

## **STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-13-00**

March 2, 2000

The following is offered in response to your request for an interpretation of accessibility reach ranges as they affect the installation of electrical switches and convenience outlets in buildings required to be accessible to persons with disabilities. You ask specifically about the CABO/ANSI A117.1-1992 that is referenced by the 1994 State Building Code but the answer is equally appropriate to the ICC/ANSI A117.1-1998 standard referenced by the 1999 State Building Code.

**Question:** Section 4.2.5.1 sets forth unobstructed forward reach ranges of 48 inches maximum and 15 inches minimum. Do electrical switches mounted at a height of 48 inches to the center of the device box and convenience outlets mounted at a height of 15 inches to the center of the device box meet these reach ranges?

**Answer:** Yes. I concur with both the BOCA and the ANSI interpretations that state that for the purposes of determining reach ranges, measurement of an electrical switch or convenience outlet to the center of the box (the industry standard for placement of the boxes) is a reasonable application of the intent of the code and that a reasonable degree of access to the devices is provided.