

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-13-06

June 1, 2006

The following is offered in response to your May 18, 2006 request for an official interpretation of Section 1106 of the 2003 International Plumbing Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code, which deals with the sizing of conductors, leaders and storm drains.

Question: Does Section 1106.1 require that site storm drainage piping be sized based on the 100 year hourly rainfall rate?

Answer: No. Section 1106.1 is specific to vertical conductors and leaders, building storm drains, building storm sewers, and any horizontal branches of such (building) drains or (building) sewers. When referencing the definitions for building storm drain and building storm sewer, one sees that those terms pertain to portions of the building drainage system that convey storm water from the building (ie: that collected in roof drains), and do not pertain to site drainage systems. The commentary to Section 1106.1 erroneously includes the phrase "or paved area" when discussing storm drainage system design, but the code language itself does not contain any reference to paved areas, so the section applies only to roof storm drainage and not to site storm drainage. Since the plumbing code contains no information regarding the rainfall rate to be utilized in the design of site storm drainage, an approved engineering standard, such as the Connecticut Department of Transportation Drainage Design Manual should be utilized by the designer.