



City of Albuquerque
Building & Safety Division
Special Inspections Program

Bulletin
Number

1

INTRODUCTION

Effective July 1, 2004, the State of New Mexico adopted the 2003 International Building Code including Chapter 17, "Structural Tests and Special Inspections."

Soon afterwards, the Building Safety Division of Albuquerque's Planning Department formed a five-member task force to review Chapter 17 and to develop a special inspections program for the City of Albuquerque. The task force met numerous times over a four-month period. Each meeting started with a presentation by an outside professional familiar with special inspection programs in different jurisdictions across the United States. Each speaker was very candid as to what they liked, and what they didn't like, about the various programs they had encountered. Their input was instrumental in helping us develop a program that we believe is straightforward and balanced.

In the following weeks, and months, the City will be phasing-in its special inspections program. As this phasing-in progresses, we will be issuing additional bulletins describing the various components of our program. As each new bulletin is completed, it will be posted on our website, on the Structural Engineers Association of New Mexico website <http://www.seanm.org>, and on the American Institute of Architects – New Mexico Chapter website <http://www.aianewmexico.org>. The bulletins will also be distributed at our front counter.



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2003 NEW MEXICO COMMERCIAL
BUILDING CODE AMENDMENTS TO
CHAPTER 17 OF THE 2003
INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

- **Section 1704.4 Concrete Construction.** This section was revised to read as follows:

The special inspections and verifications for concrete construction shall be as required by this section and Table 1704.4.

Exceptions: Special inspections shall not be required for:

1. Isolated spread concrete footings of buildings three stories or less in height that are fully supported on earth or rock.
2. Continuous concrete footings supporting walls of buildings three stories or less in height that are fully supported on earth or rock.
3. Nonstructural concrete slabs supported directly on the ground, except pre-stressed slabs – on – grade.
4. Concrete patios, driveways and sidewalks on grade.

- **Section 1709.1 Structural Observations.** Delete the last paragraph of this section and substitute the following:

Deficiencies shall be reported in writing to the owner and made available to the building official.



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SPECIAL INSPECTION
INFORMATION REQUIRED ON
PLANS

**2003 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE
Section 1704.1.1**

The permit applicant shall submit a statement of special inspections prepared by the registered design professional in responsible charge as a condition for permit issuance. The statement shall include a complete list of materials and work requiring special inspections to be performed and a list of the individuals, approved agencies or firms intended to be retained for conducting such inspections.

- EVERY STATEMENT OF SPECIAL INSPECTIONS SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:
 1. A complete list of all materials and work requiring special inspection.
 2. Whether continuous, or periodic, inspection of the work is intended.
 3. A building code or an approved standard reference for inspection criteria.
 4. A list of the City-approved agencies that will be conducting the special inspections.
- Statements of Special Inspections shall be project-specific.
- Statements of Special Inspections shall be integrated into, and plotted directly on, the contract (construction) drawings.

- Statements of Special Inspections shall be prepared by the structural engineer-of-record.

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Statements of Special Inspections for soils may be prepared by the Geotechnical engineer-of-record.
 2. Statements of Special Inspections for smoke control systems shall be prepared by the mechanical engineer-of-record.
 3. Statements of Special Inspections for sprayed fire-resistant materials and for exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS) may be prepared by the architect-of-record.
 4. When otherwise approved by the building official.
- Periodic inspections will be permitted under the following conditions:
 1. The plans outline the engineer's requirements for periodic special inspection.
 2. The plans denote the frequency of the periodic inspections.
 3. The scope of periodic inspections conforms, generally, with Chapter 17.
 4. The plans identify all welds that are to have periodic special inspection.
 - Statements of special inspections shall be submitted with partial permit packages (foundation, structural frame, shell packages). Such statements shall only list the special inspections required for the scope of work associated with the partial permit package.
 - The Building Official may waive the requirements for the special inspection of items that are considered to be of a minor nature, if so specified on the plans by the registered design professional in responsible charge.
 - Special inspections are not required for projects that by statute do not require an architect or an engineer.
 - Special inspections are not required for R-3 occupancies or for U occupancies that are accessory to R-3 occupancies.



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REQUIREMENTS FOR BECOMING
A CITY-APPROVED SPECIAL
INSPECTION AND TESTING
AGENCY

**2003 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE
Section 1702**

APPROVED AGENCY. An established and recognized agency regularly engaged in conducting tests or furnishing inspection services, when such agency has been approved.

Section 1703

1703.1 Approved agency. An approved agency shall provide all information as necessary for the building official to determine that the agency meets the applicable requirements.

1703.1.1 Independent. An approved agency shall be objective and competent. The agency shall also disclose possible conflicts of interest so that objectivity can be confirmed.

1703.1.2 Equipment. An approved agency shall have adequate equipment to perform required tests. The equipment shall be periodically calibrated.

1703.1.3 Personnel. An approved agency shall employ experienced personnel educated in conducting, supervising, and evaluating tests and / or inspections.

- Engineers and technicians wishing to provide special inspections and tests in the City of Albuquerque shall be employed by a city – approved special inspection agency.
- City – approved agencies shall be engineering firms and shall employ a principal professional engineer who is registered in the State of New Mexico. Unless otherwise approved by the chief building official, the principal professional engineer shall be a structural engineer with materials testing experience.

Exceptions:

1. In agencies seeking to provide special inspections and testing of soils only, the principal professional engineer may be a civil engineer with materials testing experience.
 2. In agencies seeking to provide special inspections and testing of smoke control systems, the principal professional engineer shall be a mechanical engineer with experience in designing smoke control systems.
 3. In agencies seeking to provide special inspections and testing of sprayed fire-resistant materials only, the principal professional engineer may be a fire protection engineer with materials testing experience.
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- Each special inspection agency’s application for city-approval shall include the following:
 1. Completed copies of application forms A, B, and C
 2. Payment of application fee
 3. A current copy of the agency’s company manual (see bulletin number 5)