



TOWN OF AMHERST

BUILDING DEPARTMENT

ERIE COUNTY, NEW YORK

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THOMAS C. KETCHUM, P.E.
Commissioner of Building

DATE: October 10, 2003

TO: All Applicants for Building Permits for Residential Construction

FROM: Thomas C. Ketchum, P.E., Commissioner of Building

RE: Testing of Concrete in Association with the Residential Code of New York State

Effective immediately, this requirement is applicable to all construction in association with building permits that are filed on or after October 13, 2003.

The Residential Code of New York State (the Residential Code) requires the specified compressive strength of concrete to meet certain minimum standards. Those standards can be found in Section R402.2 and Table R402.2 of the Residential Code. The standards are applicable to following groups:

1. Basement walls, foundations and other concrete not exposed to the weather
2. Basement slabs and interior slabs on grade, except garage floor slabs
3. Basement walls, foundation walls, exterior walls and other vertical concrete work exposed to the weather
4. Porches, carport slabs and steps exposed to the weather, and garage floor slabs

Please note that concrete exposed to the weather must be air entrained. Total air content (percent of volume of concrete) shall not be less than 5 percent or more than 7 percent.

For groups 1 and 3 mentioned above, the Town of Amherst Building Department is requiring the testing of concrete for 28-day compressive strength and air content. For groups 1 through 4, this department shall be provided with the "batch tickets" (from the concrete supplier) for each instance where concrete has been installed at a job site.

For groups 1 and 3, if your application for a building permit includes the installation of concrete, you will need to provide this department with test results from an acceptable testing agency. Until this department receives the test results, and compliance with applicable code requirements has been determined, this department will not issue a Certificate of Occupancy or a Certificate of Compliance for the work that was performed in association with an issued permit.

If the test results indicate noncompliance with applicable code or construction requirements, an acceptable code compliant resolution of the problem will need to be achieved. This may involve the removal and replacement of the unacceptable concrete or a variance may need to be obtained from the New York State Department of State. In order to avoid potential problems with noncompliance, I strongly suggest that you specify a higher minimum compressive strength than is specified in the Residential Code.

Test results and batch tickets should be provided to this office as soon as possible after the concrete has been installed. If a problem is noted with respect to the test results or the batch tickets, you will need additional time to provide a solution to the problem prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy or a Certificate of Compliance.

Thomas C. Ketchum

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