

June 1, 2011

Nova Scotia Building Code 2011

The Regulation adopting the National Building and Plumbing Code of Canada 2010 came into force today. Copies are available at <http://www.gov.ns.ca/lae/buildingcode/>

Following the prescription made by the Minister on March 4, 2011, three matters have come to the attention of the Department on which we wish to inform industry stakeholders, municipal building officials and electrical inspectors.

Window Doors and Skylights

The NBC adopts a new harmonized North American standard for Windows, Doors and Skylights. A significant number of product manufacturers have not yet had their product tested to the new standard. These products currently conform to the 2005 edition of the Code and CSA A440 adopted by the old code, but have not yet received listings under the harmonized standard. The Minister has announced an amendment effective September 1, 2011 to include these products under Subsection 9.7.5. to be re-titled **Site Built and Other Manufactured Windows Doors and Skylights**. The energy conservation requirements will remain as required by Part 10 of the Nova Scotia Building Code.

Temporal Pattern of Smoke Alarms

The NBC adopts a revised standard for smoke alarms, which requires a change in the sound, emitted. Current smoke detectors emit a steady sound. Under the new standard, smoke alarms will sound intermittently in a pattern. Studies have found that the intermittent pattern is more successful in waking person from their sleep. However, the industry has informed regulators that supplies may not be available across Canada for a period as manufacturers are just now switching their production lines. During this period of inventory adjustments, building and electrical inspectors have been asked to accept the old models until such time as units in compliance with the temporal pattern requirement are available.

Smoke alarms typically have a life span of up to ten years and then need replacement. Existing models are acceptable until they reach their expiry date. During the inventory transition period it is reasonable to continue to accept the existing ULC certified products that meet the 2005 Code.

Change of Number

Following publication in the Royal Gazette Part II it was noted that the change in the regulation to NBC 2010, Division B, Part 3 numbering which was published as 3.4.6.15 should read 3.4.6.16.