



July 19, 2017

Mr. Joseph Smith
Chief Building Official – East Lyme
Town of East Lyme
108 Pennsylvania Avenue
Niantic, CT 06357

RE: I-09-17 Request for Interpretation of Section E3608.1 of the 2012 IRC

Dear Mr. Smith:

This is in response to your letter dated July 7, 2017 in which you are seeking a clarification to the following question:

Question (1):

Does the mere presence of steel reinforcing bar in a footing or foundation create the requirement that this steel be treated like an electrode even when other accepted methods such as pipe, rod or plates are present?

Answer:

The “presence” of the steel reinforcing bars would not be the qualifier. In accordance with E3608.1 of the 2012 IRC, which states, “*if available on the premises at each building or structure served, each item, in section E3608.1.1 to E3608.1.6, inclusive, of this code shall be bonded together to form the grounding electrode system*”. The steel reinforcing bar must be used as part of the grounding electrode system if it is “available” and if it qualifies as a concrete-encased electrode in accordance with E3608.1.2.

Question (2):

If yes, does all of the steel need to be bonded together, or can the builder just choose one as the electrode and leave the rest separate?

Answer:

In accordance with E3608.1.2, only one of the concrete-encased electrodes are required to be used.

Sincerely,

Daniel Tierney
Deputy State Building Inspector

DT:bags