



OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Code Interpretation 23-002

Issued: February 16, 2023

Podium Construction and Levels

OVERVIEW

Code Section(s): CBC 1030.1
Edition: 2019
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Date Received: 06/13/2021

QUESTION

In Podium construction according to CBC 510.2, for determining the “levels below the 4th story above grade plane” as stated in CBC 1030.1; do the levels need to be counted from the 3-hour horizontal separation level (podium)?

ANSWER

No. CBC 1030.1 clearly indicates “grade plane” which would reference you back to the buildings average grade plane as described in CBC 202. Podium Construction as described in CBC 510.2 does not “reset” the grade plane for the building. Fourth and fifth floors would not be required to have Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings (EERO).