

NC GS 83A-5(5a) Policy/Guideline Statement: Definition of the Practices of Registered Interior Designers.

Current as of February 14, 2022

N.C. Board of Architecture and Registered Interior Designers

Position Statement and Guidance on ratified Senate Bill 188 regarding Chapter 83A, paragraph 83A-1 Definitions, (5a):

The language is as follows:

83A-5(5a) Interior design. – Includes, but is not limited to, the preparation of reflected ceiling plans, space planning, creation or alteration of paths of egress, occupancy calculations, provided no increases in occupancy or number of exits is required, selection of furnishings, and the fabrication of nonstructural elements within and surrounding interior spaces of buildings. The term "interior design" specifically excludes the following:

- a. The design of or the responsibility for architectural and engineering work, except as explicitly provided for within this Chapter.*
- b. Altering or affecting the structural system of a building.*
- c. Changing the means of access system.*
- d. Changing the building's live or dead load on the structural system.*
- e. Changes of use to occupancies not already allowed by the current building.*
- f. Changes to life safety plans, including exiting and exit stairs.*

The Board offers the following guidance policy:

- a. The design of or the responsibility for architectural and engineering work, except as explicitly provided for within this chapter.**
- b. Altering or affecting the structural system of a building.**
 1. Should be defined as modification to any portion of the vertical or lateral support systems of a building, including but not limited to, foundations, columns, bearing walls, beams, trusses, shear walls, and lateral bracing systems and components.
- c. Changing the means of access system.**
 1. Should be defined as modifications to a building's egress system, including means of egress sizing, exterior exits, stairways and exit shafts, exit passageways, horizontal exits, exit discharge, interior exit access stairways and ramps, and exit doors or doorways located within these components.
 2. Existing or proposed locations of corridors identified within shell building drawings connecting required egress components listed in item 1 above may not be relocated.
 3. Design of interior means of egress doors required by a tenant space leading into corridors or exit passageways may be performed by a Registered Interior Designer.
- d. Changing the building's live or dead load on the structural system.**
 1. Should be defined as increasing the live and/or dead load(s) beyond the existing designed parameters of the structural system.
- e. Changes of use to occupancies not already allowed by the current building.**

1. Should be defined as “Change of Occupancy” per Chapter 2 definition of NCSBC Building Code, current edition: “A change in the purpose or level of activity within a building that involves a change in application of the requirements of this code”.
 2. Occupancy classifications are as defined in Chapter 3 of NCSBC Building Code, current edition.
 - a. Referring to existing buildings with one or more existing occupancy classifications, should be defined as a change of use to a different occupancy purpose or level of activity within an occupancy classification not currently in existence within the space.
 - b. Referring to new shell buildings with one or more proposed occupancies, should be defined as a change of use to a different occupancy purpose or level of activity within an occupancy classification not currently identified in the shell building’s Building Code Summary (NC Administrative Code and Policies, Appendix B).
 3. For existing or new buildings without an existing Appendix B and Life Safety Plan, creation of Appendix B and Life Safety Plan by a NC-Registered Architect is first required.
- f. Changes to life safety plans, including exiting and exit stairs.**
1. Should be defined as an increase in calculated occupancy load beyond the capacity available at each means of egress component.
 2. Should be defined as changes to means of egress components defined in paragraph C above
 3. Should be defined as new fire and smoke protection features, or modification to existing fire and smoke features, for fire-rated building components as described in Chapter 7 of the NCSBC Building Code, current edition. This includes, but is not limited to, fire and/or smoke rated walls, horizontal floor and roof assemblies, vertical openings, shafts, and penetrations of these components.
 4. Should be defined as the addition or removal of fire protection systems as described in Chapter 9 of the NCSBC Fire Code. Relocation of fire protection devices to accommodate new partition layouts should be permitted.
 5. Permissible items of Life Safety Plan Requirements within Appendix B that may be performed by Registered Interior Designers should include:
 - a. Occupancy classification for each area as it relates to occupant load calculation
 - b. Occupant loads for each area.
 - c. Exit Access travel distance
 - d. Common path of travel distances
 - e. Dead end lengths
 - f. Locations of doors with hold-open devices
 - g. Documentation of existing special locking conditions identified by referenced Appendix B building Code Summary.

Additional General Commentary:

1. Separately identifiable Interior Design drawing sheets included within an architectural project drawing set may be sealed by either the Registered Interior Designer who was in responsible control of said drawings, or by the Architect sealing the overall project set including A and I drawings (if both Architect and Registered Interior Designer are within the same firm).