STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-01-01

January 11, 2001

The following is offered in response to your letter in which you request a formal interpretation of the provisions of section 3215.2 of the 1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

Question: Does section 3215.2 of the 1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code intend to require pressure balance, thermostatic mixing or combination type valves capable of limiting the water temperature to a maximum of 120 degrees F if the bathtub or whirlpool tub is equipped with a tub filler only and not equipped with a shower?

Answer: No. The intent of the code is to limit the maximum water temperature when the bathtub is equipped as a combined tub-shower or shower only. The 1996 supplement to the 1995 CABO Code deleted the requirement as stated for bathtubs with tub fillers only, so that this code section is not incorporated in the 1998 CABO or the 2000 International Residential Code. The commentary to the code change clearly states that it was not the intent of the code to place this restriction on tub fillers. It is important to note, however, that at any location that a shower or tub/shower is located, the type of valve you mention to restrict maximum water temperature, is required (see section 3210.4).