



**PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES  
ENVIRONMENTAL OPERATIONS BRANCH  
PERMITS AND REVIEW DIVISION**

**FIRE PROTECTION BULLETIN  
F06-02**

August 1, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Amendment to the 2003 International Residential Code, Section R312.2, Guard opening limitations.

**PURPOSE:** This bulletin will amend the 2003 International Residential Code, Section R312.2, Guard opening limitations, to include the following statement:

"Required guards shall not be constructed with horizontal rails or other ornamental patterns that result in a ladder effect."

**AUTHORITY:** This Fire Protection Bulletin is issued by authority granted to the Fire Code Official in Section 4-109 (Duties and Powers of Code Official; Fire Safety Provisions) of the Prince George's County Code. Orders of the State Fire Marshal are by authority of Article 38A, Section 8(a)(3), of the Annotated Code of Maryland.

**NOTIFICATION:** Per this bulletin, required guards referenced in Section R312 of the 2003 International Residential Code cannot be constructed with horizontal rails or other ornamental patterns that result in a ladder effect. Ladder effect patterns present a safety hazard and therefore are prohibited.

**RESPONSIBILITIES:** Responsibilities shall be as follows:

1. All Department of Environmental Resources (DER) Code Enforcement Supervisors
  - A. A copy of this Fire Protection Bulletin shall be disseminated to all code enforcement personnel in accordance with Fire Protection Bulletin F97-01.

2. DER Engineering Personnel

- A. All plans shall be required to conform with the interpretations contained herein.

3. DER Inspections and Code Compliance Personnel

- A. Any inspections of construction project not in compliance with the intent and scope of this bulletin shall not be approved by the field inspection staff for any required inspection on premises. Applicant will be directed to obtain proper documentation for compliance with this bulletin. Contractors may be advised to contact DER's Life Safety/Fire Review Section at (301) 883-5974 for additional information.

**APPROVED AND ISSUED:** Effective this date, August 1, 2006.

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Life Safety/Fire Review Section  
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