



# THE CODE ADVISOR

Approved Code  
Services, Inc.  
717-215-5849

June 2007  
Volume 1  
Issue 3

Professional Assistance in the Building Codes for Architects,  
Engineers and Contractors

## Question of the Month

From the "Quick Code Answers"  
Telephone Support records.

**Quick Code Answers** is an annual subscription service that provides Phone & On-site technical support for Building Code questions.

Q: I have heard that smoke detectors in residential occupancies can not be arc-fault protected even though they are installed in a sleeping room. This is contrary to what has been required in the past. Is this a recent change?



A: There has been no change in the requirements for smoke detectors. This is probably a misunderstanding of the change to NEC section 760.21 & 760.41. These sections refer to PLFA's (Power Limited Fire Alarm) systems. The NEC2005 Handbook includes a note under 760.21 that standard smoke alarms are not supplied through PLFA circuits and are not affected by this section.

## Current Events

Senate Bill **repeals** the PA Construction Code Act!

SB 832 was introduced on May 3, 2007 and immediately referred to committee on Senate Labor and Industry.

**Update:** There were some pretty interesting comments from the committee hearing. Most participants were not ready to "can" the UCC altogether. My favorite came from L&I Secretary Schmerin who agreed that the UCC needs revisions. "When you have flaws in a building, you know you have to go back correct the problem and make it right. The same goes for our current building code – the UCC. With some careful thought and collaboration, we have the opportunity to correct its problems and hopefully make it right for everyone involved. Until we are able to do this, however, the Uniform Construction Code will be uniform in name only."

## New Client Highlight

### MESSIAH COLLEGE

Department of Building and Property Services  
Brad Markley, Director  
Grantham, PA 17027

## Code Tip

### Excerpt from our **Code Changes IBC2006** Training Seminar

**This change has the potential to yield significant savings in the design of code required features...**

The 2006 IBC allows the building official to assign a Design Occupancy Load that is **less** than the calculated value. In previous versions, the occupancy load has been determined by a fairly inflexible method with a number often on the (ridiculously) high side. The occupancy load is the number of people who can legally occupy a building or space. It can have a major effect on many aspects of a building's code requirements. This can range from how many drinking fountains are required to the number of toilets to whether sprinklers are needed.

See *IBC1004.1* for details.

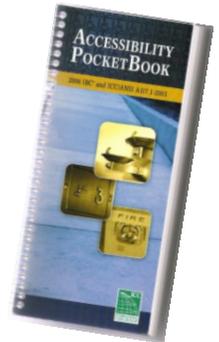
## Product Highlight

Introducing the **Accessibility Pocketbook Q&A Seminar!** This intensely practical training package will prepare you for the challenges of understanding the ADA requirements and knowing where to get the information you need to comply. The **Accessibility Pocketbook** is used as the text for this seminar. This outstanding resource combines the IBC accessibility provisions and the ADA technical requirements in one volume. The seminar will systematically cover the entire Pocketbook to introduce each accessibility topic. This ensures that the participant knows **what** accessibility features are required and **how** to find the information. **Case studies** are pulled from the 2006 Labor & Industry Accessibility Audit Report. This report summarizes the first year of audits (covering 500 of the 2500 PA municipalities) to determine compliance with ADA code requirements. It provides a very relevant tool to focus on difficult or confusing code sections.

**This seminar is available for on-site presentation to groups.**

**\*\*\* It will also be presented in a single registration format on June 28<sup>th</sup> from 8AM until Noon in Mechanicsburg. Light refreshments and all seminar materials are included in the single registration cost of only \$129!**

**Call today to register : 717-215-5849**



## Recommended Resources

**Accessibility and Usability** (Special Topics Series) - Published by International Code Council.

This 250+ page book is based on the current IBC2006 and ADA2003 standards. It is designed to be a training manual. But it is so well written and illustrated that it is a great reference for ADA questions. List \$20, ICC member \$15. Order from us and **get free shipping!**

## Got Questions?

**Do you have a code question?**

Maybe something that has been inspected and passed on one job and failed on the next?

Or maybe you are just wondering about the reason for a certain code.

Submit your code question to **Questions@ApprovedCode.com**

Be sure to include a daytime telephone number in case we need more information.

We will respond to your question by e-mail or phone as soon as possible.



**APPROVED Code Services, Inc.** provides building code support services, training and products to assist design professionals and builders in the proper application of the building code. Our staff is experienced and fully certified in all areas of the Pennsylvania State Building Code, both residential and commercial. Information provided in this newsletter is believed to be accurate and appropriate for the situation being presented. All information must be cross checked with a code book for suitability to the application. The local building code official and the appeals board have the final authority for interpreting the code in each jurisdiction.

**Post Office Box 614 Dillsburg, Pennsylvania 17019**

**www.ApprovedCode.com**

