

Original: 2283

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*Senate of Pennsylvania*

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DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Harrisburg Office

September 23, 2002

Charles J. Sludden, Jr., Director  
Bureau of Occupational and Industrial Safety  
PA Department of Labor and Industry  
1613 L&I Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Mr. Sludden:

Enclosed please find a communication to me from Jeff Walker of Richland Township. I would like you to consider this communication to be comments upon the Uniform Construction Code Implementation.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

LEONARD J. BODACK  
State Senator  
38th District

LJB/ch



**RICHLAND**

**TOWNSHIP**

**FAX TRANSMISSION**

4011 Dickey Road, Room 200

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Office: 724-443-5921 Fax: 724-443-5869

Date:

9-5-02

To:

MARY

Fax Number:

412-565-2753

From:

JEFF WALZER

Number of Pages including this page:

5

Comments:

*Atty*  
*Call me,*  
*Please*  
*Jeff*

**COMMENTS ON IRC 2000 RESIDENTIAL****1. Section 106.1 Submittal Documents:**

**Comment:** Currently most house plans and plans for additions are not prepared by a registered design professional. If the person examining the plans accepts what is submitted as adequate and the buildings are having no problems, why a seal? The examiner always has the right to ask for additional information any way.

Under exceptions, does that mean decks, porches, additions, steps, slabs, etc?

**2. R314.2 Treads and Risers:**

**Comment:** The regulations only show relief until December 31, 2003, why is there a time limit at all? Eliminate until December 31, 2003 from regulations.

**3. R310.1 Emergency Escape and Rescue Operations:**

**Comment:** If a basement is finished or made into a sleeping room and the building has two different grade elevations, why can't a person exit through the garage door if a fire were on the first floor or if a fire was in the garage, the person should be able to go up the steps and exit out the first floor. With all the smoke detectors required, a person should have ample time to exit. Also, if a fire was on the first floor, the person would probably take the car out of the garage as they left the finished basement/bedroom.

**4. Chapter 11 Energy Efficiency:**

**Comment:** Under the definition of conditioned space, sun rooms and porch enclosures, and patio rooms will be a thing of the past. How will they meet the R-18 and R-38 values, they all end up with portable heaters.

R-18 in walls could eliminate plywood corner construction and could create problems for nailing of sheathing, and most of all, siding. I heard 2 x 6 construction 24" on center, again a nailing problem with drywall, baseboards, siding, etc.

I believe the best thing the State of Pennsylvania can do would be to eliminate Chapter 11 and stay with Act 222. I have heard this chapter could cost the consumer \$10,000 to \$15,000 per home.

5. **IBC 2000**

Chapter 13 Energy Efficiency. Eliminate Chapter 13 and stay with State Act 222 for energy.

6. **NEC 1999****Section 210-12**      **ARC Fault Protection**

New houses have enough outlets that they don't need extension cords and they also have a smoke detector in every bedroom and one on each floor. Do we really need ARC fault breakers also?

**Proposed Regulations:**

**Permit Fees** seem very high, I hope they don't keep new business' from locating in PA.

**Public Utility Connections:**

Why should a building inspector even be included with this? Have there been problems with this in the past, if so what kind?

**Certifications**

With the excessive amount of certifications, it will bring on an excessive amount of inspections and the fees that go with them. Is it the intent to drive up costs to the consumer?

The energy chapters and the new building fees will drive up costs of construction, everything is done in square footages including the purchase. This means the consumer will have to down size the house he wishes to purchase. Less square footage means less work and money for everyone involved in construction, real estate, and manufacturing of building products.

Implementation Update

Page 1 of 2

# PA Labor and Industry Internet Projects and Initiatives

## Uniform Construction Code Implementation Update

Today's Date is: Thursday, August 15, 2002

### Administration and Enforcement

The Department's Proposed Administration and Enforcement Regulation has been finalized and prepared for publication in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin*. [Click here to access a copy of the proposed regulation.](#)

When this regulation is printed in the *Bulletin* (expected date is August 24, 2002), a thirty-day public comment period will begin. During the comment period, the Department will hold three public meetings to take comments on the proposal. These meetings will be held on the following dates:

September 9, 2002  
Radisson Hotel  
Pittsburgh  
101 Mail Boulevard  
Monroeville, PA  
2:00 to 4:00 PM

September 11, 2002  
Plymouth Township Community  
2910 Jolly Road  
Plymouth Meeting, PA  
1:30 to 3:30 PM

September 13, 2002  
Holiday Inn  
Exit 80 off Interstate 81  
Grantville, PA  
1:30 to 3:30 PM

WWW. DLI.  
STATE. PA. US

1. QUICK LINKS
2. BUILDING CODE
3. REGULATIONS

↑ 3 STEPS ↓  
75 PAGES

### Please note the following:

All comments, whether presented at these meetings or submitted in writing directly to the Department, will be considered and appropriately addressed. If you cannot attend one of these meetings, send your written comments to:

Charles J. Sludden, Jr.  
Director  
Bureau of Occupational and Industrial Safety  
PA Department of Labor and Industry  
1613 L&I Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

If you intend to comment on the regulation at one of these sessions, please bring a complete copy of your written comments for submission at that time.

In order to afford all present an equal opportunity to address the proposed regulation, the Department will limit oral comments to 5 minutes per speaker. Initially, one representative will be allowed to speak on behalf of each organization present; if time allows, additional representatives will be allowed to comment on the proposed

regulation

Among the standards proposed for adoption in this regulation is the Pennsylvania Housing Research Center's *Code for the Conservation of Space-Conditioning Energy for Housing in Pennsylvania*. This document provides an alternative prescriptive approach which residential builders may use to comply with energy conservation code performance standards found in the Uniform Construction Code. Copies may be obtained by contacting the Center at:

Pennsylvania Housing Research Center  
Penn State University  
219 Seckett Building  
University Park, PA 16802-1408

Ph: 814-865-2341  
E-mail: [phrc@psu.edu](mailto:phrc@psu.edu)  
Website: [www.enr.psu.edu/phrc/](http://www.enr.psu.edu/phrc/)

**Training and Certification**

The Department of Labor and Industry's final-form regulation detailing the training and certification requirements of the Uniform Construction Code was published in the *Pennsylvania Bulletin* on April 13, 2002. It is available by [clicking here](#).

This regulation took effect on July 12, 2002, and the Department has begun registering and certifying code officials. Note that, until the UCC takes effect, registration or certification is not mandatory.

The Department has available on this website a booklet detailing the procedures for acquiring certification or registering as a current code administrator. You may access a copy by [clicking here](#).

Copies of this booklet may also be requested by calling or writing:

UCC Certification Administrator  
Bureau of Occupational and Industrial Safety  
PA Department of Labor and Industry  
1613 L & I Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120  
717-787-3323

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