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## ESCAMBIA COUNTY GUIDELINES FOR THRESHOLD BUILDINGS

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A structural inspection plan must be submitted to the Building Inspections Department before the building permit may be issued.

Evidence of the special inspector shall be submitted to the Department as certification, licensed or registered in accordance with Chapter 471 or Chapter 481 of Florida Statutes or qualified as a Building Inspector under Chapter 468.

The special inspector shall be responsible to BID.

Inspections of threshold buildings are in addition to the minimum inspections required by the Florida Building Code.

Inspection and Testing Reports shall be submitted to the department (BID) on a monthly basis.

### The Florida Building Code states:

#### **“109.3.6 Threshold building.**

**109.3.6.1** The enforcing agency shall require a special inspector to perform structural inspections on a threshold building pursuant to a structural inspection plan prepared by the engineer or architect of record. The structural inspection plan must be submitted to the enforcing agency prior to the issuance of a building permit for the construction of a threshold building. The purpose of the structural inspection plans is to provide specific inspection procedures and schedules so that the building can be adequately inspected for compliance with the permitted documents. The special inspector may not serve as a surrogate in carrying out the responsibilities of the building official, the architect or the engineer of record. The contractor's contractual or statutory obligations are not relieved by any action of the special inspector.

**109.3.6.2** The special inspector shall determine that a professional engineer who specializes in shoring design has inspected the shoring and reshoring for conformance with the shoring and reshoring plans submitted to the enforcing agency. A fee simple title owner of a building, which does not meet the minimum size, height, occupancy, occupancy classification or number-of-stories criteria which would result in classification as a threshold building under s. 553.71(7), may designate such building as a threshold building, subject to more than the minimum number of inspections required by the *Florida Building Code*.

**109.3.6.3** The fee owner of a threshold building shall select and pay all costs of employing a special inspector, but the special inspector shall be responsible to the enforcement agency. The inspector shall be a person certified, licensed or registered under [Chapter 471, Florida Statutes](#), as an engineer or under [Chapter 481, Florida Statutes](#), as an architect.

**109.3.6.4** Each enforcement agency shall require that, on every threshold building:

**109.3.6.4.1** The special inspector, upon completion of the building and prior to the issuance of a certificate of occupancy, file a signed and sealed statement with the enforcement agency in substantially the following form: "To the best of my knowledge and belief, the above described construction of all structural load-bearing components complies with the permitted documents, and the shoring and reshoring conforms to the shoring and reshoring plans submitted to the enforcement agency."

**109.3.6.4.2** Any proposal to install an alternate structural product or system to which building codes apply be submitted to the enforcement agency for review for compliance with the codes and made part of the enforcement agency's recorded set of permit documents.

**109.3.6.4.3** All shoring and reshoring procedures, plans and details be submitted to the enforcement agency for recordkeeping. Each shoring and reshoring installation shall be supervised, inspected and certified to be in compliance with the shoring documents by the contractor.

**109.3.6.4.4** All plans for the building which are required to be signed and sealed by the architect or engineer of record contain a statement that, to the best of the architect's or engineer's knowledge, the plans and specifications comply with the applicable minimum building codes and the applicable fire-safety standards as determined by the local authority in accordance with this section and Chapter 633, *Florida Statutes*.

**109.3.6.5** No enforcing agency may issue a building permit for construction of any threshold building except to a licensed general contractor, as defined in [Section 489.105\(3\)\(a\)](#), *Florida Statutes*, or to a licensed building contractor, as defined in [Section 489.105\(3\)\(b\)](#), *Florida Statutes*, within the scope of her or his license. The named contractor to whom the building permit is issued shall have the responsibility for supervision, direction, management and control of the construction activities on the project for which the building permit was issued.

**109.3.6.6** The building department may allow a special inspector to conduct the minimum structural inspection of threshold buildings required by this code, [Section 553.73](#), *Florida Statutes*, without duplicative inspection by the building department. The building official is responsible for ensuring that any person conducting inspections is qualified as a building inspector under Part XII of Chapter 468, *Florida Statutes*, or certified as a special inspector under Chapter 471 or 481, *Florida Statutes*.

Inspections of threshold buildings required by [Section 553.79\(5\)](#), *Florida Statutes*, are in addition to the minimum inspections required by this code."