

## STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-55-99

December 6, 1999

The following is offered in response to your letter to me in which you seek a formal interpretation of the provisions of item # 5 of Section 308.4 of the 1995 CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

**Question 1:** If a tub or shower enclosure does not have a shower door, but rather a shower curtain, are all windows in the rest of the room less than 60 inches above the drain inlet required to be safety glazed?

**Answer 1:** No. Only those windows less than 60 inches above the drain inlet which are within the enclosure, which in this case would be defined by the shower curtain, are required to be safety glazed. There is no requirement, by this section, to require safety glazing of windows outside of the enclosure that are not required to be safety glazed by other provisions of the code. There is likewise no requirement that the tub or shower enclosure be completed by shower doors or other fixed material.

**Question 2:** If a tub has no shower head and therefore no shower enclosure (either doors or curtain), how does one determine the extent of the enclosure for the purposes of application of item # 5 of Section 308.4?

**Answer 2:** A bathtub does not have to be fitted with a shower head for the provisions of item # 5 of Section 308.4 to apply. The intent of this section of the code is to prevent injury to persons who may slip while using, entering or leaving either a tub or shower. Naturally, if the tub has a physical enclosure such as a shower door or curtain, the limits of the enclosure are easy to define, and therefore the glazing within any part of a building wall which forms a part of the enclosure equally easy to define. A tub or shower without a physical enclosure but which is adjacent to a building wall containing glazing less than 60 inches above the drain inlet is still subject to the provisions of this item in the code. If the tub is contained within a raised platform, the limits of the raised platform would constitute the limits of the enclosure. If the tub is free-standing or sunken into the floor without a raised platform, the ends of the tub itself would constitute the extent of the enclosure, and therefore the extent of the safety glazing requirement. In other words, glazing within building walls of the bathroom which is beyond the limits of the ends of the tub (or raised platform if so equipped) would not be required to be safety glazed by item # 5 of Section 308.4, even though such glazing may be less than 60 inches above the drain inlet. Keep in mind that other provisions of Section 308.4 may require safety glazing in locations within bathrooms outside of the tub or shower enclosure.