

---

---

# BBS MEMO

---

---

Ohio Board of Building Standards

February 6, 2018

6606 Tussing Road, P.O. Box 4009, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-9009

## Residential Code of Ohio – Amendment Structural Steel Bracing

The Ohio Board of Building Standards (Board) amended the 2013 Residential Code of Ohio (RCO) related to the installation of structural steel beams in the construction of 1-, 2- and 3- family dwellings as a result of approved petition #11-16 RCO with an effective date of January 1, 2018.

The RCO does not prohibit the use cold formed or hot rolled steel as a component of the structure in the construction of dwellings. Prescriptive requirements for the use of steel in the structure of a dwelling under the RCO is limited to cold formed members meeting the requirements and used as indicated in Section 505 and Section 603 of the RCO. The use of steel as a component of the structure outside the limits found in Sections 505 and 603 may be approved; however, compliance will be the result of alternative engineered design per RCO Section 106.5. The RCO also requires per exception #13 under Section 101.2 that *“The applicable provisions of the OBC shall apply when installing components, equipment, and systems for which there are no provisions in this code.”* The use of hot rolled steel is an example of a component that has no provisions in this (meaning RCO) code; consequently, compliance with the applicable provisions of the OBC are necessary for plan approval.

The Board was petitioned to include stabilization bracing requirements for simple span, hot rolled steel beams that, when initially placed, have unrestrained bearing conditions (open pockets). The petitioner identified that these requirements are in response to accidental overturning of the beam during construction and are intended for the load of the beam only. The Board has approved amendments to the following provisions of the 2013 RCO:

- In reference to steel beams, the Board added ***Section 502.6.3 Beams ending on an open pocket.***
- In reference to steel beams on steel columns, the Board added ***Section 502.9.1 Column to beam fastening.***
- In reference to the fastening related to these new sections, the Board modified ***Table 602.3(1)*** by adding connections numbered ***40 through 44.***

While the RCO does not identify this work as part of a required inspection per Section 108.2, the certified building official for the jurisdiction may require an inspection of this work per Section 108.2.10. If so, the building official must include this scope in the list of required inspections. Regardless of a requirement to inspect, all work is subject to observation for compliance with the approved plans.

Since the petition is directly related to materials (hot rolled steel) that do not have provisions in the RCO and do have provisions in the Ohio Building Code (OBC), building owners are reminded that, if use of the OBC is necessary, the entire family of non-residential (commercial) construction building codes were recently updated with an effective date of 11/1/2017 including but not limited to:

- 2017 Ohio Building Code (OBC)
- 2017 Ohio Mechanical Code (OMC)
- 2017 Ohio Plumbing Code (OPC)

The update to the “commercial” construction codes does **NOT** include the 2013 Residential Code of Ohio for 1-, 2- and 3- family dwellings (RCO).