

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-05-14

March 12, 2014

The following is in response to your email dated March 5, 2014 in which you request a formal interpretation to the following scenario:

Section E3608.1 Grounding Electrode System of the 2009 International Residential Code has the words “that are present” that are in the body of the section differ from the language that is in the NEC requirement found in 250.50. The wording “that are present” were replaced in the 2013 Amendment (first replaced in the 2005 Amendment to the 2005 NEC) in the 2011 NEC with the wording “if available”. This becomes very confusing in reference to concrete encased electrodes.

Question 1:

If an electrician chooses to use the 2009 IRC, instead of the 2011 NEC, is the electrician required to use a concrete electrode (that may, or in most cases, may not be) “available” at the time the electrician is on site. Meaning does the electrician have to bond the concrete electrode and use it as part of the grounding electrode system?

Answer 1:

The Connecticut Amendment to Section 250.50 of the 2011 NEC was also supposed to be incorporated into Section E3608.1 of the 2009 IRC in order to keep both codes consistent with each other and with the previous electrical code. Since it was the intent to amend both codes to read the same, one should follow the requirements of the 2011 NEC for the Grounding Electrical System.