

Building Inspection Staff Notes

Policy effective January 9, 2007

NONABSORBENT SURFACE REQUIREMENTS **Section 1210.2, International Building Code**

The following information regards clarification of nonabsorbent surfaces required on walls and floors of toilet and bathing rooms for public use (commercial) under Section 1210.2 of the 2003 International Building Code (IBC).

Construction plans approved prior to January 1, 2007 — If the plans did not indicate the approved surface in compliance with the IBC requirements, the building field inspector will accept drywall with epoxy paint on walls within two (2) feet of urinals and water closets to a height of 4 feet above floor as referenced in this code section.

Construction plans approved on and after January 1, 2007 — A smooth, hard and nonabsorbent surface such as concrete, masonry, ceramic tile, fiberglass reinforced paneling (FRP), Portland cement or other approved materials are required on walls within two (2) feet of urinals and water closets to a height of 4 feet above floor as referenced in this code section. Note: Drywall with epoxy paint is not an acceptable material to comply with IBC requirements.

Inspectors, please always check the date of the construction plans approval before making a call.
