

Legislative Report

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Come on out to our March meeting! Tom Pitcherello from the New Jersey Department of Community Affairs will be speaking about the National Standard Plumbing Code (NSPC) and alerting us to possible updates as well as identifying the recent plumbing code issues his office has seen or had several questions about. It is always a very informative meeting. Bring your code questions, it is a rare opportunity to meet with a Code official from Trenton and get your questions answered in person. By the time you read this article the proposed changes to the NSPC will have been reviewed in a public meeting at Atlantic City on March 9th. To see the proposed changes go to the PHCC [website](#) there is a link to the 340 page booklet of the 223 proposed changes.

I want to make people aware that the State of New Jersey adopts the selected National model codes via the [Uniform Construction Code Chapter 23 of Title 5](#) of the New Jersey Administrative Code (section 5:23-3 Subcodes). In that document are the official legal adoptions of the National model code along with New Jersey specific modifications. When you buy the 2015 NSPC you have to go to N.J.A.C. 5:23-3 and read through the adoptions and exceptions and modify the model code wording to comply with N.J.A.C. 5:23. In N.J.A.C. 5:23 the changes are identified by section number so you can then go into your code book and make the modifications. For the 2015 NSPC there are about 6 pages of amendments. The way I was taught to do it by Charlie Koze many years ago was to do a single strike through the deleted text of the code so you could still read it if required. For added text I would copy word for word onto the code page in the applicable location. I find this is easier than trying to reference back to the N.J.A.C. 5:23 document each time. This way you have a true New Jersey Plumbing Code that anyone can pick up and read for the New Jersey code. Come on out to our next meeting and tell us how you do it?

The most common missed amendments are in Chapter 13 Storm Water Drainage. First is Section 13.1.10.1 for sizing the primary roof drainage; in N.J.A.C. 5:23 we adopted the use of 6 inches per hour for Burlington and Ocean counties and all counties south and 5 inches per hour for Mercer and Monmouth counties and all counties north.

Another commonly overlooked amendment is Section 13.1.10.2 Secondary Roof Drainage. In N.J.A.C. 5:23-3 Section 13.1.10.2 is to be deleted in its entirety. While this seems to indicate secondary roof drainage is not required by code, as the engineer you are required to determine the various scenarios of how the roof will drain and not collapse. In doing so you may then chose to do secondary drains. If you do provide secondary drains they do not have to be sized for a 100 year, 15-minute storm or be a completely independent system per the requirements of the model NSPC section 13.1.10.2 since that has been deleted by New Jersey's adoption. So make sure as you read the NSPC code, you are referring to all the adopted New Jersey code language from N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.

Please try to come out to our Chapter meetings; it is a great time to meet other members and see what ASPE is all about. If you are interested in getting involved on the New Jersey Board let us know, elections will be happening in May. You can also plan to come out to our Golf outing in May. I hope to see you there.