

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Building Regulations and Standards
Joint Committee on Chapter 34 of
Loads Advisory Committee and
Seismic Advisory Committee**

December 11, 2006

Mr. Robert Anderson
Board of Building Regulations and Standards
Commonwealth of Massachusetts
by email to: robert.anderson@bbr.state.ma.us

RE: Structural Requirements for Existing Buildings,
7th Edition of State Building Code

Dear Rob:

Attached are the following documents:

- The final draft (15th draft) of Section 3408, Structural Requirements for Existing Buildings, which we recommend be adopted for the 7th Edition of the State Building Code. The draft is in Word format. Also attached as part of the draft are a PDF file of a figure and an Excel file for a table, as noted on the upper right corner of the 1st page of the Section 3408 draft. We have included directions to the ICC where the figure and table are to be inserted.
- Proposed revisions to your draft, in Word format, of Chapter 34 for the 7th Edition of the Code so that the provisions of Chapter 34 will be consistent with the requirements of the 7th Edition draft of Section 3408.
- A paper entitled *Lateral Load Requirements for Historic Buildings in the 7th Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code*, in PDF format.

Copies of these documents in PDF format are on the Joint Committee public web page at <http://www.zallenengineering.com/CH34.htm>, for your use and for access by others.

With regard to the proposed revisions to your draft of Chapter 34 for the 7th Edition (your file name: **780CMR34.000 - edited.doc**), I first “accepted” all the previous revisions to your draft under the “Track Changes” feature of Word, and identified the new document as **Ch34.JointLAC-SACComm edited-2.doc** (the file name) in the footer. Then I proceeded to make the proposed revisions under the “Track Changes” feature. The following is an explanation of those revisions:

3400.3(6) The intent is that all structural work for all use groups shall comply with

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3400.3(7) 3408, not just earthquake requirements.
3400.3(8)

3400.3(10) The exception is deleted because it exempts all historic buildings from the structural requirements of the Code. The deleted exception is similar to the one that was amended by BBRS on 1-19-01 to correct this problem in the 6th Edition of the Code. The criteria for lateral load resistance for historic buildings is given in 3408.7.7, which stipulates that preserved historic buildings are subject to both the wind and seismic loads of Section 3408, and that house museums are exempt from both wind and seismic loads. The attached paper, *Lateral Load Requirements for Historic Buildings in the 7th Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code*, explains why preserved historic buildings should be subject to the wind and seismic requirements of Section 3408.

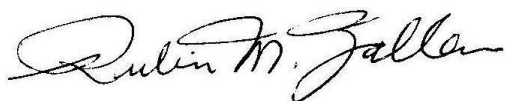
3400.3.1 The exceptions do not apply to structural work.
Exceptions
(1) and (2)

3401.1 The definition of *Seismic Hazard Category* is deleted since this term is not used in the 7th Edition of 3408.

3406.1 Compliance alternatives do not apply to structural work. All the requirements for structural work are given in 3408.

3409.3.1.2 The clause is incorrect and should be deleted. Clause 3408.7.7 requires seismic load resistance for preserved historic buildings. The attached paper, *Lateral Load Requirements for Historic Buildings in the 7th Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code*, explains why preserved historic buildings should be subject to the seismic load requirements of Section 3408.

Sincerely,



Rubin M. Zallen, P.E.
Chairman
Joint LAC/SAC Committee

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