

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO: I-24-09

July 5, 2010

The following is offered in response to your email in which you seek a formal interpretation. The question would apply to Section 1109.2.5, of the 2003 International Building Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

Question #1:

“Does the requirement addressing the faucet and controls located within 13 inches from the face of the fixture or vanity front require that the operable parts of the controls or the location for automatic activation be entirely within 13 inches, (not necessarily the entire faucet) and that the entire operation shall not require a reach more than 13 inches?”

Answer #1:

Section 1109.2.5 of the 2003 International Building Code requires that at least one lavatory per gender per bathroom to have its faucet and control located within 13 inches of the face of fixture or vanity front. The practical application of this requirement is meant for the user of the lavatory will have the water control and the water dispensing part of the faucet be within the 13 inches so the occupant can actually operate and use the lavatory.

Question #2:

“Does the requirement addressing the faucet and controls located within 13 inches from the face of the fixture or vanity front require that the water flow be entirely within 13 inches?”

Answer #2:

There are lavatory fixtures that have faucets which have different types of water/spray distribution patterns. The code is not intended to mandate that all of the entire water flow be within the 13 inches from the face of the lavatory. The code intent is to provide the plumbing fixture user access and use of the water/spray flow from the faucet. This is interpreted as the majority of the water flow from the faucet be within the 13 inch reach range.

Question #3:

“If the answer to Question #2 above is “no”, is it enough to have “adequate” (as determined by the discretion of the local building official) water flow within 13 inches?”

Answer #3:

Please see answer to question #2 above.

Question #4:

“The requirement apparently addresses the water flow by the use of the term “faucet.” Is the term “Faucet” intended to refer to the actual “water flow” location (as the term is used in ICC/ANSI A11.7.1 Section 606.5)?”

Answer #4:

Please see answer to question #2 above.

I-24-09 website format