to the municipality and is subject to regulation, inspection, and the issuance of bonds under Article 6, Subdivision and Site Plan Review and Approval, of the Municipal Land Use Law, P.L. 1975, c.291 (N.J.S.A. 40:55D-37 et seq.).

As amended, R.1981 d.462, eff. December 7, 1981.

See: 13 N.J.R. 390(a), 13 N.J.R. 885(d).

(c)li: added "under the control and supervision of a person"; (c)liii: added "any business construction log."

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

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

Section substantially amended.

Amended by R.1986 d.213, effective June 16, 1986.

See: 17 N.J.R. 2490(a), 18 N.J.R. 1266(a).

Subsection (e) substantially amended.

Administrative Correction: "facility's" changed from "facilities" throughout.

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

Amended by R.1990 d.558, effective November 19, 1990.

See: 22 N.J.R. 1969(b), 22 N.J.R. 3483(a).

Conditional exemption for hoopouses or polyhouses added.

Amended by R.1991 d.60, effective February 19, 1991.

See: 22 N.J.R. 3609(a), 23 N.J.R. 405(b).

Gas utilities exempt from permit and notice requirements.

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

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

Mechanical work added to (e)1.

Amended by R.1992 d.230, effective June 1, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 168(a), 24 N.J.R. 2052(a).

Form numbers changed in (d).

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

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

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.475, effective September 5, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 1716(a), 27 N.J.R. 3325(a).

Rewrote (c)6 and (e)10.

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.

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;

(6) The plan number and date of the released prototype plan; and

(7) When an automatic fire sprinkler system is installed, the fire sprinkler system demand, including either hose stream allowances or the required domestic demand, as applicable, at the available water supply shall be documented.

iii. Plans that contain deviations that were not released as part of the prototype shall not be considered a prototype and shall require the submission of a new permit application and application fees for that project to the appropriate plan review agency.

3. Examination of plans: All plans submitted and any amendments thereto accompanied by the required documentation and application, and upon payment of the fee established by the enforcing agency, shall be numbered, docketed and examined promptly after their submission for compliance with the provisions of the regulations.

4. Plan review:

i. Department review: When a review and release of plans by the Department is required pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.11 or requested for a prototype plan intended for use Statewide, the owner or agent of the owner shall file an application for construction plan release for each project, along with three sets of plans (two sets for prototypes), specifications and such other supporting information as the Department may require on forms obtained from the Department. The plans, specifications and other supporting information shall conform to the requirements of (e) above.

(1) Release of plans: Plans complying with the provisions of the regulations shall be released by the Department and written notice of approval shall be given the applicant promptly and no later than 20 business days after the submission thereof. Plans failing to comply with the provisions of the code shall be rejected and a written notice of rejection, stating the grounds for rejection, shall be given to the applicant not later than 20 business days after the submission thereof. Whenever plans have been rejected and are thereafter revised and resubmitted, the revised plans shall be released if the grounds for rejection have been corrected and code compliance has been demonstrated. In that case, a written notice of release shall be given to the applicant not later than seven business days after the resubmission of the revised plans. When the grounds for rejection have not been corrected or when code compliance has not been demonstrated, a written notice of rejection stating the grounds for rejection shall be given to the applicant not later than seven business days after the resubmission of the revised plans.

(2) Endorsement of released plans: All plans and amendments thereto, when approved by the depart-

ment, shall be stamped or endorsed "released", followed by a notation of the date of plan release. One set of such released plans shall be retained by the department, two sets of such released plans shall be submitted to the local enforcing agency with the application for construction permit as herein provided.

(3) Partial filing: When circumstances require, a project may be filed in part (that is, footings, structural, electrical, plumbing, and so forth). Each partial submittal shall include sufficient detail to assure that the proposed portion of work complies with the regulations. A plan "release" for such a portion of work shall be issued without prejudice as to whether a "release" shall be issued for the entire project.

(4) Construction permits: Owners and their agents shall not apply to a local enforcing agency for a construction permit for any building or structure for which a department plan review and release is required by N.J.A.C. 5:23-3, unless such review and release has been applied for and received by the applicant as evidenced by presentation of released plans to the local enforcing agency.

ii. Local enforcing agency plan review: Where a Department plan review is not required by the regulations, an applicant for a construction permit shall be deemed to have applied for a local enforcing agency plan review by filing an application for a construction permit.

(1) When the plans submitted with an application for a construction permit or amendment thereto are accompanied by plans which have been released by the Department, then further municipal plan review and fee therefor shall not be required. Release of the plans by the Department shall not prevent enforcing agency officials from thereafter requiring correction of any errors in said plans or from issuing a stop work order when in violation of the regulations. In such case the enforcing agency shall notify the Department;

iii. Validity of plan or prototype release: The released plans or prototype (Department or local) shall be valid for the purposes of applying for a construction permit until six months after the operative date of the next edition of the code, as set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:23-1.6.

iv. Time limitation of application: An application for a permit for any proposed work shall be deemed to have been abandoned six months after date of filing, unless such application has been diligently prosecuted or a permit shall have been issued; except that for reasonable cause, the construction official may grant one or more extensions of time for additional periods not exceeding 90 days each.

v. Amended plans and specifications: Amendments may be filed at any time; such amendments shall be deemed part of the original application and, when released, shall be filed therewith. Amended plans and specifications shall be required where deviations affect matters controlled by the code and, in the judgment of the subcode official having jurisdiction, such amended plans are necessary to assist in the determination of code compliance. The official may require the affected portions of the work to be halted until amended plans and specifications are released. If the amendment involves a substantial deviation from the original application, a new affidavit of consent may be required by the construction official. If a Department plan review was required originally, the enforcing agency shall not permit an amendment to the plans or specifications unless the amendment has been released by the Department.

vi. Building systems: Structural, electrical and mechanical designs performed and certified by licensed architects or engineers need not be checked in detail by the staff of the enforcing agency, but shall remain as the responsibility of the professional certifying such design.

vii. A schematic or sketch plan, when required pursuant to this subsection, shall not be deemed to be a construction copy of a plan and shall therefore not be required to be signed or sealed by a registered architect or licensed professional engineer.

Amended by R.1985 d.352, effective July 15, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 1031(a), 17 N.J.R. 1758(a).

(b)1i: deleted text "The registration number of the contractor", and added "A current validated ... contractor and the".

Amended by R.1985 d.479, effective September 16, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 1462(a), 17 N.J.R. 2248(b).

(b)2ii added. (d) text added "All issued permits ...".

Administrative Correction: Cleaned up typographical errors.

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

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

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

Text added at (a)6 on Class I structure.

Amended by R.1993 d.353, effective July 19, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1629(a), 25 N.J.R. 3147(a).

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.1997 d.304, effective July 21, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2204(a), 29 N.J.R. 3248(a).

In (e)1, substituted "no fewer" for "no less"; and in (e)1i, inserted reference to accessible routes.

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

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

Amended (a)6, (a)7v and (e)3v; inserted (a)8 and (e)1vii.

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

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

Rewrote the section.

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

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

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2004 d.144, effective April 5, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4944(a), 36 N.J.R. 1753(a).

Rewrote (e).

Amended by R.2006 d.32, effective January 17, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 2918(a), 38 N.J.R. 484(a).

Added (b)5 through 7; recodified former (b)5 as (b)8 and rewrote the reference to (b)1, 2, 3, 4 as "(b)1 through 7."

Amended by R.2006 d.127, effective April 3, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 4599(a), 38 N.J.R. 1572(a).

Recodified former (b)8 as (b)10 and rewrote the reference "(b)1 through 7" as "(b)1 through 9"; added (b)8 and (b)9.

Administrative correction.

See: 38 N.J.R. 3776(b).

Case Notes

Zoning permit may be required pursuant to Municipal Land Use Law but not Uniform Construction Code Act. *Acqua Development Corp. v. Township of Holmdel*, 287 N.J.Super. 578, 671 A.2d 636 (L.1995).

Compliance with former N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.5 requirements for permit to non-contractor owner to perform repairs. *Winn v. Margate City*, 204 N.J.Super. 114, 497 A.2d 928 (Law Div.1985).

Requirement of architect's or engineer's seal on plans does not broaden scope of engineering practice into architecture; engineer's plan limitations. *State Board of Architects v. North*, 197 N.J.Super. 349, 484 A.2d 1297 (Ch.Div.1984).

Prior-approval rule discussion; zoning matters involved in construction must be resolved before issuance of permits. *Bell v. Twp. of Bass River*, 196 N.J.Super. 304, 482 A.2d 208 (Law Div.1984).

Construction permit application and fee requirements under former N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.5; municipal requirement for payment of property taxes before issuance of permit invalid as preempted by legislation. *Home Builders League of South Jersey, Inc. v. Evesham Twp.*, 174 N.J.Super. 252, 416 A.2d 81 (Law Div.1980).

Construction permit applicant must provide assurances that prior approvals obtained. *Riggins v. Pinelands Commission*, 8 N.J.A.R. 441 (1985).

5:23-2.16 Construction permits—procedure

(a) Action on application: The construction official or the appropriate subcode official in the case of construction involving only one trade or subcode, shall examine or cause to be examined all applications for permits and amendments thereto, and approve or deny in whole or in part the application, within 20 business days. If the application is denied in whole or in part, the enforcing agency shall set forth the reasons therefor in writing. If an enforcing agency fails to grant, in whole or in part, or deny an application within 20 business days, such failure shall be deemed a denial of the application for purposes of an appeal to the Construction Board of Appeals, unless such period of time has been extended with the consent of the applicant. Whenever plans have been rejected and are thereafter revised and resubmitted, the revised plans shall be released if the deficiencies that were stated as grounds for rejection have been corrected and code compliance has been demonstrated. In that case, a written notice of release shall be given to the applicant not later than seven business days after the resubmission of the revised plans. When the grounds for rejection have not been corrected or when code compliance has not been demonstrated, a written notice of rejection stating the grounds for rejection shall be given to the applicant not later than seven business days after the resubmission of the revised plans.

1. Exception: For a building designed in conformance with the one-and two-family dwelling subcode, where the Department or local enforcing agency has released a prototype plan which is to be used for the work covered by the permit application, the construction official shall act on the application within three business days.

i. Where the prototype release did not include the foundation detail, the construction official shall act on the application within seven business days.

2. Exception: For a building designed in conformance with the building subcode, where the Department or local

enforcing agency has released a prototype plan which is to be used for the work covered by the permit application, the construction official shall act on the application within seven business days.

(b) Suspension of permit: Any permit issued shall become invalid if the authorized work is not commenced within 12 months after issuance of the permit, or if the authorized work is suspended or abandoned for a period of six months after the time of commencing the work.

(c) Previous approvals: The rules shall not require changes in the plans, construction or designated use of a building for which a lawful permit has been heretofore issued or otherwise lawfully authorized, and the construction of which shall have been actively prosecuted within six months after the operative date of the rules and completed with dispatch. This six months provision shall also apply to subsequent amendments.

(d) Signature to permit: The construction official shall attach his signature to every permit; or he may authorize a subordinate to affix such signature thereto. By doing so he shall certify that each responsible subcode official shall have reviewed and approved the application for permit.

(e) Released plans: The construction official shall stamp or endorse in writing both sets of plans released, and one set of such released plans shall be retained and the other set shall be kept at the building site, open to inspection of the construction official or the construction official's authorized representative at all reasonable times.

(f) Revocation of permits:

1. The construction official may revoke a permit or approval issued under the provisions of this code in the following cases:

i. If the applicant has submitted any false statement or misrepresentation of fact in the application or on the plans on which the permit or approval was based; or

ii. If the project for which the permit was obtained is not completed by the third anniversary of the date of issuance of the permit or January 14, 2005, whichever is later. If a project is not completed by the such date, the permit holder may apply to the enforcing agency for a one-year extension of time for completion of the project. The enforcing agency shall not unreasonably withhold approval of any such extension request. If the project is not completed within the time allowed, the enforcing agency shall take such action under the code as may be appropriate, including, without limitation, demolition of the structure, in which case the legal authority of the jurisdiction shall institute appropriate action against the owner of the property for recovery of the costs incurred. The provisions of this subparagraph shall not apply to:

(1) Improvements to the interior of a building in which the permit holder is currently residing, if such improvements are not visible from outside of the property;

(2) Any building in which all exterior work and all required site improvements have been completed; or

(3) Any project currently under the control of a mortgagee in possession.

(g) Approval of part: The construction official shall issue a permit for the construction of foundations or any other part of a building or structure before the entire plans and specifications for the whole building or structure have been submitted, provided adequate information and detailed statements have been filed complying with all the pertinent requirements of this code. The holder of such permit for the foundations or other part of a building or structure shall proceed at his own risk with the building operation and without assurance that a permit for the entire structure will be granted.

(h) Posting of permit: A true copy of the construction permit shall be kept on the site of operations open to inspection during the entire time of prosecution of the work and until the completion of the same.

(i) Notice of start: At least 24 hours notice of start of work under a construction permit shall be given to the construction official.

(j) Conditions of permit: The issuance of the construction permit shall be conditioned upon the following:

1. The payment of appropriate fees;

2. That work will conform to the requirements of the code applicable to the work for which the permit has been issued including prior approvals and any approved amendments thereto;

3. That the permit is a license to proceed with the work and shall not be construed as authority to violate, cancel or set aside any of the provisions of the regulations;

4. That the owner, his agent, contractor or other employees will assist the enforcing agency in its inspection work, if requested.

(k) Upon request of the local health department, the construction official shall supply copies of permits issued for lead abatement work.

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.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.1997 d.409, effective October 6, 1997.

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

Amended by R.1998 d.36, effective January 5, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 4214(a), 30 N.J.R. 193(a).

Deleted (k); recodified existing (l) as (k).

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

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

Rewrote the section.

Amended by R.2004 d.144, effective April 5, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4944(a), 36 N.J.R. 1753(a).

In (a), rewrote 1 and added 2.

Amended by R.2004 d.364, effective October 4, 2004 (operative January 14, 2005).

See: 36 N.J.R. 2604(a), 36 N.J.R. 4440(a).

Rewrote (f).

Case Notes

Construction permit could be voided by developer suspending construction for period of more than six months. *Palatine I v. Planning Bd. of Tp. of Montville*, 133 N.J. 546, 628 A.2d 321 (1993).

5:23-2.16A Records retention

(a) Copies of the following documents shall be retained by the construction official for the life of the building or structure:

1. Construction applications;
2. Permits;
3. Permit updates;
4. Decisions on applications for variations;
5. Decisions of the Construction Board of Appeals;
6. Certificates of occupancy;
7. Elevator inspections;
8. The ongoing inspection control card; and
9. Notices of unsafe structure.

(b) Permits that have been revoked shall be kept for at least three years, or until the building or structure is demolished, whichever comes first.

(c) Plans and specifications including amended drawings, shall be retained by the construction official for a period of at least 10 years unless litigation is pending.

1. Plans and specifications, including amended drawings, shall be retained for the life of the building or structure for the following:

- i. Hospitals and emergency care facilities;
- ii. Fire, rescue and police stations;
- iii. Designated emergency shelters;
- iv. Designated emergency preparedness, communication, and operation centers;
- v. Power generating stations;
- vi. Buildings of Groups H-1 or H-2;
- vii. Prisons;
- viii. Casino hotels;
- ix. Aviation control towers;
- x. Air traffic control centers; and
- xi. Emergency aircraft hangers.

2. Inspection and certificate logs shall be retained by the construction official for a period of at least 10 years.

(d) Copies of additional documents may be retained at the discretion of the construction official.

New Rule, R.2006 d.24, effective January 17, 2006.
See: 37 N.J.R. 2111(a), 38 N.J.R. 485(a).

5:23-2.17 Demolition or removal of structures; abandoned wells

(a) Service connections: Before a structure can be demolished or removed, the owner or agent shall notify all utilities having service connections within the structure, such as water, electric, gas, sewer and other connections. A permit to demolish or remove a structure shall not be issued until releases are obtained from all utilities that provided service to the property, stating that their respective service connections and appurtenant equipment, such as meters and regulators, have been removed or sealed or plugged in a safe manner.

(b) Abandoned wells:

1. In the event that there is a well on the property that has been abandoned, or that will be abandoned in conjunction with the proposed demolition, a permit to demolish or remove a structure on that property shall not be issued until a certification has been obtained from a well driller licensed by the Department of Environmental Protection indicating that the well has been sealed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 7:9-9. If such certification is not presented within 15 days of the application for the permit, the construction official shall give notice of the absence of such certification to the Bureau of Water Allocation, Department of Environmental Protection, PO Box 029, Trenton, NJ 08625-0029.

2. Notice shall also be given by the construction official to the Bureau of Water Allocation in the event of any demolition activity found to have been undertaken without a permit at a building or premises currently or previously served by a well and in any other case in which no permit application for demolition has been made but the construction official becomes aware that a well has been, or is about to be, abandoned without having been sealed by a licensed well driller.

(c) Notice to adjoining owners: Only when written notice has been given by the applicant to the owners of adjoining lots and to the owners of wired or other facilities, of which the temporary removal may be necessitated by the proposed work, shall a permit be granted for the demolition or removal of a building or structure.

(d) Lot regulation: Whenever a structure is demolished or removed, the premises shall be maintained free from all unsafe or hazardous conditions by the proper regulation of the lot, restoration of established grades and the erection of the necessary retaining walls and fences in accordance with the provisions of the appropriate subcodes.

(e) Asbestos abatement: Before a structure can be demolished or removed, the owner or agent shall document that the

2. **Notice of unsafe structure:** If an unsafe or unsanitary condition is found in a building or structure, the construction official shall serve a written notice describing the building or structure deemed unsafe and specifying the required repairs or improvements to be made to render the building or structure safe and secure, or requiring the unsafe building or structure or portion thereof to be vacated or demolished within a stipulated time. Such notice shall require the person thus notified to immediately declare to the construction official his or her acceptance or rejection of the terms of the order. Such person may seek review before the Construction Board of Appeals within 15 days of receipt of the notice.

3. **Restoration of unsafe structure:** A building or structure condemned by the construction official may be restored to a safe condition in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-6, Rehabilitation Subcode. A certificate of approval or certificate of occupancy, as appropriate, shall be obtained prior to reoccupancy of the building or structure.

4. **Posting notice of unsafe structure:** If the person addressed with a notice of unsafe structure cannot be found within the municipality after diligent search, then such notice shall be sent by registered or certified mail to the last known address of such person, as on file with the office of the tax collector, and a copy of the notice of unsafe structure shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises; and such procedures shall be deemed the equivalent of personal notice.

5. Upon refusal or neglect of the person served with a notice of unsafe structure to comply with the requirements of the order to abate the unsafe condition, the construction official shall, in addition to any other remedies herein provided, forward the matter to the legal counsel of the jurisdiction for an action to compel compliance.

(b) Emergency measures:

1. When, in the opinion of the construction official and appropriate subcode officials, there is actual and immediate danger of failure or collapse of a building or structure or any part thereof which would endanger life, or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and life is endangered by the occupation of the building or structure, the construction official is hereby authorized and empowered to order and require the occupants to vacate the same forthwith. The construction official shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such building a notice reading as follows: This structure is unsafe and its use or occupancy has been prohibited by the construction official, and it shall be unlawful for any person to enter such building or structure except for the purpose of making the required repairs or demolishing the same. The order of the construction official shall be effective immediately.

2. **Temporary safeguards:** When, in the opinion of the construction official, there is actual and immediate danger

of collapse or failure of a building or structure or any part thereof which would endanger life, the construction official shall cause the necessary work to be done to render such building or structure or part thereof temporarily safe, whether or not the legal procedure herein has been instituted. Such work may include such demolition as may be necessary in order to eliminate any actual and immediate danger to human life; provided, however, that any demolition work shall not commence until at least 24 hours following service of notice of the pending demolition upon the owner, unless such service is not possible because the identity or the address of the owner cannot be determined from public records. Upon expiration of the 24-hour period, demolition may proceed unless stayed by order of the Superior Court.

3. **Closing streets:** When necessary for the public safety, the construction official may temporarily close sidewalks, streets, buildings and structures and places adjacent to such unsafe structure, and prohibit the same from being used.

4. **Emergency repairs or demolition:** For the purpose of this section, the construction official shall employ the necessary labor and materials to perform the required work as expeditiously as possible.

5. **Costs of emergency repairs:** Costs incurred in the performance of emergency work shall be paid from the treasury of the jurisdiction on certificate of the construction official; and the legal authority of the jurisdiction shall institute appropriate action against the owner of the premises for the recovery of such costs.

6. **Appeals:** An emergency order issued by a municipal construction official pursuant to this subsection shall be appealable only to a court of competent jurisdiction.

Amended by R.1991 d.509, effective October 7, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 2236(a), 23 N.J.R. 3001(a).

C.O. required prior to reoccupancy.

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.1999 d.424, effective December 6, 1999.

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

Rewrote (a)3.

Amended by R.2003 d.201, effective May 19, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 303(a), 35 N.J.R. 2207(a).

Rewrote (b).

Law Review and Journal Commentaries

Tort Claims Act—Landlords. P.R. Chenoweth, 138 N.J.L.J. No. 2, 77 (1994).

Case Notes

Civil rights action challenging township actions regarding use of property as church were not ripe for adjudication until township planning board decided site plan application and any need for variance. *Trinity Resources, Inc. v. Township of Delanco*, D.N.J.1994, 842 F.Supp. 782.

Mobile park owner that leased space to mobile home owners could not require residents to convert from oil heat to gas heat as condition

of approving prospective purchases. *Garden Park Mobile Home Owners Ass'n v. Garden Park Associates*, 292 N.J.Super. 442, 678 A.2d 1191 (L.1996).

City, as landowner, did not have immunity from claim it negligently maintained buildings in dangerous condition, resulting in spread of fire to surrounding buildings. *Saldana v. DiMedio*, 275 N.J.Super. 488, 646 A.2d 522 (A.D.1994).

If activities of building inspector and public works director required discretionary decisions and were subject to qualified immunity, standard of liability would be whether decisions were palpably unreasonable or whether they merely failed to follow mandates of higher-up decisions. *Saldana v. DiMedio*, 275 N.J.Super. 488, 646 A.2d 522 (A.D.1994).

"Dangerous condition" for tort liability was satisfied with respect to surrounding buildings damaged by fire which spread from buildings on city-owned lots. *Saldana v. DiMedio*, 275 N.J.Super. 488, 646 A.2d 522 (A.D.1994).

Loss of housing which occurred when premises was evacuated for safety of tenants upon broken water main was a natural disaster that precluded payment of relocation benefits. *Union Gardens' v. Township of Montclair*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 85.

5:23-2.33 Service of notice

Except as is specifically provided for by the act with respect to stop construction orders, service of notices and orders pursuant to this section shall be upon the owner or the person specified as agent for receipt of same in the application for a permit or the person responsible for the work or in the case of unsafe structures upon any agent or person in control of the building. Service may be made by personal delivery or by leaving a copy at the dwelling house or usual place of abode of such person, with a competent member of his household of the age of 14 years or older than residing therein, or by any other method or upon any other person approved pursuant to Rules 4:4-4 and 4:4-5 of the New Jersey Supreme Court, or which is otherwise consistent with due process.

5:23-2.34 (Reserved)

Repealed 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).

Section was "Construction board of appeals".

5:23-2.35 (Reserved)

Repealed 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).

Section was "Applicant's right of appeal; procedure".

5:23-2.36 (Reserved)

Repealed 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).

Section was "Procedure of the board".

5:23-2.37 (Reserved)

Repealed 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).

Section was "Decision of the board".

5:23-2.38 Departmental appeal

(a) Whenever the Department shall act as the enforcing agency under the State Uniform Construction Code Act (N.J.S.A. 52:27D-128), an appeal in lieu of the appeal to the county, municipal or joint construction board of appeals may be made to the Hearing Coordinator, Division of Codes and Standards, Department of Community Affairs, PO Box 802, Trenton, NJ 08625.

1. The case shall be adjudicated before the Office of Administrative Law and the final decision shall be issued by the Commissioner.

2. Such hearings shall be governed by the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act, N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq., and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, N.J.A.C. 1:1, and the time provisions applicable to construction boards of appeal.

(b) Any party in interest aggrieved by any decision made by a facility manager or owner or administering agency with respect to compliance with either the Barrier Free Recreation Standards (N.J.A.C. 5:23-7.15 through 7.31) or the Playground Safety Subcode (N.J.A.C. 5:23-11) shall have the right to appeal the decision to the Department.

1. The Department shall forward a copy of the complaint to the facility manager and to the facility owner or agency responsible for administration of the facility and shall request a response from the facility manager.

2. The facility manager shall respond in writing within 45 days of receipt of the request.

3. The Department shall review the response and shall determine whether the complaint is justified and what corrective measures shall be required to be taken by the facility owner or administering agency. The Department shall make such determination and issue any necessary orders within 60 days.

4. In the event that the owner or administering agency of a facility appeals any such order and the Department determines that a contested case exists, it shall forward such case for adjudication in an administrative hearing before the Office of Administrative Law and the final decision shall be issued by the Commissioner. Hearings shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of the Administrative Procedure Act (N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq.) and the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules (N.J.A.C. 1:1).

5. A "party in interest" may be either the owner, or authorized representative of the owner, of the premises that is the subject of the decision or an occupant, user or prospective occupant or user, of the premises, or a group representative of such occupants, users or prospective occupants or users; provided, however, that an occupant, user or representative group shall only be deemed to be a party in interest if notice of such interest has been given to the Department by the party prior to the issuance of the Department's determination.

(g) The commissioner may, upon written application by the governing body of a municipality, temporarily waive any administrative requirement of the regulations which because of special circumstances impedes a municipality in the enforcement of the code. Any municipality seeking such a temporary waiver, shall in its written request state the nature of the problem, the relief sought and alternative measures, if any, which might meet the intent of the requirement for which such temporary waiver is sought. The commissioner may grant a hearing pursuant to the Administrative Procedures Act, if a more complete record of the case is deemed necessary.

Amended by R.1989 d.435, effective August 21, 1989.
See: 20 N.J.R. 1764(a), 21 N.J.R. 2474(a).

Deleted (e), which was "Interim Procedures" and recodified (f) "Personnel" as new (e), with no change in text. Deleted (g) "Failure to perform" and reserved subsection as (f). Recodified old (h) as (g).
Amended by R.1989 d.551, effective November 6, 1989.

See: 21 N.J.R. 2436(a), 21 N.J.R. 3460(b).

New subsection (f) added regarding departmental intervention.
Administrative Correction to (d)4.
See: 22 N.J.R. 2503(b).

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

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

Elevator plan review provisions added at (a)3.

Amended by R.1992 d.245, effective June 15, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 1148(a), 24 N.J.R. 2244(a).

Exception for elevator safety subcode added to (a)3.
Administrative Change.

See: 26 N.J.R. 5007(a).

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.1997 d.409, effective October 6, 1997.

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

In (f)iv, changed Division for appeals.

Case Notes

Township of Edison v. Coleman, 239 N.J.Super. 301, 571 A.2d 312 (A.D.1990).

Citation to former N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.3 for construction official's duties; Township manager without authority over matters of code enforcement and official discipline due to State legislative preemption. J.P. Properties, Inc. v. Macy, 183 N.J.Super. 572, 444 A.2d 1131 (Law Div.1982).

Regulation required for Commissioner to order refund by municipal enforcement agencies of charges in excess of operating costs; no refund without regulation adoption. Bureau of Construction Code Enforcement v. Hasbrouck Heights, 4 N.J.A.R. 282 (1983).

Regulations govern municipal enforcement agencies. Bureau of Construction Code Enforcement v. Hasbrouck Heights, 4 N.J.A.R. 282 (1983).

5:23-4.3A Enforcing agency classification

(a) Local enforcing agencies shall be classified as RCS (specialty in residential and small commercial structures), ICS (specialty in industrial and commercial structures) or HHS (specialty in high-rise/hazardous structures). The classification of the enforcing agency shall be determined by the highest class of structures for which the construction official and each subcode official in a municipality is licensed to do plan review.

(b) The classification of an enforcing agency is determined by the lowest level of inspector license held by any of the subcode officials appointed to establish such agency and by the highest level of inspector license held by the appointed construction official. In the case of subcode officials, the inspector license used to determine the classification of the agency must be in the subcode area for which that individual is appointed. Enforcing agencies shall be classified as follows:

1. Class 1 agency: The lowest level of inspector license held in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-5 by the construction official or any of the subcode officials appointed to constitute the enforcing agency is an HHS inspector license.

2. Class 2 agency: The lowest level of inspector license held in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-5 by the construction official or any of the subcode officials appointed to constitute the enforcing agency is an ICS inspector license.

3. Class 3 agency: The lowest level of inspector license held in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-5 by the construction official or any of the subcode officials appointed to constitute the enforcing agency is an RCS inspector license.

(c) Any change in the classification of an enforcing agency shall be effective immediately upon a change in the level of licensure of any of the officials appointed to constitute the enforcement agency as described in (a) above. The ability of a municipality to accept an application for plan review shall be determined by the classification of that municipality as of the date of application. Nothing contained herein, however, shall be construed to permit any enforcement agency to continue to review plans submitted if the classification of the agency has changed so as to render the agency no longer eligible to review the plans in question.

(d) Enforcing agencies shall be permitted to perform plan review activities in accordance with the agency classification for the use groups listed in the following schedule (keyed to section 302.1 of the building subcode):

1. Class 3 agencies:

i. Group B less than 7,200 square feet, two stories, 40 feet high;

ii. Group M less than 4,800 square feet, one story, 40 feet high;

iii. Group S-1 less than 4,200 square feet, one story, 40 feet high;

iv. Group S-2 less than 7,200 square feet, two stories, 40 feet high;

v. Group R-3 as permitted in the building subcode and including accessory private garages, radio and television antennae and swimming pools;

vi. Group R-4 as permitted in the building subcode and including accessory private garages, radio and television antennae and swimming pools;

vii. Group R-5 as permitted in the building subcode and including accessory private garages, radio and television antennae and swimming pools.

2. Class 2 agencies:

i. All plan review activities permitted to class 3 officials;

ii. Group A-1 less than 4,200 square feet, one story, 40 feet high;

iii. Group A-2 less than 2,400 square feet, one story, 55 feet high;

iv. Group A-3 less than 8,400 square feet, two story, 55 feet high;

v. Group A-4 less than 9,500 square feet, two story, 55 feet high;

vi. Group A-5 less than 5,000 square feet, one story, 55 feet high;

vii. Group B less than 37,500 square feet, five story, 65 feet high;

viii. Group E less than 14,400 square feet, two story, 55 feet high;

ix. Group F-1 less than 25,000 square feet, four story, 65 feet high;

x. Group F-2 less than 37,500 square feet, five story, 65 feet high;

xi. Paint Spray Booths, section 416;

xii. Group I-1 less than 8,400 square feet, three story, 55 feet high;

xiii. Group I-2 less than 7,200 square feet, one story, 55 feet high;

xiv. Group I-3 less than 6,000 square feet, one story, 55 feet high;

xv. Group I-4 less than 13,000 square feet, three story, 55 feet high;

xvi. Group M less than 21,500 square feet, four story, 65 feet high;

xvii. Group R-1 less than 9,600 square feet, three story, 55 feet high;

xviii. Group R-2 less than 9,600 square feet, three story, 55 feet high;

xix. Group S-1 less than 26,000 square feet, four story, 65 feet high;

xx. Group S-2 less than 39,000 square feet, five story, 65 feet high;

xxi. Group U as permitted by the building subcode.

3. Class 1 agencies:

i. All plan review activities permitted to class 2 and class 3 officials;

ii. All remaining use groups and categories not reserved to the State.

4. Square foot area listed in (c)1, 2 and 3 are per floor.

(e) Departmental plan review shall not be required for class 3 work. Departmental plan reviews prior to the issuance of a permit shall be required for class 2 work, unless the construction official and each subcode official in the municipal enforcing agency are certified at the class 2 level of certification at a minimum. Departmental plan review prior to the issuance of a permit shall be required for class 1 work until the construction official and each subcode official in the municipal enforcing agency are certified at the class 1 level of certification.

1. Reconstruction, changes of use, additions to, or the installation or alteration of fire protection systems in class 1 or class 2 buildings shall be submitted to the Department when the municipal enforcing agency is not appropriately classified as per (e) above. The Department may, at its discretion, review such plans, or may return such plans to the municipality for review.

2. If an addition would cause a building not previously classified as class 1 or class 2 to be reclassified as class 1 or 2, and the municipal enforcing agency is not appropriately classified as per (e) above, then Departmental plan review shall be required.

(f) The Department shall issue a roster of enforcing agencies and their classification upon request. Copies may be obtained by contacting the Licensing Section, Bureau of Code Services, PO Box 816, Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0816.

Amended by R.1992 d.272, effective July 6, 1992.

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

Text on enforcing agency classification recodified from 3.10; new (a) added.

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

See: 25 N.J.R. 3891(a), 25 N.J.R. 5918(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 by R.1999 d.424, effective December 6, 1999.

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

Rewrote (e).

Amended by R.2001 d.127, effective April 16, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 392(a), 33 N.J.R. 1195(a).

In (e), deleted "after January 1, 1981" and "as of January 1, 1977 and" in the introductory paragraph, and rewrote 1 and 2.

Amended by R.2003 d.217, effective May 19, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 28(a), 35 N.J.R. 2208(a).

Rewrote (d).

5:23-4.4 Municipal enforcing agencies—organization

(a) The municipality shall organize its enforcing agency in accordance with the ordinance adopted pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.3 and to meet the following additional requirements:

1. **Construction official:** The construction official shall serve as the chief administrator of the enforcing agency. He shall establish the day to day operating routines of the agency and shall coordinate the activities of the subcode officials. He shall be qualified in accordance with subchapter 5 of this chapter in at least one subcode.

2. **Subcode officials:** Subcode officials shall enforce the provisions of those subcodes for which they are responsible in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-3 and qualified in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-5 and for which they have been appointed by the appointing authority. Each subcode official shall be responsible for the administration and enforcement of the appropriate subcode, subject to the procedures of the enforcing agency as administered by the construction official. However, each subcode official shall have exclusive decision-making authority with respect to the technical provisions of the subcode for which he has been appointed the official.

3. **Interface:** Nothing shall prevent one person from serving in more than one position for which he is certified and qualified. However, more than one person shall not be appointed concurrently to the same position.

4. **Assistants:** The appointing authority may establish positions other than those provided in N.J.A.C. 5:23-5 as is deemed necessary. The commissioner reserves the right to establish categories of certification for such positions. The construction official or appropriate subcode official shall be responsible for the supervision of any such personnel.

5. Whenever the municipality contracts with private on-site inspection agencies for all subcodes, it shall as a minimum appoint a construction official to coordinate activities.

6. **Acting appointments:** A municipality shall appoint an acting construction official or subcode official any time the absence of such official would impede orderly administration of the Uniform Construction Code and other duties mandated by the municipality. Acting appointments shall be accomplished by any mechanism acceptable to the municipality; providing, however, that a written record shall be kept. Notice to the Department shall be provided within seven days any time an appointment is made for more than 30 days. Acting appointments may not be made for longer than 60 days, nor may they be extended or renewed beyond 60 days unless specific authority to do so is granted in writing by the Department.

i. Only an individual licensed as a construction official may be appointed as an acting construction official and only an individual licensed as a subcode official in a particular subcode may be appointed as an acting

subcode official for that subcode. The technical license level of an acting construction or subcode official shall be superior or parallel to the enforcing agency classification of the municipality or such municipal classification shall be downgraded to the technical license level of the acting official for the period of time in the position. Employees of private on-site inspection agencies shall not serve as acting construction officials. Employees of private on-site inspection agencies may serve as acting subcode officials, provided that notice of any such appointment shall be given to the Department by the construction official within seven days of the making of the appointment and that such notice shall contain information as to the form and amount of the payment being made to the agency for the services of the acting subcode officials.

ii. Acting appointments shall not constitute the statutory four-year term for construction and subcode officials or any portion thereof.

iii. Conflict of interest provisions set forth in this subchapter shall apply to acting officials.

iv. Nothing in (b) of this section shall be interpreted as prohibiting licensed officials from serving in more than one municipality in regular or acting appointments.

7. The municipality shall provide the construction official, each subcode official and each inspector with personal identification which includes at least the name of the municipality, and the name, title and photograph of the individual. The identification shall be validated by the municipality.

8. A municipality may, in its discretion, employ a mechanical inspector to perform plan review and mechanical inspections, with oversight by a designated subcode official, for structures of Group R-3, R-4, or R-5.

9. Provisions concerning reappointment of construction and subcode officials in non-civil service municipalities are as follows:

i. At least 30 days prior to the expiration of the statutory four-year term of office of a construction or subcode official, the appointing authority shall give written notice to the official indicating whether or not he or she is going to be reappointed.

ii. In the event that the official is neither reappointed, nor given written notice that he or she is not being reappointed, prior to the date of expiration of the statutory four-year term of office, the official shall be deemed to have been appointed to serve in an acting capacity for a period of not more than 60 days, in accordance with (a)6 above. The municipality is not relieved of the obligation, pursuant to (a)6 above, to notify the Department within seven days any time any acting appointment will exceed 30 days.

iii. In the event that the official is neither reappointed, nor given written notice that he or she is not being reappointed, prior to the expiration of the 60-day period following the date of expiration of the prior statutory four year term of office, the Department, in such circumstance, shall not extend any such acting appointment and the official shall be deemed to have been reappointed, such reappointment being effective retroactively to the date of expiration of the prior statutory four-year term.

(b) The municipality shall establish a central permit office under the direction and supervision of the construction official. This office shall receive applications for construction permits and plan review, issue construction permits and certificates of occupancy, collect fees, penalties, fines and issue notices, and orders. The office shall be open during normal business hours at times to be determined by the municipality. These times shall be posted in a conspicuous place and shall be comparable with the amount of construction activity in the municipality. Nothing herein shall prevent a municipality from establishing branch offices, but the public shall not, unless in the case of an emergency, unforeseen or unavoidable circumstance, be required to do business, except at the central permit office.

(c) The construction official and the subcode officials shall be available for consultation and discussion during normal business hours at scheduled times to be determined by the construction official. All inspections shall take place between 9:00 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. on business days or while construction is taking place, or in the case of emergency, or with the permission of the owner or his representative.

(d) The municipality shall ensure that the enforcing agency has adequate staff to review plans, applications, specifications and to schedule and perform inspections in a timely manner.

Amended by R.1982 d.23, effective February 1, 1982.
See: 13 N.J.R. 863(a), 14 N.J.R. 142(b).

(a)6: text deleted and replaced with new text through (a)6iv.
Notice of correction: "30 days. Acting appointments may not be made for longer than" was omitted from text in (a)6.
See: 20 N.J.R. 2823(a).

Amended by R.1993 d.187, effective May 3, 1993.
See: 25 N.J.R. 624(a), 25 N.J.R. 1875(a).

Added (a)8.
Amended by R.1994 d.323, effective July 5, 1994 (operative January 1, 1995).

See: 25 N.J.R. 2162(a), 26 N.J.R. 2780(a).
Amended by R.1996 d.387, effective August 19, 1996 (operative November 1, 1996).

See: 28 N.J.R. 2434(a), 28 N.J.R. 3923(a).
In (a) added provisions relating to reappointment of construction and subcode officials in non-civil service municipalities.
Amended by R.2004 d.67, effective February 17, 2004.
See: 35 N.J.R. 4627(a), 36 N.J.R. 949(b).
In (a)8, added R-5 to the list of groups.

Case Notes

Municipal construction code official's appearance for work for 11 days after his four-year term expired did not confer tenure on him on basis of appointment to second consecutive term. *Cutler v. Borough of Westwood*, 295 N.J.Super. 344, 685 A.2d 44 (A.D.1996).

Township's failure to make a proper temporary appointment in conformance with regulation resulted in plaintiff's appointment as subcode plumbing inspector becoming one of tenure pursuant to N.J.S.A. 52:27D-126(b). *DeStefano v. Washington Twp.*, 220 N.J.Super. 273, 531 A.2d 1090 (L.1987).

5:23-4.5 Municipal enforcing agencies—administration and enforcement

(a) Records and procedures: The municipality shall ensure that the construction official, with the assistance of the subcode officials and other necessary municipal employees, maintains a central file system, by block and lot, for each property in the municipality for which a permit has been issued or requested or for which an action has been taken by the municipal enforcing agency.

1. The files shall contain all information, including inspection reports, correspondence, and so forth, relevant to each application for a construction permit or certificate of occupancy.

2. The files shall contain or indicate the storage location of all plans and specifications too bulky for inclusion in the central file.

3. The files and records of the municipal enforcing agency shall be open to Department review and audit during normal business hours.

i. File copies of all documents in connection with building operations shall be retained in the official records as provided by law.

ii. Files and records shall be maintained in a manner consistent with the Municipal Procedures Manual established by the commissioner for this purpose.

(b) Forms:

1. The construction official shall ensure that all necessary forms and applications are available to the public at the central permit office.

2. The following standardized forms established by the Commissioner are required for use by the municipal enforcing agency:

Form No.	Name
F100	Construction Permit Application
F110	Building Subcode Technical Section
F120	Electrical Subcode Technical Section
F130	Plumbing Subcode Technical Section
F140	Fire Subcode Technical Section
F145	Mechanical Inspector Technical Section
F150	Elevator Subcode Technical Section
F-155	Elevator Subcode Multiple Devices
F-160B	Application for a Variation
F170	Construction Permit, Required Inspection
F180	Construction Permit Notice
F190	Permit Update
F211	Notice of Violation and Order to Terminate
F212	Notice and Order of Penalty

F221	Inspection Sticker Approval for Building
F-222A	Inspection Sticker Approval for Electric
F223	Inspection Sticker Approval for Plumbing
F-224A	Inspection Sticker Approval for Fire Protection
F-225	Inspection Sticker Approval for Elevator
F-230B	Inspection Sticker Approval—Not Approved
F241	Notice of Unsafe Structure
F242	Notice of Imminent Hazard
F-245A	Unsafe Structure Notice
F250	Stop Construction Order
F-255A	Stop Construction Notice
F260	Certificate
F270	Application for Certificate
F310	Elevator Inspection
F-320A	Elevator Notice
F-325	Notice of Elevator Device Sealed Out of Operation
F326	Accident/Incident Report
F-350B	Cut-In Card
F-360	Denial of Permit
F-370	Chimney Certification for Replacement of Fuel Fired Equipment
F380	Hydraulic System Data Plate
F390	Framing Checklist

3. The following standardized forms established by the Commissioner are optional for use by the municipal enforcing agency; provided, however, that where they are not used, equivalent forms or mechanisms are used by the enforcing agency to accomplish the same purpose:

Form No.	Name
F-200A	Inspection Notice
F-280B	T.C.O. Control Card
F-290A	Ongoing Inspections Control Card
F-300A	Ongoing Inspections Schedule
F375	Tickler/X-Ref Card

4. No forms other than those established by the Commissioner shall be required of the public in connection with the administration and enforcement of the State Uniform Construction Code. The municipal enforcing agency may use additional forms for its own internal processing and recordkeeping. Nothing in this section pertaining to forms or in the forms themselves shall be deemed to affect the requirements for plans and specifications or documentation of prior approvals. Where there is insufficient space on a form for all required information, the form shall be used with attachments.

5. Printing of forms: The municipal enforcing agency shall arrange for the printing of all forms. Other interested persons may also arrange for the printing of forms or they may purchase and use forms printed by others. The municipal enforcing agency may provide for the inclusion of its name and other appropriate identifying information on the forms it has printed. However, the municipal

enforcing agency shall accept forms not having municipal identification and shall, in any such case, insert the name of the municipality. All required forms shall be exact replicas of the forms required by the Commissioner, conforming in content, size, format and colors, except that all multi-part forms may be printed with an additional copy so long as the additional copy shall be in a color distinct from those specified by the Commissioner. Forms F-110A, F-120A, F-130A and F-140A may have the Subcode Technical Sections printed in any color or colors of ink as desired and Form F-310A (Elevator Inspection) may be printed as a multipart form on separate pages with up to four copies of each page.

(c) Logs:

1. The following standardized logs established by the Commissioner are required to be maintained by the municipal enforcing agency:

Log No.	Name
L700	Permit Fee Log
L-710A	Inspection Log
L720	Certificate Log
L730	Ongoing Inspection Log

2. The municipal enforcing agency shall maintain the required logs either on log sheets established by the commissioner or on log sheets or ledger books of its own choice or design, provided that all required entries are maintained.

(d) Monthly reports:

1. The following standardized report forms established by the Commissioner are required to be completed by the municipal enforcing agency and transmitted to the Department by the tenth business day following the end of each calendar month:

Report No.	Name
	Municipal Monthly Activity
R-811B	Report Certificates
R-812B	Municipal Monthly Activity Report Permits

2. Municipalities currently submitting monthly reports electronically shall continue to do so. Municipalities that do not already submit monthly reports electronically using UCCARS I shall begin to do so according to the following schedule:

- i. By December 31, 1992, all municipalities issuing 600 or more permits per year as determined by the Department shall submit monthly reports electronically.
- ii. By December 31, 1993, all municipalities issuing fewer than 600, but more than 200, permits per year as determined by the Department shall submit monthly reports electronically.
- iii. All other municipalities shall have the option of submitting monthly reports electronically or by mail.

Any municipality which issues more than 200 permits per year as determined by the Department for any future year shall submit monthly reports electronically beginning during the following year.

iv. A municipality that determines that compliance with this schedule would impose an undue hardship may apply to the Department for an extension of time. A request for an extension shall be in writing and shall set forth the reason(s) for such extension and the period of time for which the extension is sought. The Department shall give the municipality written notice of its determination in response to the extension request.

3. As long as funding permits, the Department shall provide the UCCARS I software, training and technical support for the system free of charge to municipalities. Municipalities may submit monthly reports electronically using an alternative system compatible with UCCARS as determined by the Department and capable of transmitting a monthly report based on UCCARS specifications.

4. Municipalities, at their option, may choose to add UCCARS II and III systems to their UCCARS I System and may obtain them, at no cost, from the Department, when available.

(e) Quarterly reports: The following standardized report established by the Commissioner is required to be completed by the municipal enforcing agency for State of New Jersey training fees and must be submitted quarterly, with the accompanying fees, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.19:

Report No.	Name
R840	State Training Fee Report

(f) The following standardized report form established by the Commissioner is optional for use by the municipal enforcing agency:

Report No.	Name
R-800A	Inspector's Report

(g) Exceptions: Exceptions may be made by the municipal enforcing agency to those requirements for records and procedures, forms, logs, and reports as stated in this section and in the Municipal Procedures Manual established by the commissioner only with the express written authorization of the Department. Requests for exceptions shall be in writing and shall detail the requirement(s) to which an exception is sought, the reason(s) for such exception and the duration for which the exception is sought, and shall be accompanied by any appropriate documentation and examples of alternative procedures, forms, logs or reports.

(h) Duties of construction officials:

1. The construction official shall enforce the regulations and:

i. Provide that applications are available, and assist the public in preparing the applications whenever necessary;

ii. Review all applications for completeness as to form and for verification of prior approvals. He may request additional documentation concerning prior approvals whenever it is deemed necessary;

iii. Upon receipt of the completed application, the construction official shall determine the proper fee for the work required;

iv. Collect all fees and penalties and ensure that funds are properly accounted for;

v. Ensure that the proper subcode official shall have an adequate time period to review appropriate applications, plans and specifications;

vi. Ensure that all requests for variation are properly prepared, documented and referred to the appropriate subcode officials;

vii. Issue the construction permit upon receiving the approval of all appropriate subcode officials;

viii. Record all notices of violation upon receiving notification of the appropriate subcode official, and determine all penalties for noncompliance with the penalty notices;

ix. Ensure that all required inspections are scheduled and performed within three business days of the time for which inspection has been requested;

x. Ensure that the reports of all inspections are completed and properly filed;

xi. Record stop work orders, upon notification of the appropriate subcode official;

xii. Ensure that all final inspections have been completed prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy.

(1) Ensure that all inspection required for the purpose, has been completed prior to the issuance of temporary certificate of occupancy;

xiii. Issue the certificate of occupancy, upon receiving the approval of all appropriate subcode officials.

(1) Issue the temporary certificate of occupancy, upon receiving the approval of all appropriate subcode officials;

xiv. Ensure, in the case of a change of use, or upon a request for a certificate of continued occupancy, that each subcode official gives an approval based on an inspection and the review of all submitted data before issuing a certificate of continued occupancy;

xv. Prepare and obtain reports required in the regulations;

xvi. Attend meetings and hearings as required by the regulations;

xvii. Carry out such other functions as are necessary and appropriate to the position of construction official;

xviii. Coordinate the activities of the subcode officials in enforcement of the energy radon hazard, elevator safety and mechanical subcodes;

xix. Reply within three business days to any request from the municipal search officer for information concerning construction permits or certificates of occupancy;

xx. Comply with any local procedures which may be established by the governing body to provide the municipal search officer with information concerning construction permits and certificates of occupancy;

xxi. File with the Department a notice of the execution of each contract with a private on-site inspection agency, which notice shall specify the subcode(s) covered by the contract, within 10 days after the effective date of the contract; and

xxii. Take or initiate appropriate disciplinary action in the case of any subcode official or inspector failing to properly enforce the UCC. If the action includes suspension or dismissal, the construction official shall report this action to the Office of Regulatory Affairs via mail: Department of Community Affairs, Office of Regulatory Affairs, 101 S. Broad Street, PO Box 818, Trenton, NJ 08625.

2. Nothing contained herein shall prevent the construction official from overruling a decision of a subcode official if he is qualified and certified in that subcode pursuant to subchapter 5 of this chapter.

3. Subsequent to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, the construction official shall continue to enforce compliance with the following provisions of the Code in effect at the time of the issuance of the certificate of occupancy or certificate of approval:

i. N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.32, Unsafe structures;

ii. The following provisions of the building subcode:

(1) Chapter 4, Special Detailed Requirements Based on Use and Occupancy except for sections 401, 402.3, 403.12, 406.1, 406.2, 406.3.1, 406.3.2, 406.3.3, 406.3.4, 406.3.5, 406.3.6, 406.3.7, 406.4, 406.5, 409, 412;

(2) Chapter 7, Fire-resistant rated construction;

(3) Section 803, Wall and Ceiling Finishes;

(4) Chapter 9, Fire protection systems; and

(5) Chapter 10, Means of egress, except for sections 1003.3.3.3.1, 1003.3.3.3.2, 1003.3.3.11, 1003.3.12, 1008.9, 1008.11 and 1008.12;

iii. The following provisions of the one-and two-family dwelling subcode:

(1) Sections R-302.1, R-302.2 and R-302.3, Required fire resistance ratings;

(2) Section R-317, Smoke alarms; and

(3) Sections R-321.1 and R-321.2, Dwelling unit fire separations;

iv. The following provisions of the electrical subcode:

(1) Section 240.3, Protection of equipment against overcurrent;

(2) Section 240.4, Protection of conductors against overcurrent;

(3) Section 250.4, General requirements for grounding and bonding; and

v. Subchapter 7, the barrier free subcode.

(i) Duties of subcode officials:

1. The subcode official shall enforce the regulations and:

i. Review those aspects of the application, plans and specifications appropriate to his subcode for approval and release to the construction official for issuance of the permit;

ii. Receive and review directly from the applicant applications involving only one trade or subcode and minor or emergency work for approval and release to the construction official for issuance of the permit;

iii. Collect fees for permit applications involving only one trade or subcode and minor or emergency work and forward same to the construction official for proper accounting;

iv. Comply with the time limitations for review as determined by the construction official;

v. Review requests for variations as necessary;

vi. Perform all required inspections within three business days of the time for which inspection has been requested;

vii. Issue in the name of the enforcing agency notices of violation and notify the construction official of same. The subcode official may issue verbal orders at the jobsite and shall record such orders in his inspection report;

viii. Complete reports of all inspections performed;

ix. Issue stop work orders in the name of the enforcing agency and notify the construction official of same;

x. Perform final inspection and notify construction official of approval in order that the construction official may issue certificate of occupancy;

xi. Make inspection, review submitted data and notify construction official of approval in the case of a change of use, or a request for a certificate of continued occupancy;

xii. Assist the construction official in the preparation of all reports required in the regulations;

xiii. Attend meetings and hearings as required by the regulations;

xiv. Issue documentation and certification, such as cut-in cards to utilities and/or public agencies if required by the regulations;

xv. Carry out such other functions as are necessary and appropriate to the position of subcode official.

2. In the course of enforcing the regulations, the fire protection subcode official shall cooperate, to the greatest extent possible, with the local fire service, which is the local fire department or district having jurisdiction.

i. The fire protection subcode official shall, upon request of the local fire service, allow a designated representative of the local fire service reasonable access to, and opportunity to review, plans submitted to the fire protection subcode official for his approval.

ii. The fire protection subcode official shall consult with the local fire service prior to granting any variations from the requirements of the fire protection subcode. If the fire protection subcode official is not himself a member of the local fire service, he shall, upon receipt of an application for a variation, forward a copy thereof to the local fire service and shall not grant a variation until he has received the comments of the local fire service or until 10 business days have passed, whichever comes first.

iii. The participation of the local fire service in the code enforcement process shall in no way be construed as reducing the responsibility of the fire protection subcode official for the proper enforcement of the fire protection subcode. Advice rendered by the local fire service shall in no way be binding upon the subcode official.

(j) Conflict of interest:

1. No person employed by an enforcing agency as construction or subcode official or as an inspector shall carry out any inspection or enforcement procedure with respect to any property or business in which he or she, or any close relative or household member, or his or her superior within the enforcing agency or any close relative or household member of such superior, has an economic interest. For purposes of this paragraph, "close relative"

shall mean and include a spouse, sibling, ancestor or descendant, or the spouse of any of them.

i. Where an inspection or enforcement procedure is necessary or required in any such property or business, and there is no other person employed by the enforcing agency who is qualified, pursuant to this chapter, to perform the inspection or enforcement procedure and who is not a subordinate of the person with the direct or indirect economic interest in such property or business, the official or inspector shall arrange for the inspection or enforcement to be carried out either by another local enforcing agency or by the Department.

ii. A separate log shall be maintained by the enforcing agency of all inspections and enforcement procedures performed, when permitted in accordance with (j)1i above, with regard to any properties or businesses in which any persons employed by the enforcing agency have a direct or indirect economic interest.

2. No person employed by an enforcing agency as a construction or subcode official, assistant to the construction or subcode official, trainee, inspector or plan reviewer, shall engage in, or otherwise be connected directly or indirectly for purposes of economic gain, with any business or employment furnishing labor, materials, products or services for the construction, alteration, or demolition of buildings or structures within any municipality in which he is so employed by an enforcing agency, and in any municipality adjacent to any municipality in which he is thus employed.

3. Persons subject to this subsection shall annually report any income or benefits received from any business or property subject to the Code, or from any business furnishing materials, products, labor or services for types of work subject to the Uniform Construction Code regulations, to the municipal governing body. This report shall include a list of all sources of income, but need not list the amount.

4. No person employed by a municipal enforcing agency as a construction official, subcode official or inspector shall be employed to appear before any construction board of appeals, or be involved in any court proceeding within the State, as a paid expert witness, or in any other compensated capacity in any proceeding involving the enforcement of the Uniform Construction Code except on behalf of another enforcing agency, or as a court-appointed witness.

i. This prohibition shall not apply to any litigation not involving enforcement of the Code, or to an appearance as a fact witness; nor shall it apply to any activities unrelated to an action for, or an appeal of, enforcement of the Code.

5. This section shall not apply to:

- i. The ownership of stock or other investment instrument in any corporation listed on any national stock exchange.
- ii. Any such business or employment outside the State;
- iii. Dual employment by two or more enforcing agencies;
- iv. Any business or employment which is not subject to the regulations.
- v. Service as an instructor in a code enforcement training program.

6. Nothing herein shall prohibit a municipality from establishing by ordinance more restrictive provisions covering conflict of interest.

Amended by R.1983 d.611, eff. January 3, 1984.

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

Deleted old (b)2.-3. and (c) and added new (b)2, (c), (d) and (e).
Renumbered old (d)-(f) as new (f)-(h).

Amended by R.1984 d.303, effective July 16, 1984.

See: 16 N.J.R. 950(a), 16 N.J.R. 1968(b).

Added (g)2.

Amended by R.1990 d.61, effective February 5, 1990.

See: 21 N.J.R. 3346(b), 22 N.J.R. 351(b).

Form numbers updated, new (d)2. added and reference made to reports and fees being submitted quarterly.

Amended by R.1990 d.226, effective May 7, 1990.

See: 21 N.J.R. 3696(a), 22 N.J.R. 1356(a).

Radon mitigation added to (f)1xviii.

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

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

Elevator safety added at (f)1xviii; conflict of interest provision added at (h).

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

See: 23 N.J.R. 3440(a), 24 N.J.R. 405(a).

Electronic monthly reporting added at (d)2.-4.

Amended by R.1992 d.230, effective June 1, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 168(a), 24 N.J.R. 2052(a).

Form numbers changed in (b).

Amended by R.1992 d.243, effective July 6, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 678(a), 24 N.J.R. 2422(a).

Conflict of interest and exception provisions added.

Amended by R.1992 d.392, effective October 5, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2657(a), 24 N.J.R. 3521(b).

Report form number changed at (e).

Amended by R.1993 d.581, effective November 15, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 3693(a), 25 N.J.R. 5146(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.323, effective July 5, 1994 (operative January 1, 1995).

See: 25 N.J.R. 2162(a), 26 N.J.R. 2780(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.249, effective June 5, 1995, (operative October 1, 1995).

See: 27 N.J.R. 619(a), 27 N.J.R. 2187(a).

In (b)2 added Form No. F-370.

Amended by R.1996 d.512, effective November 4, 1996.

See: 28 N.J.R. 3697(a), 28 N.J.R. 4782(a).

Amended by R.1997 d.64, effective February 18, 1997 (operative May 19, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 4695(a), 29 N.J.R. 550(a).

In (b)2, amended form references.

Amended by R.1997 d.378, effective September 15, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 2742(a), 29 N.J.R. 4103(a).

In (b)2 and (c)1, amended form designations and in (b)2 deleted form F-330A and F-340A.

Amended by R.1997 d.419, effective October 6, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3406(a), 29 N.J.R. 4287(a).

In (j)1, inserted “, or his or her superior within ... any such superior.”; in (j)1i inserted “, and there is no other person ... property or business.”; and added (j)1ii.

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)2, inserted a reference to Form No. F380.

Amended by R.2000 d.413, effective October 16, 2000.

See: 32 N.J.R. 2278(a), 32 N.J.R. 3783(a).

In (j)1, substituted references to close relatives or household members for references to members of the immediate family, and added the second sentence; and deleted former (j)7.

Amended by R.2003 d.363, effective September 15, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 2426(a), 35 N.J.R. 4281(a).

In (b), added forms F211, F212, F241, F242 and deleted form F240; deleted the revision dates of the referenced forms throughout.

Amended by R.2003 d.385, effective October 6, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 2423(a), 35 N.J.R. 4713(a).

In (h), added 3.

Amended by R.2005 d.446, effective December 19, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 2747(a), 37 N.J.R. 4907(a).

Added (h)1xxii.

Amended by R.2006 d.75, effective February 21, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3110(a), 38 N.J.R. 1183(a).

In (b)2, added Form F390, Framing Checklist.

Administrative correction.

See: 38 N.J.R. 1827(b).

In (h)1xxii, substituted “818” for “817” to correct PO Box number.

Case Notes

Former N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.3 regarding conflict of interest valid. *New Jersey State Plumbing Inspectors Assn., Inc. v. Sheehan*, 163 N.J.Super. 398, 394 A.2d 1244 (App.Div.1978), certiorari denied 79 N.J. 484, 401 A.2d 239 (1979).

Monetary penalty against builder for code violations was not reduced for financial hardship, but was reduced by half to secure prompt compliance. *Bureau of Housing Inspection v. Regency Village Apartments*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 37.

Fraud and deceit while practicing as a licensed code enforcement official or inspector warranted license revocation. *Regulatory Affairs v. Zieniuk*, 95 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 15.

Conflict of interest precluded employment as elevator inspector. *Kunz v. Department of Community Affairs*, 94 N.J.A.R.2d (CAF) 32.

5:23-4.5A (Reserved)

Repealed by R.2006 d.128, effective April 3, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 4106(a), 38 N.J.R. 1573(a).

Section was “Selection of private on-site inspection and plan review agencies”.

5:23-4.6 Interlocal enforcing agencies—establishment

(a) Parties: Any two or more municipalities may, by ordinance, join to administer and enforce the regulations and any subcode under the regulations. Any municipalities party to an agreement establishing one enforcing agency consisting of all subcodes may further provide for the establishment of a joint board of appeals.

(b) Agreement: Except as the section may add or substitute requirements, the procedures for the execution of any agreement pursuant to this section, shall be governed by the Interlocal Services Act (N.J.S.A. 40:8A-1 et seq.).

1. Upon the final adoption of an ordinance pursuant to the Interlocal Services Act, a copy of such ordinance, the

contract, and any other pertinent information shall be forwarded to the department;

2. The term of any contract entered into pursuant to this section shall be four years.

3. The contract shall stipulate that the term of office of any construction or subcode official shall, except for good cause, be four years.

4. Such contract shall provide a mechanism for administration and enforcement within each of the contracting municipalities by one or more of the contracting municipalities, on an interim or emergency basis, should such agreement be invalidated by a court of competent jurisdiction or prove otherwise unenforceable.

5. The contract shall additionally stipulate the information contained in N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.7(b) and 4.8(a).

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) 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).

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, premanufactured 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.

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:

1. The fee for a certificate of occupancy for new construction shall be computed as a percentage of the fee to be charged for the construction permit. This percentage shall be an amount sufficient to cover the actual costs for processing the certificate of occupancy. In the alternative, the municipality may establish a flat fee for the certificate of occupancy.

2. The municipality shall establish a flat fee for certificate of continued occupancy, for certificate of occupancy granted pursuant to a change of use, for multiple certificates of occupancy (as for a shopping center), and similar conditions.

3. The fee for the first issuance and the renewal of a temporary certificate of occupancy shall not exceed \$30.00.

i. Exception: There shall be no fee for the first issuance of the temporary certificate of occupancy provided the certificate of occupancy fee is paid at that time.

4. Where a written request for a temporary certificate of occupancy is made for reasons other than uncompleted work covered by the permit (such as prior approvals from

state or municipal agencies), the duration of the temporary certificate of occupancy shall be reasonably consistent with the time required for compliance with the conditions of the prior approval.

5. There shall be no fee charged for a certificate of approval issued pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.23(j).

6. There shall be no fee for a certificate of compliance.

(g) Elevator, backflow preventer and cross connection fees are as follows:

1. The fee for a permit to install an elevator device shall be a flat fee. The fee may vary for different types of inspections, tests and elevator devices.

2. The fees for inspections and witnessing of tests for an elevator, escalator, moving walk, dumbwaiter or other elevator device shall be flat fees. These fees may vary for different required inspections and tests, but any variation shall be set forth in the ordinance and the schedule.

3. The categories of municipal elevator fees shall be identical to the categories of elevator fees listed at N.J.A.C. 5:23-12.6(a) and (b).

4. For cross-connections and backflow preventers that are subject to testing and require reinspection, the fee shall be a flat fee.

(h) No special fee shall be established for any class or type of work which is undertaken as a part of work authorized by a construction permit, except elevator and sign permits as herein provided. Other special fees may be established for work regulated by the code but not undertaken as a part of the new construction project. Such special fees shall be flat fees.

(i) Rules concerning the appeal of fees are:

1. Whenever any person shall believe that the fees established by a municipality, pursuant to this subsection, fail to meet the standards of this section for establishing fees, that person shall be entitled to petition the commissioner for a review of the fee schedule in question.

i. Any such petition shall state the name, place of residence and the manner in which the fee schedule affects the petitioner. It shall further state the manner in which the petitioner believes the fees established to be inconsistent with the standards established herein.

ii. If, upon investigation, the commissioner determines that there is reason to believe that the fees in question do not meet the standards established herein, then the commissioner shall set a time and the place for a hearing. The purpose of the hearing shall be to determine the facts.

iii. No such hearing shall be called except upon 30 days notice to the municipality and the petitioner. The municipality shall be required to furnish such information concerning construction volume, construction

activity, and local enforcing agency costs as the commissioner may require in order that a determination may be made.

iv. As soon as practical after the conclusion of such a hearing, the commissioner shall make a finding and determination as to whether the fee schedule in question, as a whole or in any of its parts, conforms or fails to conform to the standards established in this section.

2. In addition to any other actions that he may take upon determining that the fees established by a municipality fail to meet the standards of this section, the commissioner may order the repayment of the excess amount of such fees to the persons who have paid them.

(j) Fees to be charged by municipalities where private on-site inspection and plan review agencies carry out subcode official responsibilities shall not exceed those amounts to be paid to those private agencies for those services, pursuant to the contract between the private agency and the municipality, plus such amount as may be sufficient to cover a proportionate share of administrative costs incurred by the local enforcing agency in connection with inspections performed by private agencies.

(k) The fee charged for the annual electrical inspection of swimming pools, spas or hot tubs shall be a flat fee and the amount of the fee shall be set to cover the costs.

Amended by R.1984 d.260, effective July 2, 1984.
See: 16 N.J.R. 3(a), 16 N.J.R. 1714(c).

Section substantially amended.

Amended by R.1985 d.351, effective July 15, 1985.
See: 17 N.J.R. 1029(a), 17 N.J.R. 1756(b).

Old (a)4 deleted and new text substituted.

Amended by R.1986 d.213, effective June 16, 1986.
See: 17 N.J.R. 2490(a), 18 N.J.R. 1266(a).

Added text to (a)4 "annual permit-fees shall be non-refundable" and (a)5 "Prior to the issuance of the annual permit" and "Bureau of Construction Code Enforcement."

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

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

Minor technical changes made throughout section.

Adopted concurrent proposal, R.1989 d.512, effective September 1, 1989 (operative January 1, 1990 for 4.18(c)-(e)).

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

Provisions of emergency amendment R.1989 d.405 readopted with change.

Added sections (c)4; (k)liv and v.

Deleted sections (e), "Removal permit fees"; (l)lii, "Fire subcode"; and (l)4, "Elevator fees ...", with renumbering and recodification.

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

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

Uniform flat fees for elevators to be set forth in ordinance and schedule.

Amended by R.1992 d.230, effective June 1, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 168(a), 24 N.J.R. 2052(a).

Form numbers changed in (a)5.

Amended by R.1992 d.313, effective August 3, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 1846(a), 24 N.J.R. 2712(b).

No inspection fee for gas service entrances.

Amended by R.1993 d.187, effective May 3, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 624(a), 25 N.J.R. 1875(a).

Added (c)5.

Amended by R.1993 d.353, effective July 19, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 1629(a), 25 N.J.R. 3147(a).

Amended by R.1993 d.665, effective December 20, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 4548(a), 25 N.J.R. 5928(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.96, effective February 22, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 5388(a), 26 N.J.R. 1073(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.323, effective July 5, 1994 (operative January 1, 1995).

See: 25 N.J.R. 2162(a), 26 N.J.R. 2780(a).

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.475, effective September 5, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 1716(a), 27 N.J.R. 3325(a).

In (a)5 added individuals to be trained and registered.

Amended by R.1995 d.476, effective September 5, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 1846(a), 27 N.J.R. 3325(b).

Rewrote (f) and (g).

Amended by R.1995 d.603, effective November 20, 1995 (operative March 20, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 2655(a), 27 N.J.R. 4699(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 by R.1997 d.418, effective October 6, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3402(a), 29 N.J.R. 4286(a).

In (c)5, inserted reference plumbing inspector.

Amended by R.2000 d.47, effective February 7, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2314(a), 32 N.J.R. 443(a).

Rewrote (c)3; and added (l).

Amended by R.2001 d.347, effective October 1, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 3218(a), 33 N.J.R. 3430(a).

Rewrote (f).

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

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

In (c), rewrote 5.

Amended by R.2004 d.144, effective April 5, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4944(a), 36 N.J.R. 1753(a).

In (b), rewrote 2, deleted the N.J.A.C. reference in 3 and added 4; deleted former (i) and recodified former (j) through (l) as (i) through (k).

Amended by R.2005 d.446, effective December 19, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 2747(a), 37 N.J.R. 4907(a).

Added (c)lviii.

Amended by R.2006 d.120, effective April 3, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3753(a), 38 N.J.R. 1567(a).

In (c)5, added "including the bonding conductor (jumper)."

Amended by R.2006 d.128, effective April 3, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 4106(a), 38 N.J.R. 1573(a).

In (j), substituted "plus such amount as may be sufficient to cover a proportionate share of administrative costs incurred by the local enforcing agency in connection with inspections performed by private agencies" for "by more than 15 percent".

Case Notes

Owner was not entitled to hearing before administrative law judge to review adverse determination of Department of Community Affairs regarding its challenge to permit fees charged in connection with construction of new building absent evidence that township's permit fee revenues exceeded its expenditures, in violation of governing law. *Toys R Us, Inc. v. Township of Mount Olive*, 300 N.J.Super. 585, 693 A.2d 539 (A.D.1997).

Fee standards violation. *Bureau of Construction Code Enforcement v. Hasbrouck Heights*, 4 N.J.A.R. 282 (1983).

5:23-4.19 New Jersey State permit surcharge fees

(a) In order to provide for the training and certification and technical support programs required by the Act, an enforcing agency, including the Department when acting as the local agency, shall collect a surcharge fee to be based upon the volume of new construction within the municipality. Said fee shall be accounted for and forwarded to the Division of Codes and Standards in the manner herein provided.

(b) Amount: This fee shall be in the amount of \$0.00265 per cubic foot volume of new buildings and additions. Volume shall be computed in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.28. The fee for all other construction shall be \$1.35 per \$1,000 of value of construction.

1. No fee shall be collected for preengineered systems of commercial farm buildings.

2. No fee shall be collected for permits to perform asbestos abatement or lead abatement.

3. No fee shall be collected for permits for the construction or rehabilitation of residential units that are to be legally restricted to occupancy by households of low or moderate income, as defined in N.J.A.C. 5:43-1.5.

4. No fee shall be collected for demolition of buildings or structures.

5. No fee shall be collected for work consequential to a natural disaster when the local code enforcement agency is waiving its fee.

(c) Remitting and reporting:

1. The municipality shall remit fees to the Bureau on a quarterly basis, in conjunction with report number R-840B State Training Fee Report in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.5(e). Fees remitted shall be for the quarter. Checks shall be made payable to "Treasurer, State of New Jersey."

Amended by R.1982 d.220, effective July 19, 1982.

See: 14 N.J.R. 456(a), 14 N.J.R. 755(b).

In (c)3i deleted "state fiscal" and "third and fourth quarter" and added "quarters of the calendar" year. In (c)3ii deleted reporting on an annual basis and added quarterly report. Also added iii and (1). Prior to recodification of N.J.A.C. 5:23, this section was codified at 5:23-4.8(c).

Amended by R.1983 d.611, effective January 3, 1984.

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

In (c), deleted old 1.-3. and added new 1.

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

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

In (b): changed "will" to "shall" and changed "\$0.0006" to "\$0.0014" per cubic foot.

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.61, effective February 5, 1990.

See: 21 N.J.R. 3346(b), 22 N.J.R. 351(b).

At (c)1, monthly reporting and fee submissions changed to quarterly.

Amended by R.1991 d.181, effective April 1, 1991, operative July 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 257(b), 23 N.J.R. 1029(a).

In (b) increased fee amount from \$0.0014 to \$0.0016 per cubic foot.

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

See: 23 N.J.R. 3440(a), 24 N.J.R. 405(a).

Fees to be paid to Regulatory Affairs.

Amended by R.1992 d.392, effective October 5, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2657(a), 24 N.J.R. 3521(b).

Fee amount amended at (b).

Amended by R.1995 d.603, effective November 20, 1995 (operative March 20, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 2655(a), 27 N.J.R. 4699(a).

Administrative correction.

See: 28 N.J.R. 1981(b).

Amended by R.1997 d.303, effective July 21, 1997.

See: 29 N.J.R. 1437(b), 29 N.J.R. 3247(a).

Subdivided (b); in (b), deleted reference to preengineered systems of commercial farm buildings; and added (b)2.

Amended by R.2001 d.194, effective June 18, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 1041(a), 33 N.J.R. 2097(a).

In (a), substituted "Division of Codes and Standards" for "Bureau of Regulatory Affairs"; in (b), added 3 and 4.

Amended by R.2002 d.42, effective February 4, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3713(a), 34 N.J.R. 732(a).

In (b), added 5.

Amended by R.2002 d.260, effective August 5, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1572(a), 34 N.J.R. 2781(c).

In (b), substituted "\$0.0019" for "\$0.0016" and "\$0.96" for "\$0.80" in the introductory paragraph.

Administrative correction.

See: 35 N.J.R. 2208(b).

Amended by R.2003 d.249, effective June 16, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 1361(a), 35 N.J.R. 2639(a).

In (b), substituted "\$0.00265" for "\$0.0019" and "\$1.35" for "\$0.96".

5:23-4.20 Department 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 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. 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 plus all 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. Where the Department, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.24, is designated as the plan review agency, or when the Department has been requested to provide plan review services by a municipality pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.24, or when the Department is designated as the local enforcing agency pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.3, the following schedule of fees shall pertain.

5. The construction or rehabilitation of residential units that are to be legally restricted to occupancy by households of low or moderate income shall be exempted from the fees set forth in (b) and (c) below and otherwise payable to the Department.

6. No fee shall be collected for work consequential to a natural disaster when the Department is the local enforcing agency.

(b) Departmental plan review fee:

1. The plan review fee for new construction shall be based upon the volume of the structure.

i. For buildings or structures in Use Groups A, F or S, the plan review fee shall be \$.010 per cubic foot;

ii. For health care facilities in Use Groups B or I, the plan review fee shall be \$.022 per cubic foot; and

iii. For all other buildings or structures, the plan review fee shall be \$.016 per cubic foot.

additional fee charged for the concurrent installation of individual circuit components, for example, controllers, starters, and disconnecting means.

(10) For electrical work requiring replacement of service entrance conductors or feeder conductors only, the fee shall be in accordance with (c)2iii(2) through (5) above based on the designated ampere rating of the overcurrent device of the service or feeder.

(11) The fee charged for process equipment shall be based on the ampere rating of the overcurrent device protecting the conductor feeding the process equipment or the cutoff device.

(12) For the purpose of computing these fees, all electrical and communications devices, utilization equipment and motors which are part of premises wiring, except those which are portable plug-in type, shall be counted.

iv. For fire protection and hazardous equipment, sprinklers, standpipes, detectors (smoke and heat), pre-engineered suppression systems, gas and oil fired appliances not connected to the plumbing system, kitchen exhaust systems, incinerators and crematoriums, the fee shall be as follows:

(1) The fee for 20 or fewer heads shall be \$65.00; for 21 to and including 100 heads, the fee shall be \$120.00; for 101 to and including 200 heads, the fee shall be \$229.00; for 201 to and including 400 heads, the fee shall be \$594.00; for 401 to and including 1,000 heads, the fee shall be \$822.00; for over 1,000 heads, the fee shall be \$1,050.

(2) The fee for one to 12 detectors shall be \$36.00; for each 25 detectors in addition to this, the fee shall be in the amount of \$12.00.

(3) The fee for each standpipe shall be \$229.00.

(4) The fee for each independent pre-engineered system shall be \$92.00.

(5) The fee for each gas or oil fired appliance that is not connected to the plumbing system shall be \$46.00.

(6) The fee for each kitchen exhaust system shall be \$46.00.

(7) The fee for each incinerator shall be \$365.00.

(8) The fee for each crematorium shall be \$365.00.

(9) For single and multiple station smoke or heat detectors and fire alarm systems in any one or two-family dwellings, there shall be a flat fee of \$23.00 per dwelling unit. For detectors and fire alarm systems in buildings other than one or two-family dwellings, the fee shall be charged in accordance with (c)2iv(2) above.

3. Fees for certificates and other permits are as follows:

i. The fee for a demolition or removal permit shall be \$65.00 for a structure of less than 5,000 square feet in area and less than 30 feet in height, for one- or two-family dwellings (Group R-3 or R-5 of the building subcode), structures on farms, including commercial farm buildings under N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.2(d), and \$120.00 for all other Groups.

ii. The fee for a permit to construct a sign shall be as follows:

(1) Fees for pylon signs shall be \$4.00 per square foot for the first 100 square feet, \$3.00 per square foot for the next 400 square feet and \$2.00 per square foot thereafter;

(2) Fees for ground signs or wall signs shall be \$2.00 per square foot for the first 100 square feet, \$1.50 per square foot for the next 400 square feet and \$1.00 per square foot thereafter;

(3) The minimum fee shall be \$46.00.

iii. The fee for a certificate of occupancy shall be \$28.00.

iv. The fee for a certificate of occupancy granted pursuant to a change of use group shall be \$120.00.

v. The fee for a certificate of continued occupancy issued under N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.23(c) shall be \$120.00.

vi. The fee for the first issuance and the renewal of a temporary certificate of occupancy shall be \$28.00.

(1) Exception: There shall be no fee for the first issuance of the temporary certificate of occupancy provided the certificate of occupancy fee is paid at that time.

(2) Exception: Where a written request for a temporary certificate of occupancy is made for reasons other than uncompleted work covered by the permit (such as uncompleted work required by prior approvals from state or municipal agencies), no renewal fee shall be charged.

vii. The fee for plan review of a building for compliance under the alternate systems and nondepletable energy source provisions of the energy subcode shall be \$274.00 for one- and two-family dwellings (Group R-3 or R-5 of the building subcode), and for light commercial structures having the indoor temperature controlled from a single point, and \$1,369 for all other structures.

viii. The fee for an application for a variation in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.10 shall be \$594.00 for class I structures and \$120.00 for class II and class III structures. The fee for resubmission of an application for a variation shall be \$229.00 for class I structures and \$65.00 for class II and class III structures.

ix. The fee for a permit for lead hazard abatement work shall be \$140.00. The fee for a lead abatement clearance certificate shall be \$28.00.

4. For cross connections and backflow preventers that are subject to testing, requiring reinspection annually, the fee shall be \$46.00 for each device when they are tested.

5. Annual permit requirements are as follows:

i. 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 who are 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 purpose of establishing the annual construction permit fee. Annual permits may be issued for building/fire protection, electrical and plumbing.

ii. Fees for annual permits shall be as follows:

(1) One to 25 workers (including foremen) \$667.00/worker; each additional worker over 25, \$232.00/worker.

(2) 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 Department of Community Affairs, Bureau of Code Services, Education Unit 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.

6. The fee for plan review for elevator devices in structures of Group R-3, R-4, or R-5, and for elevator devices wholly within dwelling units in structures of Group R-2 shall be \$50.00 for each device.

7. The fee for plan review for elevator devices in structures of Groups other than R-3, R-4, or R-5 and devices in structures of Group R-2 exempted by (c)6 above shall be \$260.00 for each device.

8. The fees for elevator device inspections and tests shall be as set forth in N.J.A.C. 5:23-12.

9. The fee for a mechanical inspection in a structure of Group R-3 or R-5 by a mechanical inspector shall be \$43.00 for the first device and \$10.00 for each additional device. No separate fee shall be charged for gas, fuel oil, or water piping connections associated with the mechanical equipment inspected.

10. The fee for the annual electrical inspection of swimming pools, spas or hot tubs shall be \$36.00.

(d) The fee for an application by a manufacturer, distributor, owner or any other person for approval of any fixture,

appliance, material or method, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.8, shall be an amount equal to the cost incurred, or to be incurred, by the Department for such tests as the Department may require, plus an administrative surcharge in the amount of 10 percent of such cost.

Amended by R.1982 d.402, effective November 15, 1982.
See: 14 N.J.R. 943(a), 14 N.J.R. 1300(b).

Text substantially amended. Department fees increased approximately 50 percent.

Amended by R.1982 d.463, effective January 3, 1983.

See: 14 N.J.R. 1129(a), 14 N.J.R. 1449(a).

Added (c)10, periodic reinspection fees.

Amended by R.1983 d.548, effective December 5, 1983.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1406(a), 15 N.J.R. 2033(b).

In (c)2., added "mechanical systems and equipment" and "the number of sprinklers and standpipes". Also added iv.-v.

Amended by R.1983 d.641, effective January 17, 1984.

See: 15 N.J.R. 1911(a), 16 N.J.R. 129(b).

Substantial changes in section.

Correction: 16 N.J.R. 2267(a).

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

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

(c)11 and 12 added.

Amended by R.1986 d.213, effective June 16, 1986.

See: 17 N.J.R. 2490(a), 18 N.J.R. 1266(a).

Added text to (a)12 "Prior to the issuance of the annual permit" and "Bureau of Construction Code Enforcement".

Amended by R.1987 d.490, effective November 16, 1987.

See: 19 N.J.R. 1684(a), 19 N.J.R. 2134(a).

Fees raised.

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

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

Amended extensively based on an overall increase of approximately 30 percent in fees for code enforcement and planned real estate development, and an increase in the State training fee per cubic foot volume of new construction. Changed fee amounts throughout.

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 with change.

Restructured section.

In (a): added new 5.

In (c): deleted (c)2i(5) regarding minor construction work fees.

In (c)2ii(2): added text to specify equipment fees and deleted (c)2ii(3) regarding fixtures.

In (c)2iii: deleted (3)-(5) and added new (3)-(6).

Deleted (c)3-6 regarding fees, and added (c)2iv, with new (3)-(7) on new fee structure.

Added (c)3 and 4 and renumbered (c)7-12 as (c)3-6ii.

Amended by R.1990 d.61, effective February 5, 1990.

See: 21 N.J.R. 3346(b), 22 N.J.R. 351(b).

Technical change of Form number in (c)6ii.

Amended by R.1991 d.181, effective April 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 257(b), 23 N.J.R. 1029(a).

In (b), plan review surcharge increased from 30 to 40 percent; plan review only increased from 20 to 25 percent; minimum fee increased from \$33.00 to \$43.00.

In (c)2, basic construction fee permit increased from \$33.00 to \$43.00.

In (c)2i(1), new construction fee increased from \$0.019 to \$0.025; for use groups A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, F-1, F-2, S-1, S-2 increased from \$0.011 to \$0.014; farm structures increased from \$0.0005 to \$0.0007; maximum farm structures fee increased from \$815.00 to \$1,060.

In (c)2i(2), fees increased from \$17.00 to \$22.00; from \$13.00 to \$17.00 above \$50,000; from \$11.00 to \$14.00 above \$100,000.

In (c)2ii(1), fee increased from \$7.00 to \$9.00 per fixture.

In (c)2ii(2), fee increased from \$46.00 to \$60.00 per special device.

In (c)2iii(1), fee increased from \$25.00 to \$33.00 for one to 50 receptacles or fixtures; each 25 additional increased from \$4.00 to \$5.00.

In (c)2iii(2), fee increased from \$7.00 to \$9.00.

In (c)2iii(3), fee increased from \$33.00 to \$43.00.

In (c)2iii(4), fee increased from \$65.00 to \$85.00.

In (c)2iii(5), fee increased from \$325.00 to \$423.00.
 In (c)2iv(1), fee increased from \$46.00 to \$60.00 for 20 or fewer heads; from \$85.00 to \$111.00 for 21 to 100 heads; from \$163.00 to \$212.00 for 101 to 200 heads; from \$423.00 to \$550.00 for 201 to 400 heads; from \$585.00 to \$761.00 for 401 to 1,000 heads; from \$748.00 to \$972.00 for over 1,000 heads.

In (c)2iv(2), fee increased from \$163.00 to \$212.00.

In (c)2iv(3), fee increased from \$65.00 to \$85.00.

In (c)2iv(4) and (5), fee increased from \$33.00 to \$43.00.

In (c)2iv(6) and (7), fee increased from \$260.00 to \$338.00.

In (c)4i, demolition and removal permit increased from \$46.00 to \$60.00 and for form structure removal from \$85.00 to \$111.00.

In (c)4ii, fee for permit to construct a sign increased from \$0.85 to \$1.11 per square foot; minimum fee increased from \$33.00 to \$43.00.

In (c)4iii, certificate of occupancy fee increased from \$85.00 to \$111.00; minimum fee for form structures increased from \$46.00 to \$60.00.

In (c)4iv, fee increased from \$124.00 to \$161.00.

In (c)4v, fee increased from \$85.00 to \$111.00.

In (c)4vii, fee increased from \$20.00 to \$26.00.

In (c)4viii, fees increased from \$195.00 to \$254.00 for one and two-family homes and from \$975.00 to \$41,268 for light commercial structures.

In (c)4ix, fees increased from \$423.00 to \$550.00 for class I structures and from \$85.00 to \$111.00 for class II and III structures. Resubmission of applications increased from \$163.00 to \$212.00 for class I structures and from \$46.00 to \$60.00 for class II and III structures.

In (c)5iii, fees increased from \$33.00 to \$43.00 for thrice annual testing and from \$85.00 to \$111.00 for annual testing.

In (c)6ii(1), fees increased from \$475.00 to \$618.00 for one to 25 workers and from \$165.00 to \$215.00 per worker over 25.

In (c)6ii(2), fee increased from \$100.00 to \$130.00.

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

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

Departmental fees set at (c).

Amended by R.1992 d.147, effective April 6, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 170(a), 24 N.J.R. 1397(a).

Elevators wholly within R-2 residences exempt.

Notice of correction, effective May 18, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 1879(b).

Amended by R.1992 d.230, effective June 1, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 168(a), 24 N.J.R. 2052(a).

Form numbers changed in (c).

Amended by R.1992 d.313, effective August 3, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 1846(a), 24 N.J.R. 2712(b).

No inspection fee for gas service entrances.

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

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

Fee for indirect apportionment systems set at (d).

Amended by R.1992 d.392, effective October 5, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2657(a), 24 N.J.R. 3521(b).

Fees increased throughout.

Amended by R.1993 d.187, effective May 3, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 624(a), 25 N.J.R. 1875(a).

Added (c)9.

Amended by R.1994 d.28, effective January 18, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 4546(b), 26 N.J.R. 352(a).

Administrative correction.

See: 26 N.J.R. 796(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.96, effective February 22, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 5388(a), 26 N.J.R. 1073(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.323, effective July 5, 1994 (operative January 1, 1995).

See: 25 N.J.R. 2162(a), 26 N.J.R. 2780(a).

Amended by R.1994 d.434, effective September 6, 1994 (operative January 1, 1995).

See: 26 N.J.R. 1911(a), 26 N.J.R. 3706(b).

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.475, effective September 5, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 1716(a), 27 N.J.R. 3325(a).

In (c)5ii(2) added individuals to be trained and registered.

Amended by R.1995 d.476, effective September 5, 1995 (operative January 1, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 1846(a), 27 N.J.R. 3325(b).

Eliminated minimum fee in (b) and rewrote (c).

Amended by R.1995 d.603, effective November 20, 1995 (operative March 20, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 2655(a), 27 N.J.R. 4699(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.647, effective December 18, 1995 (operative March 18, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 3517(a), 27 N.J.R. 5012(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 by R.1998 d.35, effective January 5, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 4215(a), 30 N.J.R. 194(a).

In (c)2.i.(1), added A-5 structures to the fee schedule.

Amended by R.2000 d.47, effective February 7, 2000.

See: 31 N.J.R. 2314(a), 32 N.J.R. 443(a).

Rewrote (c).

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

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

In (c)3i, inserted a reference to group R-4.

Amended by R.2001 d.194, effective June 18, 2001.

See: 33 N.J.R. 1041(a), 33 N.J.R. 2097(a).

In (a)5, substituted "The construction or rehabilitation of" for "Newly constructed".

Amended by R.2001 d.347, effective October 1, 2001.

See: 32 N.J.R. 3218(a), 33 N.J.R. 3430(a).

In (c)3, inserted new vi, and recodified former vi through viii as vii through ix.

Amended by R.2002 d.6, effective January 7, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 2570(a), 33 N.J.R. 3883(a), 34 N.J.R. 268(a).

In (c)5ii(2), substituted "Education Unit" for "Training Section".

Amended by R.2002 d.42, effective February 4, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 3713(a), 34 N.J.R. 732(a).

In (a), added 6.

Amended by R.2002 d.260, effective August 5, 2002.

See: 34 N.J.R. 1572(a), 34 N.J.R. 2781(c).

Rewrote (b) and (c)1.

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

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

Added references to Group R-5 throughout.

Amended by R.2004 d.144, effective April 5, 2004.

See: 35 N.J.R. 4944(a), 36 N.J.R. 1753(a).

Rewrote (c)1.

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

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

In (c)3, rewrote ii.

Amended by R.2005 d.446, effective December 19, 2005.

See: 37 N.J.R. 2747(a), 37 N.J.R. 4907(a).

In (c), added 2i(8).

5:23-4.21 Private enforcing agency authorization and reauthorization fees

(a) Authorization fee: Any onsite inspection agency submitting an application to the Department under N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.12 for approval as an inspection agency shall pay a fee of \$2,800 for each subcode for which authorization is sought.

(b) Reauthorization fee:

1. Any onsite inspection agency submitting an application to the Department under N.J.A.C. 5:23-4.12 for reapproval as an inspection agency shall pay a fee of \$1,400 for each subcode for which authorization is sought plus an amount equal to two percent of the gross revenue earned from State Uniform Construction Code enforcement activities during the previous 12-month period.

i. The fee of \$1,400 per subcode plus two percent of gross revenue earned from State Uniform Construc-

tion Code enforcement activities shall be applicable to all applications for authorization or reauthorization required to be filed on or after November 1, 2005.

2. The fee shall be paid to the Department in 12 equal installments, beginning with the month immediately following the end of the 12-month period for which the fee is calculated. Payment shall be made prior to the last business day of each month.

Amended by R.1984 d.260, effective July 2, 1984.

See: 16 N.J.R. 3(a), 16 N.J.R. 1714(e).

Section substantially amended.

Amended by R.1985 d.353, effective July 15, 1985.

See: 17 N.J.R. 1032(a), 17 N.J.R. 1758(b).

(b)1: substantially amended.

Public Notice: Notice of Petition to amend section.

See: 17 N.J.R. 2688(a).

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

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

Text on inplant inspection agencies deleted.

Amended by R.1991 d.181, effective April 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 257(b), 23 N.J.R. 1029(a).

In (a), authorization fee increased from \$2,000 to \$2,600. In (b), reauthorization fee increased from \$1,000 to \$1,300.

Amended by R.1992 d.392, effective October 5, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2657(a), 24 N.J.R. 3521(b).

Fees increased.

Amended by R.2006 d.207, effective June 5, 2006.

See: 38 N.J.R. 1121(a), 38 N.J.R. 2418(a).

In (b), added the designations for 1 and 2; in (b)1, substituted "two" for "five" and inserted (i).

5:23-4.22 (Reserved)

Amended by R.1984 d.481, effective November 5, 1984.

See: 16 N.J.R. 2031(a), 16 N.J.R. 3006(a).

Amended by R.1986 d.142, effective May 5, 1986.

See: 17 N.J.R. 1169(a), 18 N.J.R. 945(a).

Substantially amended.

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

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

Modular unit fee of \$100.00 deleted; title changed.

Amended by R.1991 d.181, effective April 1, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 257(b), 23 N.J.R. 1029(a).

In (a) and (b), insignia fee increased from \$50.00 to \$65.00.

Amended by R.1992 d.392, effective October 5, 1992.

See: 24 N.J.R. 2657(a), 24 N.J.R. 3521(b).

Fees increased.

Repealed by R.1994 d.96, effective February 22, 1994.

See: 25 N.J.R. 5388(a), 26 N.J.R. 1073(a).

Section was "Building element and manufactured home add-on unit insignia of certification fees".

5:23-4.23 Payment of fees

(a) All fees paid to the Department under the regulations shall be nonrefundable except as otherwise specifically set forth in the regulations. All fees shall be paid by check or money order, payable to the "Treasurer, State of New Jersey".

5:23-4.24 Plan review by the Department of Community Affairs

(a) There is established in the Department of Community Affairs, Division of Codes and Standards, a Bureau of Construction Projects Review, hereinafter "the plan review bureau." The plan review bureau shall review plans, applications and specifications submitted to the Department in its

enforcing agency capacity, and as further required or permitted by this section.

(b) Plan review:

1. Plan review shall be required for all uses except as may be otherwise provided in the regulations whenever the department acts as an enforcing agency in any municipality.

2. Special or hazardous uses and types of construction:

i. N.J.A.C. 5:23-3 divides all construction into three classes according to its 'complexity and potential hazard to the public health and safety. N.J.A.C. 5:23-5 provides for three levels of subcode official certification which correspond to the three classes in N.J.A.C. 5:23-5.

ii. For class 1, department plan review and release shall be required on the effective date of the regulations prior to the issuance of a construction permit unless the construction official and each appropriate subcode official in the municipal enforcing agency is certified by the commissioner as a class one construction official or subcode official.

iii. For class two, department plan review and release shall be required after January 1, 1981, prior to the issuance of a construction permit unless the construction official and each appropriate subcode official in the municipal enforcing agency is certified by the commissioner as a class one or class two construction official or subcode official.

iv. For class three, departmental plan review shall not be required except when the department acts as the enforcing agency.

v. Installations of elevators, escalators, and moving walks, except devices in structures of Group R-3, R-4, or R-5 and those devices in structures of Group R-2 that are otherwise exempted in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.11(b), shall require Departmental plan review and release.

3. Premanufactured construction: Department plan review and release shall be required for all modular construction other than those authorized to be approved by an inplant inspection agency as provided in N.J.A.C. 5:23-4A.10.

(c) The plan review bureau shall review all applications, plans and specifications for conformance to the regulations.

(d) Plans reviewed by the Department that are judged to be in conformance with the regulations shall be stamped with the word "released" and signed and dated by the reviewing official of the Department.

(e) All plans submitted, and any amendments thereto, accompanied by the required fee, shall be numbered, docketed, and examined promptly after their submission for compliance with the regulations. In the case of plans submitted by an architect or engineer bearing his or her signature, registration number, and seal, plan examination may, except for

compliance with exit requirements, be limited to a supervisory check.

(f) If the Department judges a plan not to be in conformance with the regulations, it shall notify the applicant in writing of the reason for rejection.

(g) The Department shall provide such technical assistance to the applicant as may be appropriate pursuant to the regulations.