



May 12, 2017

Mr. Joseph Summers  
Hebron Building Official  
15 Gilead Street  
Hebron, CT 06248

**RE: I-06-17A&B: Section R501.3 Fire Protection of Floors**

Dear Mr. Summers:

This is in response to your letter dated May 4, 2017 in which you are seeking a formal interpretation the following questions:

**Question (1):**

Would the requirements for Section R501.3 of the 2012 International Residential Code portion of the 2016 State Building Code be applicable to existing basements that are being converted to habitable space and have ceilings framed with 2 x 8 joist?

**Answer:**

No, existing basement ceilings would not have to comply with Section R501.3 of the above mentioned code within an existing building undergoing alterations or renovations.

**Question (2):**

If the answer is no, how is this any different than finishing an area over a garage and requiring 5/8" type X, gypsum board in the garage as per R302.6 of the above mentioned code?

**Answer:**

Compliance with Section R302.6 is required because you need to separate the garage from the newly created habitable space because of the hazards associated with garages located below the habitable space.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tierney  
Deputy State Building Inspector

DT:bags