

CODE QUESTIONS ?

QUESTION? “*Is it the intent of window screens to serve as barriers to prevent children from falling out of windows?*”

ANSWER: Definitely not! The purpose and only function of screens are to keep insects from entering the building. In dwelling units, the *International Residential Code* requires window sills to be a minimum of 44-inches from the finished floor to the sill. At this time, there are no additional requirements to prevent someone from falling out a window. There have been many wrongful deaths suits brought against both window makers and homeowners over this question.

QUESTION?: “*Is the occupant load of a reception area in a Business use group to be calculated as Assembly?*”

ANSWER: Unless it is an exceptionally large reception area with assembly uses, the code would use the 100 sq. ft./per person (Business) in Table 1004.1.1 of the *International Building Code*. The code exempts 750 sq. ft. of assembly use as the main use of the building.

CODE UPDATES

COLORADO - The latest editions of 22 *NFPA* codes have been incorporated into regulations that comprise the Colorado Fire Suppression Program. *NFPA* documents are referenced as they pertain to the installation of sprinklers and other fire protection systems. In order to meet nationally recognized standards, **Colorado** developed a fire suppression program to ensure proper installation and maintenance of life safety systems for residential and commercial occupancies and are among many *NFPA* codes being implemented within **Colorado's** program.

OSHA - THE FEDERAL agency has proposed the adoption of a rule that recognizes or accepts the combined Means Of Egress provisions of the *International Building Code* and *International Fire Code* as complying with OSHA's federal egress requirements for worker safety. Complying with the exiting requirements of the *I-Codes* will be prima facie evidence of complying with the Federal agency. We will keep you updated on the progress of this proposal.



NEW JERSEY - - IN last month's *CODES & STANDARDS* we indicated that February 20, 2007 was the effective date of their adoption of the 2006 *I-Codes*. What about a grace period? How about projects already in the design process? The state will give six months grace period for code revisions of subcodes only. August 20, 2007 is the deadline for building projects under the previous codes (2003 edition).

FIRE CODES PUT HEAT ON HOME DEPOT

SOME FIRE OFFICIALS report that Home Depot stores have a problem with keeping their fire lanes clear. The claim the stores are clogged with wooden pallets, overstocked merchandise and garden supplies. The *International Fire Code* requires a 20 ft. wide open “**Fire Lane**” around

