

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-6-03

May 28, 2003

The following is offered in response to your letter to me dated May 14, 2003 in which you seek an official interpretation of the provisions of Article 230-50 (a) of the 1999 National Electrical Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

**Question:** Who determines where service cables might be subject to physical damage, and therefore require protection?

**Answer:** That determination is to be made by the local building official, taking into account factors such as the likelihood of damage to the cable by motor vehicles and equipment. A reasonable approach must, however, be taken. For instance, the mounting of overhead service entry cables to the side of a building adjacent to a driveway does not represent being subject to physical damage, since damaging the cables would only be accomplished by running into the building with a vehicle. On the other hand, underground service entry cables emerging from the ground shall be protected by enclosures or raceways as prescribed by Article 300-5(d).