

## **STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-33-99**

June 15, 1999

The following is offered in response to your communication in which you request a formal interpretation regarding whether or not a non-code-required low wall built around a 24 inch high raised platform must meet the requirements of a code-compliant guardrail.

In the scenario you described, the answer is no. The design submitted shows a wall which is 36 inches higher than the raised platform which is 24 inches above adjacent walking surfaces. The 1999 State Building code at Section 1005.5 of the 1999 Connecticut Supplement to the BOCA National Building Code/1996 requires guards along open-sided walking surfaces which are located more than 30 inches above the floor or grade below. In this instance, the difference between the raised platform and the floor below is only 24 inches, so there is no requirement for a guardrail. The construction of the low wall at this location is optional and since there is nothing about the construction of the wall which presents a hazard, no violation of the State Building Code exists.