

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-70-99

January 3, 2000

The following is offered in response to your communication to this office in which you seek an official interpretation of Section 2203.0 of the BOCA National Building Code/1990 portion of the 1994 State Building Code.

Question: Are suspended leaded glass art panels as described herein exempt from the provisions of Section 2203.0 which requires glazed panels in specific hazardous locations to be safety glazed? The panels are leaded glass, exactly nine square feet in exposed glass area, the bottom of the lowest panel is ten inches above the floor and the panels are protected on the walking surface side by a 36 inch high, three inch diameter guard rail.

Answer: Yes, the panels you describe are exempt from the requirement for safety glazing for a number of reasons:

Exception 2 to Section 2203.2 exempts leaded glass used for decorative purposes in hazardous locations 1, 6 and 7. Location number 7 most closely resembles the scenario you describe (panes larger than nine square feet, closer to the floor than 18 inches, top edge greater than 36 inches from the floor, one or more walking surfaces within 36 inches of the glazing).

Even if the glazing you described were not leaded glass, hazardous location number 7 (described above) only applies to exposed areas of an individual pane greater than nine square feet. An exposed pane of exactly nine square feet does not meet all of the criteria that must be present for the safety glazing requirement to be applicable.

If the glazing you describe was not leaded and was greater than nine square feet in area, it would still not be required to be safety glazed since exception 6 to Section 2203.2 exempts the glazing if a protective bar is installed on the accessible side(s) of the glazing 34 to 36 inches above the floor where such a bar is capable of withstanding a horizontal load of 50 pounds per lineal foot without contacting the glass and is a minimum of 1 ½ inches in height. The guard rail you describe meets those parameters. Incidentally, the provisions of Section 2405.2 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code are similar with respect to this issue, so this interpretation is also valid for projects constructed in Connecticut under the 1999 State Building Code.