NEW GEORGIA STATE MINIMUM STANDARD ENERGY CODE TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008
The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Board, on the recommendation of the State Codes Advisory Committee (SCAC), has adopted the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with Georgia State Supplements and Amendments as the new Georgia State Minimum Standard Energy Code to replace the 2000 IECC. The new code will take effect on January 1, 2008. The Georgia Supplements and Amendments to the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code can be found on the web at www.dca.state.ga.us. Please contact DCA staff member Ryan Meres at 404-679-3109 or rmeres@dca.state.ga.us with questions or for more information.

GEORGIA AMENDMENTS TO THE STATE MINIMUM STANDARD CODES TO BECOME EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2008
The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Board, on the recommendation of the State Codes Advisory Committee (SCAC), has adopted 2008 Georgia Amendments to the following State Minimum Standard Codes for construction: the International Residential Code, International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code and International Fuel Gas Code which will become effective January 1, 2008.

The 2008 Georgia State Amendments to the State Minimum Standard Codes have been posted to DCA’s website: From the main page at www.dca.state.ga.us, follow the “Construction Codes” link under the “Fostering Sustainable Development” heading. Then, on the “Construction Codes” page, follow the “Georgia State Amendments to the State Minimum Standard Codes” link under the “Publications” heading. If you have further questions, please contact the Department of Community Affairs Construction Codes and Industrialized Buildings Section at 404-679-3118 or by email at codes@dca.state.ga.us.

TASK FORCE TO REVIEW 2006 INTERNATIONAL EXISTING BUILDING CODE AND 2006 INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE
The Department of Community Affairs (DCA) will be soliciting nominations from various trade associations and groups for individuals to serve on the Permissive Codes Task Force beginning next year in 2008. The task force is to review the 2006 Editions of the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) and the International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC) and consider any proposed Georgia State Amendments. The task force will consist of seven members with the chairman and vice-chairman appointed from the SCAC.

Proposed Georgia State Amendments to the 2006 IEBC and the 2006 IPMC are to be submitted to the task force via DCA, both electronically and by mail; the Code Amendment Form and Instructions are available online at www.dca.state.ga.us. If adopted, the 2006 editions will replace the 2003 editions and will go into effect on January 1, 2009.

All task force meetings are open to the public and interested parties are welcome to attend. For more information or to place your name on the Interested Parties List, please contact DCA's Construction Codes and Industrialized Buildings Section at (404) 679-3118.

COMMISSIONER BEATTY SELECTS STATE CODES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Commissioner Mike Beatty has selected the State Codes Advisory Committee (SCAC) for the next term. The State Codes Advisory Committee plays a major role in the development and review of the State Construction Codes. The committee is made up of 21 members who are experts in the various codes and who are chosen to represent the diverse interests of Citizens, Builders, Codes Enforcement Officials, Designers, and other groups. The Commissioner of the Department of Community Affairs, the Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner and the Commissioner of the Department of Human Resources, or their designees, are ex officio members of the Advisory Committee. The remaining members are appointed by the Commissioner of DCA. The SCAC advises the DCA Board on the adoption of any new Code Editions and/or Amendments.

The current term for a member is a four-year appointment, from January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2011. The following individuals have been selected to serve:

Mr. Dwayne Garriss, representing the Georgia Safety Fire Commissioner
Mr. Windell Peters, representing the Commissioner of Community Affairs
Mr. Tom Collins, representing the Industrialized Building Industry
Mr. William Lusk, representing the General Contracting Industry
Mr. Rex Pless, representing the Structural Engineering Profession
Mr. Morgan Wheeler, representing Code Enforcement Officials
Mr. Gregori Anderson, representing Code Enforcement Officials
Mr. William Duck, Jr., representing Code Enforcement Officials
Mr. Tom Carty, representing Code Enforcement Officials
Mr. Gregg Johnson, representing the Mechanical Engineering Profession
Mr. James Vaseff, representing the Architectural Engineering Profession
Mr. Danny Lundstrom, representing the Electrical Engineering Profession
Mr. Roy Dailey, representing the Manufactured Homes Industry
Mr. Mike Bean, representing the Electrical Contracting Industry
Mr. Robert Magbee, representing the Building Material Industry
Mr. William Guinade, representing the Plumbing Contracting Industry
Mr. Barry Abernathy, representing the Conditioned Air Contractors Industry
Mr. Iby George, representing Local Fire Officials
Mr. David Adams, representing Local Fire Officials
Mr. Tim Williams, representing the Home Building Contractors Industry
Mr. Paul Tuggle, representing the Human Resources Commissioner

The officers for the SCAC for 2008-2011 are Bill Duck, Chairman; Morgan Wheeler, Vice Chairman; and Tom Carty, Secretary. They will serve two years in this capacity.

Commissioner Beatty and staff would like to thank all those organizations and individuals who were interested in serving on the SCAC. DCA is always seeking individuals to serve in various capacities and individuals may be selected for future public service. If you need additional information, please contact Ted Miltiades, Director, at 404-679-3106 or tmiltiad@dca.state.ga.us.
If you have any meetings that you would like to include in this newsletter, please contact the Construction Codes Program at 404-679-3118.

**MARK YOUR 2008 CALENDAR**

**JANUARY**
24    State Codes Advisory Committee 10:00 a.m. at DCA

**FEBRUARY**
17-20   RESENT Building Performance Conference, San Diego, California
18-20   ICC Codes Forum—Code Development Hearings, Palm Springs, California

**MARCH**
20    Industrialized Building Advisory Committee 10:00 a.m. at DCA

**APRIL**
5-8    Modular Building Institute Convention & Trade Show, Bonita Springs, FL
24    State Codes Advisory Committee 10:00 a.m. at DCA

**MAY**
10-14   BOAG Annual Conference, Jekyll Island, GA

**JUNE**
2-5    NFPA World Safety Conference and Exposition, Las Vegas, NV

If you have any meetings that you would like to include in this newsletter, please contact the Construction Codes Program at 404-679-3118.

**NEW GEORGIA ENERGY CODE WORKSHOPS**

The new edition of the Georgia Energy Code takes effect on January 1, 2008. The new Energy Code is the 2006 International Energy Conservation Code with Georgia Supplements and Amendments. It is imperative that building designers, general contractors, home builders and code enforcement officials are knowledgeable of the new Energy Code. The adoption of this Code by the State of Georgia represents a significant step toward lowering total energy consumption. All new residential and commercial buildings and significant renovation projects will be required to comply with the new code. To assist in the transition to this code, the Georgia Environmental Facilities Authority and the Georgia Department of Community Affairs are sponsoring workshops given by the Southface Energy Institute.

For more information regarding these workshops, please contact either Ryan Meres at 404-679-3109 or at rmeres@dca.state.ga.us, or Steve Herzlieb with the Southface Energy Institute at 404-604-3611 or at sherzlieb@southface.org.

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CODE APPLICATION FOR SPRINKLER REQUIREMENTS IN THE STATE OF GEORGIA

The State of Georgia currently has two primary codes that can require sprinklers for commercial construction: the Life Safety Code (LSC), 2000 edition with Georgia Amendments and the International Building Code (IBC), 2006 edition with Georgia Amendments. It can sometimes be unclear as to how these two codes work together and what exactly is required in regard to sprinklers. The fact that these two codes fall under the purview of two different state agencies does not help simplify things; the LSC falls under the State Fire Marshal’s Office and the IBC falls under the Department of Community Affairs (DCA). The 2006 International Building Code Task Force addressed this issue by establishing a code reference guide that is designed to create consistent code application for commercial construction (see page 3 of the 2007 GA Amendments to the 2006 IBC). The code reference table does address sprinkler requirements, but DCA has received inquiries as to how these two codes should be applied for the requirement of sprinklers. In response to these inquiries, DCA has released the following statement of clarification which has also been reviewed and approved by the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Statement of Clarification:

The Codes Reference Guide on page three of the 2007 Georgia Amendments to the 2006 International Building Code establishes specific primary and supplementary code applications and is to be applied by the authority having jurisdiction. The intent of the International Building Code Task Force and the Codes Reference Guide as related to fire sprinkler requirements is as follows:

- Approved automatic sprinkler systems for proposed (new) and existing buildings and structures shall be installed as required by the applicable provisions of NFPA 101, Life Safety Code, as adopted by Chapter 120-3-3 of the Rules and Regulations of the Safety Fire Commissioner. In addition, automatic sprinkler systems may be required by other NFPA standards adopted by Chapter 120-3-3 Rules and Regulations of the Safety Fire Commissioner (Refer to Table 102.10, Codes Reference Guide in Chapter 120-3-3.04 Rules and Regulations of the Safety Fire Commissioner).

- The general requirements for the height and area of a building are to be determined by the International Building Code based on occupancy type and type of construction as adopted and amended by the Department of Community Affairs. These construction requirements may or may not require sprinkler protection depending on the size of the building permitted.

This statement should be used by local building departments to ensure the correct application of these two codes when addressing sprinkler requirements. One simplified method to apply the above statement would be to first go to the LSC where it should be determined if sprinklers will be required based on occupancy type. After the sprinkler requirement has been determined using the LSC, Table 503 “Allowable Height and Building Areas” of the IBC should be used to confirm that the building falls within the maximum height and area limitations based on a combination of occupancy type and construction type. There are allowances that will grant a building to go outside these area and height limitations and, in some cases, require the building to be sprinkled in order to go outside these limitations (Section 506 “Area Modifications”). In these cases, the IBC may also require a building to be sprinkled. Section 903 “Automatic Sprinkler Systems” of the IBC should not be used and in its place the LSC should be used. Interpretation beyond this point lies with the authority of the local building official. If you have any further questions, please contact Max Rietsch at 404-679-3104 or at mrietsch@dca.state.ga.us.

LOCAL CODE AMENDMENT PROCESS

On October 1, 1991, the Uniform Codes Act went into effect in Georgia. This Act designated a set of construction codes to become effective throughout the entire state. It is not necessary that a local government adopt the mandatory State Minimum Standard Codes for construction; it is only necessary for the local government to adopt an enforcement ordinance that will allow them to enforce these codes that are already in effect throughout the state.

There are both state and local amendments to the mandatory State Minimum Standard Codes for construction. State amendments are facilitated by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) Construction Codes Program and are effective throughout the entire state, but local amendments are adopted by the local government and are only in effect in the local government’s jurisdiction that adopts them.

The process that a local government must follow in order for a local amendment to the mandatory State Minimum Standard Codes for construction to be legally in effect is outlined in the Official Code of Georgia Section 8-2-25(c) and is as follows:

(c)(1) In the event that the governing authority of any municipality or county finds that the state minimum standard codes do not meet its needs, the local government may provide requirements not less stringent than those specified in the state minimum standard codes when such requirements are based on local climatic, geologic, topographic, or public safety factors; provided, however, that there is a determination by the local governing body of a need to amend the requirements of the state minimum standard code based upon a demonstration by the local governing body that local conditions justify such requirements not less stringent than those specified in the state minimum standard codes for the protection of life and property. All such proposed amendments shall be submitted by the local governing body to the department 60 days prior to the adoption of such amendment.

Concurrent with the submission of the proposed amendment to the department, the local governing body shall submit in writing the legislative findings of the governing body and such other documentation as the local governing body deems helpful in justifying the proposed amendment. The department shall review and comment on a proposed amendment. Such comment shall be in writing and shall be sent to the submitting local government with a recommendation:

(A) That the proposed local amendment should not be adopted, due to the lack of sufficient evidence to show that such proposed local amendment would be as stringent as the state minimum standard codes and the lack of sufficient evidence to show that local climatic, geologic, topographic, or public safety factors require such an amendment;

(B) That the proposed local amendment should be adopted, due to a preponderance of evidence that such proposed local amendment would be as stringent as the state minimum standard codes and a preponderance of evidence that the local climatic, geologic, topographic, or public safety factors require such an amendment; or

(C) That the department has no recommendation regarding the adoption or disapproval of the proposed local amendments, due to the lack of sufficient evidence to show that such proposed local amendment would or would not be as stringent as the state minimum standard codes and the lack of sufficient evidence to show that local climatic, geologic, topographic, or public safety factors require or do not require such an amendment.

(2) The department shall have 60 days after receipt of a proposed local amendment to review the proposed amendment and make a recommendation as set forth in paragraph (1) of this subsection. In the event that the department fails to respond within the time allotted, the local governing body may adopt the proposed local amendment.

(3) In the event that the department recommends against the adoption of the proposed local amendment, a local governing body shall specifically vote to reject the department’s recommendations before any local amendment may be adopted.

(4) No local amendment shall become effective until the local governing body has caused a copy of the adopted amendment to be filed with the department. A copy of an amendment shall be deemed to have been filed with the department when it has been placed in the United States mail, return receipt requested.

(5) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed so as to require approval by the department before a local amendment shall become effective.

(6) The department shall maintain a file of all amendments to the state minimum standard codes adopted by the various municipalities and counties in the state, which information shall be made available to the public upon request. The department may charge reasonable fees for copies of such...
IB ANGLE:

CONSTRUCTION CODES AND MODULAR BUILDINGS

Georgia approved legislation and implemented requirements in 1991 that brought uniform construction codes to all cities and counties throughout the state. The Uniform Codes Act established a set of construction codes known as “the state minimum standard codes” that set standards for the construction of all buildings and structures within the state of Georgia. Buildings and structures produced in factories by manufacturers in the Industrialized Buildings Program (Georgia’s Modular Building Program) must meet the requirements of Georgia’s state minimum standard codes the same as other site-built structures.

When confronted with applications for modular buildings intended for placement within their communities, many people, including local code officials, question whether the construction code standards used for construction of these buildings are equivalent to those used for construction of site-built structures.

Most people have little or no knowledge of Georgia’s Industrialized Buildings Program. Therefore, it is understandable why some people would think that modular buildings are somewhat similar to mobile homes. However, when viewed in terms of the construction code standards to which modular buildings are built and the materials used in their construction, one must conclude that modular buildings produced in Georgia’s Industrialized Buildings Program are the same as site-built structures.

INDUSTRIALIZED BUILDINGS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

On May 18, 2007, Governor Sonny Perdue signed the Industrialized Buildings Advisory Committee Bill, Senate Bill 246 which became effective July 1, 2007. Senate Bill 246 amends provisions to the appointment and membership of the Industrialized Buildings Advisory Committee. Solicitations for nominations to the Industrialized Buildings Advisory Committee were issued by the Department of Community Affairs (DCA) on August 20, 2007.

Members of the committee are responsible for advising the commissioner of DCA in the drafting, promulgation, and revision of the rules and regulations to be adopted for the purpose of the “Industrial Buildings Act” Title 8, Chapter 2, Article 2, Part 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated. The committee will consist of eleven technically qualified persons from various professional and technical fields who will serve at the commissioner’s pleasure for no more than two four-year terms.

If you need additional information, please contact Ted Miltiades, Director, at 404-679-3108 or at tmiltiad@dca.state.ga.us.

SENATE BILL 115

On May 29th, 2007, Governor Sonny Perdue signed the Licensing of General Contractors Bill, Senate Bill 115. Senate Bill 115 amends Chapter 41 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to residential and general contractors. In doing so, the bill extends the term “contractor” to include industrialized buildings installers, thus making it a requirement that a person who installs industrialized buildings be a licensed contractor. In summary, the legislation includes licensure provisions for residential and general contractors, policies and procedures of the licensing board, development and administration of state exams and exemptions to licensing requirements. Please be advised that the licensing requirements set forth by Chapter 41 of Title 43 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated become effective and enforceable July 1, 2008. If you need any additional information, please contact the Georgia Office of the Secretary of State, Residential Licensing section at (478) 207-1470.

PROFILE CORNER

RYAN MERES
BUILDING CODES CONSULTANT

I grew up in Montgomery, NY, a small town about one hour north of New York City. After graduating high school as a junior, I attended the University at Buffalo where I completed one year as a civil engineering major before transferring to the architecture program. Before becoming tired of the snow in Buffalo, I completed two years of the architecture program. Afterwards, I transferred to the Savannah College of Art and Design where I received a BA in Architecture in 2006.

I’ve had an interest and involvement in architecture and construction since I was very young. My family owns a general contracting company which completes projects ranging from residential additions to commercial buildings, often being involved in project design. I spent many summers learning carpentry and other construction skills which furthered my interest in this field.

I moved to Atlanta in 2006 to work for the Southface Energy Institute as an...
Mr. Hester's professional career included the formation of and partnership in H & H Construction, Inc., a commercial and residential construction company operating in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. He also owned two retail businesses in Albany, Georgia. After 15 years as a successful businessman, Mr. Hester sold his interest in the business and elected to enter the public sector.

Richard “R.C.” Connell
Industrialized Buildings Consultant

Although I was raised in the northeast (New Jersey, Massachusetts and Maine), I have spent my adult life in the southeast. Peachtree Corners has been my home for the last twenty years.

My pursuit of a construction management degree began at a small college just outside of Boston and finished at a little larger school located in middle Florida. However, I try to keep a low profile about that around here (Go Dogs?).

Mr. Hester dedicated himself to three years as Interim Director of the Planning and Development Services for the City of Albany and Dougherty County, Georgia. During this period in my career, I was able to work on a wide range of projects such as high rise construction, golf complexes, road and dam construction, office buildings and R&D facilities. My last and favorite commercial project that I helped build was the corporate campus for CIBA Vision, located in Johns Creek.

Prior to joining the Department of Community Affairs team, I owned a small construction inspection business which I started in the early 1990’s. Also, I designed and maintained my company’s reporting database program and found that I really enjoyed that challenge. During those years, I obtained several code certifications from SBCCI (now ICC) and was a committee member on one of the DCA CABO task forces. While working on the committee, I became acquainted with some of the DCA staff and the inner workings of the Department. Over the years, I continued to keep the department on my radar until I decided to join the DCA team on the Industrialized Buildings Program.

During my off time, I enjoy kayaking, working on my car and embarking on house projects. However, my real passion is mountain biking in and around the Georgia, Tennessee and the Carolina mountains.

William “Tracy” Hester
Development Services Senior Manager
City of Albany and Dougherty County, Georgia

Mr. Hester is the Senior Manager of the Planning and Development Services Department for the City of Albany and Dougherty County, Georgia, which provides Planning, Zoning, Development/Inspections, GIS, and Transportation administration. He has more than 28 years combined experience in both the private and public sector of residential and commercial construction in all capacities.

Mr. Hester currently serves as a board member on the Barrier Free Design Board, the advisory board for Environmental Concerns at the Albany Marine Corp Logistics Base, the Historic Preservation Commission, and the Greenspace Advisory Committee. He is a committee member of the Georgia State Inspectors Association.

Mr. Hester is also a member of the National and Local Historic Preservation Commissions, the Georgia State Inspector’s Association, the Building Officials Association of Georgia, the National Fire Protection Association, the American Planning Association, the Georgia Planning Association, and the International Code Council.

Mr. Hester served on numerous boards throughout his career including designation as the Chairman of the Transportation Technical Advisory Board for Albany/Dougherty County and the MPO area on several occasions. In early 2007, Hester served on the Department of Community Affairs Energy Code Task Force as a representative for the Building Officials Association of Georgia.

Mr. Hester’s commitment to the Planning and Development Services is evident with over 200 hours in continuing education credits and certifications in Flood Plain Management and Retrofitting of Flood Prone Buildings through the National Flood Insurance Program (FEMA). He is also certified in 15 disciplines through the Homeland Security and National Incident Command (ICS).

Mr. Hester dedicated himself to three years as Interim Director of the Planning and Development Services for the City of Albany and Dougherty County, Georgia during his 13 years with the department. He was initially hired with the City of Albany’s Building Inspections Department during the Flood of 1994 in a temporary position and served as an Inspector until promotion to Lead Inspector/Plans Examiner in 1996. Soon after the Planning and Zoning and the Building Inspection Departments combined to create the Planning and Development Services Department, Mr. Hester was promoted to Development Services Senior Manager/Senior Plans Examiner taking over the operations and supervision of the department which includes functioning as Deputy Director.

Mr. Hester’s professional career included the formation of and partnership in H & H Construction, Inc., a commercial and residential construction company operating in Georgia, Alabama and Tennessee. He also owned two retail businesses in Albany, Georgia. After 15 years as a successful businessman, Mr. Hester sold his interest in the business and elected to enter the public sector.

Mr. Hester and his wife, Wendy, have two sons and a daughter.

During my college years, I spent my off time learning the residential construction trade in Cape Cod, Massachusetts. There, I was fortunate to have been taught the trade by the original “Norm” and spent many years renovating old and historical properties, as well as building new construction homes and additions throughout the Cape.

Upon graduation, I switched to commercial construction management and worked for two large general contractors on projects located in Florida and Georgia. During this period in my career, I was able to work on a wide range of projects such as high rise construction, golf complexes, road and dam construction, office buildings and R&D facilities. My last and favorite commercial project that I helped build was the corporate campus for CIBA Vision, located in Johns Creek.

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GEORGIA AMENDMENTS MAY BE DOWNLOADED DIRECTLY FROM THE WEBSITE!

The main telephone and fax numbers for the Codes and Industrialized Buildings Section are:

(404) 679-3118
(404) 679-0646 (Fax)
Email: codes@dca.state.ga.us

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(404) 679-3106
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Richard “RC” Connell, Consultant, (404) 679-3127
Email: rconnell@dca.state.ga.us

State of Georgia
www.georgia.gov

Georgia General Assembly
www.legis.state.ga.us

State Fire Marshal
www.inscomm.state.ga.us

National Association of Home Builders
www.nahb.com

Southface Energy Institute
www.southface.org

WEB SITES OF INTEREST

Department of Community Affairs
www.dca.state.ga.us

EasyLiving Home™ Program
www.easylivinghome.org

International Code Council (ICC)
www.iccsafe.org

Building Officials Association of Georgia
www.boagcodes.org

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