

CODE UPDATES

OHIO - THE STATE Fire Marshal has initiated adoption of the *2005 Ohio Fire Code* (based on the *2003 International Fire Code*). The formal legislative hearing is scheduled for January 24, 2005. If passed, the effective date would be March 1, 2005.

CHICAGO - After two high-rise fires this year, the City of Chicago has passed the *High-Rise Safety Substitute Ordinance*. The new law requires fire sprinklers in most existing commercial high-rises and residential properties to submit a thorough life safety evaluation and submit it to the city for review. The evaluation must be performed by either a licensed architect or engineer. All existing commercial high-rise buildings must install a full automatic fire sprinkler system by January 1, 2017. I wonder how many more Chicago citizens will die in these fires until that time?

FEDERAL - New guidelines from the National Institute of Health for high-containment biosafety labs require that the air pressure can never go negative. Strict requirements include a brick and mortar separation from other portions of the facility. The floors must be covered with a monolithic epoxy coating that extends 6-8 inches up the base of the walls. The ceiling must be solid with no openings, except those required for ductwork. It must also be primed with a continuous coating of high quality paint. Edges of ducts must be sealed and any opening into the lab must be sealed. That includes conduit, piping, screw holes and fire-detection devices. These extreme requirements are intended to reduce the places where contaminants can collect.

CODE INTERPS

INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE -2003 Edition - The required live loads in Table 1607.1 for balconies can be reduced when they are extremely small, narrow and not available for normal use.

➤ Reference: 2003 International Code Interpretation - First Printing - Sept. 2004.

LAW REVIEW

WASHINGTON - The issuance of a building permit, involving decision making and examination of documents, is discretionary and no ministerial. Therefore, the authority (building official) cannot be compelled to issue a building permit.

➤ Source: Thurston County v. Merrell Clifford Sager, 30614-0-II, Court of Appeals Washington, Division Two (2004).

📁 IN OUR DECEMBER 2004 / JANUARY 2005 combined issue of **CODES & STANDARDS**, we will include our **Professional Directory** of subscribers with their business card published.


Kelly P. Reynolds

“Don’t Assume Malice For What Stupidity Can Explain.”