

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-03-09

April 24, 2009

The following is offered in response to your email dated January 23, 2009 in which you seek a formal interpretation. The question would apply to Section 2902.1, of the 2003 International Building Code, and Section 410.1, of the 2003 International Plumbing Code portion of the 2005 State Building Code.

### Question 1:

“Do the new breed of “filling station” water dispensers meet the Building Code Chapter 29, Section 2902.1 and Plumbing Code Section 410.1 requirements for drinking fountains, water coolers or neither?”

### Answer 1:

No, filling station water dispensers do not meet the requirements for drinking fountains. A drinking fountain is a plumbing fixture that provides all individuals with the opportunity to drink water without the use of a cup. The filling station water dispenser is not accessible to all persons and therefore does not comply with accessibility code requirements or drinking fountains reference standard requirements.

### Question 2:

“Depending on your answer to #1 above, would a code modification be required to use them in lieu of drinking fountains?”

### Answer 2:

A filling station water dispenser is not equal to a drinking fountain required plumbing fixture. A building code modification may be submitted to provide alternative code compliance. The 2006 International Building Code, not adopted by Connecticut, language allows water coolers and bottled water dispensers to be substituted for not more than fifty percent of the required drinking fountains.

### Question 3:

“Depending on your answer to 1 and 2 above, would a code modification be required to use them in lieu of bottled water dispensers?”

### Answer 3:

A filling station water dispenser is not a bottled water dispenser. A building code modification may be submitted to provide alternative code compliance.