



CITY OF  
**savannah**  
DEVELOPMENT SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT

April 2, 2010

Re: **STRUCTURAL TESTS AND SPECIAL INSPECTIONS**

**(A) PURPOSE & DEFINITION.** Effective **May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2010** the City of Savannah will be enforcing the provisions of the International Building Code Chapter 17, "Structural Tests and Special Inspections" as mandated by the State of Georgia. A Special Inspection is the monitoring of the materials and workmanship critical to the integrity of the building structure as defined by the International Building Code. It is a review of the work of the contractors and their employees to ensure that the approved plans and specifications are being followed and that the relevant codes and referenced standards are being observed. Special Inspections are conducted **in addition** to the inspections performed by the Building Official and Structural Observations by the Design Professional and shall not replace the required City inspections.

**(B) REQUIREMENTS.** As part of the general requirements of IBC Sections 1704 & 1705, a *Statement of Special Inspections* including a *Schedule of Special Inspection Services* prepared by the Registered Design Professional in Responsible Charge, shall be submitted to the Building Official at the time of permit application. The *Schedule of Special Inspection Services* shall include the following items:

- (1) A complete list of materials, systems, components and work requiring Special Inspection.
- (2) The inspections to be performed and the frequency to perform them.
- (3) Statement of Qualifications from individuals, agencies or firms intended to be retained for conducting the inspections.
- (4) Additional requirements for special inspection or testing for seismic or wind resistance.

Other Requirements:

Under certain high seismic and wind conditions, contractors should submit a *Statement of Responsibility* when required by IBC Section 1706 regarding main wind or seismic force resisting systems. *Structural Observations* by a registered structural design professional per IBC Section 1709 are also required in these instances. Please note that the contractor of record is not permitted to hire the registered structural design professional. He/she must be hired by the owner or their designated design professional.

At the completion of work and prior to issuing a Certificate of Occupancy, a *Final Report of Special Inspections* in accordance with the IBC Section 1704.1.2 shall be submitted to the Building Official. This document will be reviewed to ensure the inspections indicated in the Statement of Special Inspections were completed and passed by the qualified Special Inspector.

**(C) MATERIAL/ACTIVITY REQUIRING SPECIAL INSPECTION.** The Design Professional in Responsible Charge should list what inspections are necessary on the *Schedule of Special Inspection Services*.

- (1) Inspection of Fabricators
- (2) Steel Construction
- (3) Concrete Construction
- (4) Masonry Construction
- (5) Wood Construction
- (6) Soils

- (7) Pile Foundations
- (8) Pier Foundations
- (9) Sprayed Fire Resistant Materials
- (10) Mastic & Intumescent Fire Resistant Coatings
- (11) Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems (EIFS)
- (12) Special Cases (work unusual in nature, including but not limited to alternative construction materials, unusual design applications, systems or materials with special manufacturer requirements)
- (13) Smoke Control Systems
- (14) Structural Steel Special Inspections for Seismic Resistance
- (15) Structural Wood Special Inspections for Seismic Resistance
- (16) Cold-Formed Steel Framing Special Inspections for Seismic Resistance
- (17) Pier Foundations Special Inspections for Seismic Resistance
- (18) Storage Racks and Access Floors Special Inspections for Seismic Resistance
- (19) Architectural Components Special Inspections for Seismic Resistance
- (20) Mechanical and Electrical Components Special Inspections for Seismic Resistance
- (21) Designated Seismic System Verification
- (22) Seismic Isolation System
- (23) Masonry Testing and Verification for Seismic Resistance
- (24) Reinforcing and Prestressing Steel Testing for Seismic Resistance
- (25) Structural Steel Testing for Seismic Resistance
- (26) Seismic Qualification of Mechanical and Electrical Equipment
- (27) Seismically Isolated Structures

**(D) EXCEPTIONS.**

- (a) Work of a minor nature, including interior tenant upfits with no structural modifications.
- (b) Special Inspections are not required for building components unless the design involves the practice of professional engineering or architecture.
- (c) R-3 occupancies per IBC 309, unless otherwise required by the Building Official.\*

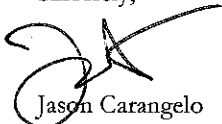
\* R-3 occupancies are primarily permanent in nature and not classified as Group R-1, R-2, R-4 or I, including:

- Buildings that do not contain more than two dwelling units.
- Adult facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons of any age for less than 24 hours.
- Child care facilities that provide accommodations for five or fewer persons of any age for less than 24 hours.
- Congregate living facilities with 16 or fewer persons.

**(E) FORMS & PUBLICATIONS.** Required forms and detailed instructions can be found in publication ACEC/SEAOG SI GL 01-2009 or the Georgia Special Inspections Guidelines at [www.acecga.org](http://www.acecga.org).

Should you have questions regarding this process, please contact the department for details or call me at 651-6530 x1948. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,



Jason Carangelo  
Building Inspections Administrator