

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-54-00

August 18, 2000

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of Section 1022.2 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code as it relates to Section 505.6 of the ICC/ANSI A117.1 standard.

**Question:** Section 505.6 of the ICC/ANSI A117.1 standard, at exception 2, requires 2 ½ inches of clearance below the handrail to horizontal projections, while Section 1022.2 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code only requires one inch of such clearance. Which dimension applies for handrails on a required accessible route and on stairs serving levels also served by an elevator?

**Answer:** A conflict occurs between the two referenced sections in the 1999 State Building Code that does not occur in the BOCA/1996 code as written (prior to the Connecticut Supplement). The BOCA/1996 code adopts the 1992 CABO/ANSI A117.1 standard while the 1999 State Building Code amends the BOCA code to reference the 1998 ICC/ANSI A117.1 standard. The 1992 standard did not contain the 2 ½ inch clearance requirement, so the one inch clearance requirement found in the original code was not in conflict with the referenced standard, as it is in the 1999 State Building Code. In accordance with Section 102.4 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 portion of the 1999 State Building Code, where differences occur between provisions of the code and referenced standards, the provisions of the code shall apply. Therefore, it is appropriate to follow the dimensional criteria set forth in Section 1022.2 of the code, even though the criteria in the referenced standard is more stringent. The required clearance to horizontal projections from the bottom of the handrail is one inch in accordance with Section 1022.2 of the code.