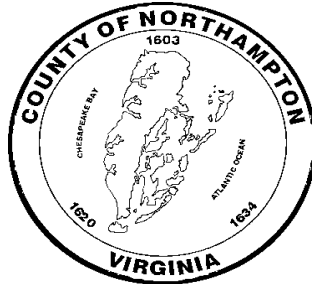


NORTHAMPTON COUNTY

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Wind Resistant Construction Policy Registered Design Professionals 2015 Virginia Uniform Statewide Building Code Section 111

Policy:

Effective immediately, it shall be the policy of the Northampton County Building Department, under the authority of Section 111.1 of the 2015 Virginia Uniform Statewide building Code (USBC) and subsequent editions of the USBC, to require that a Virginia registered design professional (architect or engineer) or a structural engineer registered in another State of the United States, review, seal and sign structural plans for all buildings, including single family dwellings or additions to single family dwellings to be built within 1,500 feet of tidal salt water. Tidal salt water includes the Chesapeake Bay, the creeks, inlets, and bodies of water leading off the Chesapeake Bay; Seaside bodies of water such as Hog Island Bay, Outlet Bay, Ramshorn, Mockhorn Bay and similar bodies of water, including their associated creeks, guts and inlets.

The registered design professional shall certify that:

“The structure, including doors and windows, if built according to the plans, will withstand 120 mile per hour wind speeds without structural damage or failure.”

The building official may waive this requirement for small sheds, detached garages, decks, piers, bulkheads or similar small structures, not normally occupied by persons during storm events, where structural failure is not likely to damage adjacent occupied or habitable structures.

2015 USBC/VCC - SECTION 111.1 **REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL SERVICES**

111.1 When required. In accordance with Section 54.1-410 of the Code of Virginia and under the general authority of this code, the local building department shall establish a procedure to ensure that construction documents under Section 109 are prepared by an RDP in any case in which the exemptions contained in Sections 54.1-401, 54.1-402, or 54.1-402.1 of the Code of Virginia are not applicable or in an case where the building official determines it necessary. When required under Sections 54.1-402 of the Code of Virginia of when required by the building official, or both, construction documents shall bear the name and address of the author and his occupation. **Note:** Information on the types of construction required to be designed by an RDP is included in the “Related Laws Package” available from DCHD.