

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-53-00

August 18, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of Section 1017.2 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: Are two means of egress required, in accordance with Section 1017.2 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code, in a diesel generator room that is 868 square feet in size?

Answer: No. Exception #2 of Section 1017.2 applies only to boiler, incinerator and furnace rooms. Although the generators to be installed are similar in that they are fuel-burning equipment, the intent of the section referenced is only to dictate means of egress in the specific rooms listed in the first sentence of the exception. Had the code intended to broaden the scope of applicability, more general terminology would have been used. The number of means of egress required in the generator room is determined by Table 1017.2, which indicates that in the scenario you describe, one means of egress is code-compliant.