

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-64-99

December 16, 1999

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request official interpretations regarding special inspections as set forth in Section 1705.0 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question 1: “Can the Structural Engineer of Record also be the Special Inspector as indicated in the Qualifications for the Special Inspector in the 1999 Guide to Special Inspections and Structural Testing?”

Answer 1: Yes. The 1999 State Building Code does not preclude the structural engineer of record from also taking the role of special inspector. The code, at Section 1705.1, requires that the special inspectors and testing laboratories be qualified and approved and prohibits the engaging of the special inspectors or testing laboratory by the contractor whose work is to be inspected. If the structural engineer of record is retained by the owner to perform the special inspections, the intent of the code has been met.

Question 2: “Can a qualified testing laboratory perform the site observations for the concrete placement to insure that the concrete being placed meets the requirements of the contract documents and ACI or is the Special Inspector required to perform these tasks?”

Answer 2: As long as the testing laboratory is qualified to perform the inspections required by Section 1705.4 and furnishes such inspection reports to the code official and the registered design professional in responsible charge, there is no requirement in the code that the concrete inspections be performed by the special inspector in lieu of, or in addition to, the testing laboratory.

Question 3: Can a local building official enforce his opinions and thoughts regarding how special inspections should be handled if his opinions and thoughts differ from that of the State Building Code?

Answer 3: No. Section 29-253, Connecticut General Statutes, states in part “The State Building Code, including any amendment to said code adopted by the State Building Inspector and Codes and Standards Committee, shall be the building code for all towns, cities and boroughs.” Local building officials are responsible for enforcement of the code in their jurisdiction, but do not have the authority to modify or vary the code.