



CLARIFICATION MEMO

Community Development Department
Building Division

Date: October 30, 2008

From: Kimberley Mack, AIA
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City of Helena Building Division

Subject: **Special Inspection Requirement for Storage Racks and Access Floors.**

This memo is to identify the code requirement for obtaining these inspections.

Section 1707.6 of the International Building Code requirements:

“Periodic special inspection is required during the anchorage of access floors and storage racks 8 feet or greater in height in structures assigned to Seismic Design Category D, E or F.” Helena is seismic design category “D”.

Plans, specifications, mounting details and rack layout within a space shall be submitted for review and approval. This may be as part of the general construction documents or as a separate submittal if systems are to be installed by someone other than the General Contractor. The requirements for special inspections shall be included as part of the submittal and a permit is required.

Construction documents shall identify special inspections as required by Section 1704. Without the special inspection requirement identified on the construction documents, the contractor may not be aware of the need for inspections. Whether the builder is contracted to provide, or the owner / tenant is going to provide the racking and/or access floors, an approved special inspection is required prior to the building being used for its intended purpose.

The vendors will typically supply the anchorage requirements for the specific seismic zone. If the vendor does not supply this information then third party engineering is required. This information should be a priority at the onset of construction. If the information is not available through the vendor, thus requiring engineering, it can take some time to facilitate. Approved plans, specifications and anchorage requirements are to be on hand for the inspector. Not being aware of this creates unnecessary stress and schedule conflicts for the contractor and owner / tenant at the time of final inspection.

This is only one aspect of special inspections. Chapter 17 “Structural Tests and Special Inspections” is full of helpful information to assist in a smooth flowing project. It is suggested that contractors and design professionals review and/or revisit Chapter 17 to be fully aware of requirements that may affect their projects.

City of Helena, Montana