

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-10-02

May 10, 2002

The following is offered in response to your letter to me dated May 2, 2002 in which you request a formal interpretation of the provisions of section 315.1 of the 1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: A stairway with more than three risers is located in the rear yard of a single-family dwelling, not adjacent to the required exit and not connected to the dwelling. Do the provisions of section 315.1 of the 1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code apply to this stairway?

Answer: No. The stairway you describe is separated from the residence and is not a component of the means of egress. In the course of exiting the dwelling, one does not travel on the stair in question. It should therefore be considered a landscaping feature and is thus not regulated by the code. An exterior stairway that one must traverse to reach the public way would, however, be regulated by the code.