COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO

REGULATIONS AND PERMITS ADMINISTRATION

SANTURCE, PUERTO RICO

5902

EMERGENCY REGULATION

TO REPEAL

BUILDING REGULATION

(PLANNING REGULATION NO. 7)

AND

ADOPT NEW BUILDING CODE

DECEMBER 1998

19 Pages

EMERGENCY REGULATION TO REPEAL BUILDING REGULATION (PLANNING REGULATION NUMBER 7) AND ADOPT A NEW BUILDING CODE

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No. 5902
Date: Dic. 31/1998 11:48a
Approved: Secretary of State
By: Assistant Secretary for Services

ADOPTION OF EMERGENCY REGULATION FOR A BUILDING CODE

The Commonwealth of Puerto Rico adopts under the emergency clause stated in law #76, of June 24, 1975 the 1997 edition of the *Uniform Building Code*™ (with amendments), Volumes 1, 2, and 3, regulating the construction, erection, enlargement, alteration, repair, moving, removal, demolition, signs, advertising, conversion, occupancy, equipment, use, height, area and maintenance of all buildings or structures in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; providing for the issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore; providing for penalties for the violation thereof, repealing Building Regulations (Planning Regulation No. 7), Amended 1968 and Adopted Amendments to the Building Regulations (Planning Regulation No. 7), October 1987 of The Permits and Regulation Administration (ARPE) of Puerto Rico and all other ordinances and parts of the ordinances in conflict therewith.

The Regulation and Permits Administration (ARPE) of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico does ordain as follows:

Section 1. That certain documents, three (3) copies of which are on file and are open for inspection of the public in the offices of The Regulation and Permits Administration (ARPE) of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, being marked and designated as:

*Uniform Building Code, 1*997 Edition, published by the International Conference of Building Officials, including the generic fire-resistive assemblies listed in the *Fire Resistance Design Manual*, Fourteenth Edition, dated April 1994, published by the Gypsum Association as referenced in Tables 7-A, 7-B and 7-C of the specified *Uniform Building Code*, including Appendix Chapter 12, Division I, Appendix Chapter 16, Division II, Appendix Chapter 31, Division I and Appendix Chapter 34, Division III, and including attached amendments that revise, delete or add to certain sections in said code, and

Structural Welding Code – Reinforcing Steel, AWS D1.4-92 (UBC Standard 19-1); American National Standard for Accessible and Useable Buildings and Facilities, A117.1-1992 (see *Uniform Building Code* Section 1101.2) published by the Council of American Building Officials; *Load and Resistance Factor Design Specification for Structural Steel Buildings*, December 1, 1993 (Chapter 22, Division III); *Load and Resistance Factor Design Specification for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members*, 1986 (with December, 1989 Addendum) (Chapter 22, Division VI); *Specification for*

Design of Cold-Formed Steel Structural Members, 1986 (Chapter 22, Division VII); *Standard Specification for Steel Joists, K-Series, LH-Series, DLH-Series and Joist Girders*, 1994 (Chapter 22, Division IX); *Structural Applications of Steel Cables for Buildings*, ASCE 17-95 (Chapter 22, Division XI); and *National Design Specification for Wood Construction*, Revised 1991 Edition (Chapter 23, Division III, Part 1), as modified or amended in the *Uniform Building Code* referenced herein:

Be and the same are hereby adopted as the code of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico for regulating the construction, erection, enlargement, alteration, repair, moving, removal, demolition, signs, advertising, conversion, occupancy, equipment, use, height, area and maintenance of all buildings or structures in the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico providing for issuance of permits and collection of fees therefore; and each and all of the regulation, provisions, conditions and terms of such *Uniform Building Code, 1997* Edition, Volumes 1, 2, and 3, published by the International Conference of Building Officials and the secondary publications referenced above, all of which are on file in the offices of The Regulation and Permits Administration (ARPE) of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are hereby referred to, adopted and made a part hereof as if fully set out in this ordinance.

Section 2. Any person, natural or legal, who violates this code after the date of enforcement, will be guilty of misdemeanor, and if convicted, shall be subject to a fine of not more that five hundred dollars ($500.00) or prison for a period of not more than six (6) months, or both, at the discretion of the court. In addition to the complaints which may be filed for violations of the *Uniform Building Code, 1997* Edition, Volumes 1, 2, and 3, the Secretary of Justice of Puerto Rico, The Regulation and Permits Administration (ARPE) or the Regulations and Permits Administrator, will prevent such violations, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, or action for injunction, mandamus or any other processing in any court of competent jurisdiction.

Section 3. That Building Regulations (Planning Regulation No. 7), Amended 1968 and Adopted Amendments to the Building Regulations (Planning Regulation No. 7), October 1987 of the Planning Board of Puerto Rico and all other ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

Section 4. That if any section, sentence, clause or phrase of this ordinance is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity or constitutionality of the remaining portions of this ordinance. The Government of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico hereby declares that it would have passed this ordinance, and each section, clause, or phrase hereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, clauses and phrases be declared unconstitutional.

Section 5. That Regulation and Permits Administration (ARPE) of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico is hereby ordered and directed to cause this ordinance to be published and/or posted in accordance with the governing requirements.

Section 6. That this ordinance and the rules, regulations, provisions, requirements, orders and matters established and adopted hereby shall take effect and be in accordance with certain administrative rules of Regulation and Permits Administration (ARPE) of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico in full force immediately after the date of its final passage and adoption.

Section 7. For projects already in progress a period of sixty (60) days after the effectiveness date is granted, during which time it will be optional for the designers to design or redesign their projects according to the additional requirements established by these rules.

AMENDMENTS TO UNIFORM BUILDING CODE 1997 EDITION VOLUMES 1, 2 AND 3

The following revisions, deletions or additions to certain sections in said code are amended as follows:

1. Section 203; The definition of "Building Official" shall be modified as follows:

   BUILDING OFFICIAL is the Regulations and Permits Administrator charged with the administration and enforcement of this code, or the Regulations and Permits Administrator's duly authorized representative.

2. Section 214; The definition of "Mechanical Code" is modified as follows:

   MECHANICAL CODE is the *International Mechanical Code* promulgated by the International Code Council, as adopted by this jurisdiction.

3. Section 217; The definition of "Plumbing Code" is modified as follows:

   PLUMBING CODE is the *International Plumbing Code,* and *International Private Sewage Disposal Code* promulgated by the International Code Council as adopted by this jurisdiction.

4. Section 104.1 is to be modified as follows:

   104.1 Creation of Enforcement Agency. As established in this Jurisdiction the code enforcement agency is the Regulation and Permits Administration (ARPE).

5. Section 104.2 is deleted in its entirety.

6. Section 105 is deleted in its entirety.

7. Section 106.1; the following shall be added as a second paragraph:

   The Building Official shall be consulted for requirements of special permits of the use of structures such as grandstands, tents and awnings for a limited period of time.

8. Section 106.2; the following exemption shall be added :

MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS AND CONSTRUCTION THAT CAN BE UNDERTAKEN WITHOUT THE NEED OF A BUILDING PERMIT

The following minor repairs and constructions may be undertaken without the need of obtaining a building permit; provided, however, that this exemption from the

requirement of a permit will not apply in Ancient and Historic Zones so declared by the Planning Board:

A. Simple Substitutions:

1. The change of old material for new material of the same class such wood for wood, galvanized iron for galvanized iron, wood for cardboard, etc., in walls, partitions, roofs and floors; provided, that these provisions do not include the substitution of exterior walls and concrete or masonry structural members.

2. Erection or change of position of interior partitions in residential buildings provided that one or more additional dwellings are not made available with them, in addition to those existing in the building; and that required ventilation of the rooms be not affected.

3. Substitutions of wooden floors for concrete floors on filled ground or on concrete posts, provided that the height of the floor over the soil shall not exceed one meter.

4. Substitution of wooden posts for concrete posts, provided that the height of it above the ground should not exceed one meter.

5. Installations of new wooden or metal doors, windows and jallousies at a distance of 5 feet from the property line, except in balconies and porches.

6. The substitution of one type of door and window for another.

7. Substitution of cardboard roofing for galvanized iron roofing or of other material with the exception of concrete, or vice versa.

8. The change in the shape of cardboard or galvanized iron roofs.

9. The change or employment of ornamental details that will not result in structural alterations and that will not project over public property a distance greater than that permitted by the Building Regulation.

10. Construction of latrines at a minimum distance of 3 meters from the house.

11. Fences built in conformity with the provisions of the Building Regulation.

12. Painting of existing buildings.

B. Repairs to Concrete Buildings:

1. Plastering of existing or permitted concrete constructions.

2. Installations or change of floor tile, ceramic tile, glaze tile, etc.

3. Filling of cracks, leakage's and drips.

4. Structural changes in the facades provide that no structural alterations are made such as new columns and beams, bearing walls or new eaves.

C. Simple Substitutions in the Plumbing System:

Only those consisting in changes of deteriorated fixtures, pipes, or other appurtenances for new ones are exempted from the requisite of permits.

Those alterations that include waste stacks or stack vents, the addition of new fixtures and the change in position of existing fixtures require a permit from the Bureau Permits.

D. Simple Substitutions in the Electrical Distribution System:

Only those consisting in the change of deteriorated lines or appurtenances for new ones are exempted from the requisite of permits. A permit shall be required when a new circuit is added.

9. Section 106.3.2; the section is deleted and replaced with the following:

106.3.2 Submittal documents. The provisions of the "Act No. 135 of June 15, 1967, as amended" (Certification Law) shall apply.

10. Sections 106.3.4, 106.3.4.1 and 106.3.4.2 are deleted.

11. Section 106.3.5 is deleted and replaced by the following:

106.3.5 Inspection and observation program. The provisions of the "Act No. 135 of June 15, 1967, as amended" (Certification Law) shall apply. Every project for which a permit is applied shall be based on a plan certified in accordance of Section 4.00 of the Planning Regulation No. 12 ("Regulation for the Certification of Construction Projects") and shall be under the supervision of an approved inspector.

Exception: If the applicant submits plans for a project that are voluntarily certified by the designer, as stated in Section 3.05, paragraphs two (2) and three (3) of the Planning Regulation No. 12 (and other sections to be determined by the Regulations and Permits Administration staff), then the procedure in Section 4.00 does not have to be followed. The applicant shall state the intention to use this exception upon application for permit.

12. Section 106.4 is deleted in its entirety.

13. Sections 107.2, 107.3, 107.4, 107.5, 107.5.1, 107.5.2 and 107.6 are deleted and add a new 107.2 as follows:

107.2 Fee Refunds. The building official may authorize refunding of any fee paid hereunder, which was erroneously paid or collected.

14. Section 108 is deleted in its entirety.

15. Section 109.3 shall be modified as follows:

109.3 Certificate Issued. In the conventional permit process after the building official inspects the building or structure and finds no violations of the provisions of this code or other laws that are enforced by the code enforcement agency, the building official shall issue a certificate of occupancy. Under the Certification Law the professional shall certify the required inspections, before the building official issue the certificate of occupancy.

16. Section 109.4 shall be deleted.

17. Section 109.5 shall be modified as follows:

109.5 Posting. The certificate of occupancy for industrial and commercial buildings shall be posted in a conspicuous place on the premises and shall not be removed except by the building official.

18. Table 1-A shall be deleted.

19. Section 310.4; most of the section is deleted as follows:

310.4 **Access and Means of Egress Facilities and Emergency Escapes**
Means of egress shall be provided as specified in Chapter 10. (See also Section 1007.6 for exit markings.)
Access to, and egress from, buildings required to be accessible shall be provided as specified in Chapter 11.

20. Section 506; Add a new exception as follows:

EXCEPTIONS:

1. Towers, spires and steeples erected as a part of a building and not used for habitation or storage are limited as to height only by structural design if completely of noncombustible materials, or may extend not to exceed 20 feet (6096 mm) above the height limit in Table 5-B if of combustible materials.

2. The height of one-story aircraft hangars and buildings used for manufacture of aircraft shall not be limited if the building is provided with automatic sprinkler systems throughout as specified in Chapter 9 and is entirely surrounded by public ways or yards not less in width than one and one-half times the height of the building.

3. The Height allowances in UBC Chapter 5 are modified, when relevant, without exception to conform to the limitations in the Airport Zone Maps, provided that they are not allowed to be higher than that allowed in Table 5-B.

21. Chapter 13; delete Section 1301 and substitute the following:

SECTION 1301 – ENERGY CODE ADOPTED

Section 1301.1 The "Energy Conservation Code for Buildings in Puerto Rico; Supplement to Building Regulation (Planning Regulation No. 7)" is hereby adopted and buildings shall be designed to comply with it.

22. Section 1605.1 General; the exception referring to Chapter 23 for "Conventional Construction" shall be deleted.

23. Section 1605.1, General; the following paragraph shall be added as a second paragraph:

In the event of any doubt regarding the resistance to structural live and dead loads of the building, the Regulations and Permits Administrator can require a load test to determine if such construction is adequate for its intended use. Such tests will be performed under the administration of deputies from the Regulations and Permits Administration Department.

24. Section 1606.2, Partition Loads, shall be modified as follows:

1606.2 Partition Loads. Floors in office buildings and other buildings where partition locations are subject to change shall be designed to support, in addition to all other loads, a uniformly distributed dead load equal to 25 pounds per square foot (psf) (1.20 kN/m^2) of floor area.

25. Section 1607.4.4, Special Roof Loads; the following paragraph shall be added as a second paragraph and the existing second paragraph will move to third and numbered accordingly.

Roofs shall be designed for the concentrated and distributed loads produced by the weight of water tanks, solar water heaters, parabolic antennae, central air conditioning units or any other equipment proposed for roof installation. When new or additional equipment is to be installed

on roofs, the weight of which will exceed the minimum requirements of this Section or the structural design of the roof, permits shall be applied for and a new design shall be provided and inspections shall be in accordance with the "Certification Law."

26. Section 1611.2, Other Loads; the following paragraph shall be added as a second paragraph:

> Where it is possible that garbage vehicles may use floors that are not supported by earth, their loading in conformance with the provisions of 1607.3.3 shall apply in the structural design of the floor.

27. Section 1611.3, Impact Loads; the following two paragraph shall be added to the end of the section:

> The minimum "Live Loads" stipulated in this Code allows a margin of safety to cover the effects of common impact. The "Live Loads" shall be increased in buildings and structures for special uses subject to loads that lead to extraordinary impact. Such uses shall include but not be limited to impact caused by mobile machinery, elevators, cranes and vehicles.
>
> The Engineer of Record shall determine such loads according to the nature of the use but the minimum impact shall not be less than an additional twenty-five (25) percent of the applicable Live Load. Structures that support elevators shall be designed to resist a minimum of an additional one-hundred (100) percent of the applicable Live Load.

28. Section 1611.6, Retaining Walls; the following paragraph shall be added as a second paragraph and the existing one will move to third and be numbered accordingly.

> In the design of basement walls or other walls retaining earth that due to location of buildings or vehicles would be loaded by additional lateral soil pressure due to fixed or moving loads at grade, such extra loading shall be considered in addition to the lateral pressure of the retained material.

29. Section 1615, General; The first sentence of the first paragraph is to be modified as follows:

> Every building or structure and every portion thereof shall be designed and constructed to resist the wind effects determined in accordance with the requirements of Chapter 6 of ASCE Standard No. 7, Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures, 1995 edition.

30. Sections 1616, 1617,1618, 1619, 1620, 1621, 1622, 1623, 1624 and 1625, and Tables 16-F, 16-G and 16-H the "Wind Importance factor" column in Table 16-K and Figure 16-1 are deleted. Any other references to them in the UBC are deleted.

31. Section 1635; modify as follows

SECTION 1635 - EARTHQUAKE-RECORDING INSTRUMENTATIONS

For earthquake-recording instrumentation, the provisions contained in Appendix Chapter 16, Division II including number and location of instruments shall apply when and as determined by the Building Official.

32. Table 16-A shall be amended such that: item 3, Fixed seating areas shows 60 psf and a new category is added to that item that states, Orchestra pit floor 60 psf; and item 6, Garages, General storage and/or repair shows 125 psf; item 7, Hospitals is replaced with Hospitals, jails, orphanages and asylums; item 7, as modified, add Operating rooms, laboratories and x-ray rooms 60 psf; item 9, Manufacturing shows 125 psf and 250 psf for light and heavy, respectively; an item 21 is to be added to show Laundries, bakeries 150 psf; an item 22 is to be added to show, Warehouses, light 125 psf and Warehouses, heavy 250 psf; and footnote 3 to Table 16-A has the word "bleachers" added between "gymnasiums" and "playgrounds."

33. The minimum loads shown in Table 16-C, Minimum Roof Live Loads for Method 1 and Method 2, item 1 and add a new footnote 6 to this table are modified as follows:

TABLE 16-C – MINIMUM ROOF LIVE LOADS[1,6]

1a. Flat or rise less than 1 unit vertical in 24 unit horizontal (4.2% slope)	40	32	24	40		
1b. Rise one unit vertical in 24 units horizontal 4.2% slope) or rise less than 4 units vertical in 12 units horizontal (33.3% slope). Arch or done with rise less than one eighth of span.	20	16	12	20	.08	40

[6.] The tabular values for the roof live load associated with Roof Slope item 1 shall be half of what is shown when the design engineer determines and states in writing that there is sufficient control on the application of loads or some other impediment to the use of such roofs for loads other than the minimum. These loads are minimum ones and the design engineer shall use Live Loads from Tables 16-A or 16-B when the circumstance warrants it.

34. Sections 1701.1shall be modified as follows:

1701.1 General. In addition to the provisions of the "Act No. 135 of June 15, 1967, as amended" (Certification Law), the owner or the engineer or architect of record acting as the owner's agent shall employ one or more special

inspectors who shall provide inspections during construction on the types of work listed under Section 1701.5.

EXCEPTION: The building official may waive the requirement for the employment of a special inspector if the construction is of a minor nature.

35. Section 1701.2 shall be modified as follows:

1701.2 Special Inspector. The special inspector shall be a qualified specialist who shall demonstrate competence, to the satisfaction of the building official, for inspection of the particular type of construction or operation requiring special inspection.

36. Section 1701.3; the second paragraph shall be modified as follows:

The special inspector shall furnish inspection reports to the building official, the engineer or architect of record, and other designated persons in accordance with the provisions of the "Act No. 135 of June 15, 1967, as amended" (Certification Law). All discrepancies shall be brought to the immediate attention of the contractor for correction, then, if uncorrected, to the proper design authority and to the building official.

37. Section 1701.5 and 1701.5.1 shall be modified as follows:

1701.5 Types of Work. Except as provided in Section 1701.1, the types of work listed below shall be inspected by a special inspector on a periodic basis unless otherwise required by the provisions of the "Act No. 135 of June 15, 1967, as amended" (Certification Law).

1. **Concrete.** During the taking of test specimens and placing of reinforced concrete in structures of five (5) stories or higher. See Item 12 for shotcrete.

(*balance of section remains unchanged except as indicated below*)

38. Section 1701.5; items 10, 13, and 14 shall be deleted.

39. Section 1702; items 4 and 5 shall be combined into one item 4 as follows:

4. When so designated by the architect or engineer of record and when such observation is specifically required by the building official.

40. Section 1703; exception 1 is modified as follows:

EXCEPTIONS: 1. When approved, the nondestructive testing rate for an individual welder or welding operator may be reduced to 15 percent, provided the reject rate is demonstrated to be 5 percent or less of the welds

tested for the welder or welding operator. A sampling of at least 20 completed welds for a job shall be made for such reduction evaluation. Reject rate is defined as the number of welds containing rejectable defects divided by the number of welds completed. For evaluating the reject rate of continuous welds over 3 feet (914 mm) in length where the effective throat thickness is 1 inch (25 mm) or less, each 12-inch increment (305 mm) or fraction thereof shall be considered as one weld. For evaluating the reject rate on continuous welds over 3 feet (914 mm) in length where the effective throat thickness is greater than 1 inch (25 mm), each 6 inches (152 mm) of length or fraction thereof shall be considered one weld.
(*balance remains unchanged*)

41. Section 2102.1, Quality, the following paragraph shall be added to the end of the section:

    The use of reclaimed or previously used masonry units shall not be allowed unless the materials are completely clean and without defects to the satisfaction of the Regulations and Permits Administration.

42. Section 2213.7.1.2; an additional paragraph shall be added to this section:

    The engineer may be guided by the provisions contained in the document, "Program to Reduce the Earthquake Hazards of Steel Moment Frame Structures: Interim Guidelines, Advisory No. 1, Supplement to FEMA 267". The document No. 267A, dated March 1997, is obtainable from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, Washington, D.C.

43. Section 2301.2.2 is deleted.

44. Section 2301.3; Add a as section as follows:

    2301.3 Workmanship. All members shall be framed, anchored, tied and braced, temporarily or permanently as the situation requires, in such a manner that they develop the strength and rigidity necessary for the purposes for which they shall be used.

45. Division IV of Chapter 23, Conventional Light Framed Construction, is deleted.

46. Change the wind speeds in the following sections to convert from fastest mile to three-second gust (shown underlined) in order to provide compatibility with the wind design provisions in Chapter 6 of ASCE Standard No. 7, Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures, 1995 edition, that are adopted by these amendments.

    a. Section 1404.1: The reference to 80 miles per hour (129 km/h) shall be changed to read, "95 miles per hour (153.3 km/h)".

1404.1 General. Vinyl siding conforming to the requirements of this section and complying with UBC Standard 14-2 may be installed on exterior walls of buildings of Type V construction located in areas where the wind speed specified in Chapter 6 of ASCE Standard No. 7. Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures, 1995 edition does not exceed 95 miles per hour (153.3 km/h, three-second gust wind speed and the building height is less than 40 feet (12 192 mm) in Exposure C. If construction is located in areas where wind speed exceeds 95 miles per hour (153.3km/h, three-second gust wind speed building heights are in excess of 40 feet (12 192mm), data indicating compliance with Chapter 16 must be submitted. Vinyl siding shall be secured to the building to provide weather protection for the exterior walls of the building.

b. Table 15-D-1, footnote 2: The reference to 80 miles per hour (129 km/h) shall be changed to read, "95 miles per hour (153.3 km/h)".

c. Table 15-D-2, footnote 1: The reference to 80 miles per hour (129 km/h) shall be changed to read, "95 miles per hour (153.3 km/h)".

d. Table 23-II-B-2: The reference to 80 miles per hour (129 km/h) shall be changed to read, "95 miles per hour (153.3 km/h)" and the reference to 90 miles per hour (145 km/h) shall be changed to "105 miles per hour (142 km/h)".

e. Section 2104.3.3, item 3; the reference to 15 miles per hour (24 km/h) shall be changed to read, "20 miles per hour (32.3 km/h)".

f. Section 2109.1; the reference to 80 miles per hour (129 km/h) shall be changed to read, "95 miles per hour (153.3 km/h)".

g. Section 2401.1, item 1 Exception: the reference to 80 miles per hour (129 km/h) shall be changed to read, "95 miles per hour (153.3 km/h)".

47. Appendix Chapter 31, Division 1, Section 3110.2; the following revisions shall be made to method of designing the building for flood loads.

3110.2. Design Loads. The structural system shall be designed in hydrodynamic and hydrostatic flood loads and load combination in Chapter 5 of ASCE Standard No. 7 Minimum Design Loads for Building and Other Structures, 1995 edition. Impact loads shall be considered in the analysis of the structural system.

ADOPTION

Adopted by me as Administrator of the Regulations and Permits Administration through Administrative Order A.R.P. No.

Today

by Carlos González Sánchez
Administrator

APPROVAL

Pursuant with the dispositions of Act No. 76 of June 24, 1975, this Planning Boards APPROVES the Emergency Regulation to the Building Regulation Code, which is effective immediately after this approval.

Jose R. Caballero Mercado
Jose R. Caballero Mercado
President

William Figueroa Figueroa
Associate Member

María del C. Gordillo Pérez
Alternate Member

Approve today

APPROVE CERTIFY:

Max L. Vidal Vázquez
Max Vidal Vázquez
Secretary

Validity date:

CERTIFICATION

In accordance with Section 2.13 of Act No. 170 of August 12, 1988, as amended, known as "Uniform Administrative Procedure Act of the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico", I hereby certify, pursuant to dispositions established in Act. No. 76 of June 24, 1975, that the public interest requires for the "Emergency Regulation to Repeal Building Regulation and Adopt a New Building Code" to be implemented, waving procedural delays set forth by Sections 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 and 2.8 of Act No. 170, as quoted. Therefore I grant this Emergency Regulation immediate effectiveness as of today.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, December 30 , 1998.

Pedro Rossello

PEDRO ROSSELLO

GOVERNOR OF PUERTO RICO