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BULLETIN NO.
88-4

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Subject: **Concrete-Filled Pipe Columns**

Reference: **N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.14, Building Subcode Section 1915**

The Department of Community Affairs has recently been made aware of a problem concerning the use of lightweight, 16-gauge steel outer casing, concrete-filled columns in residential construction in lieu of specified concrete-filled pipe columns.

Building Subcode Section 1915 requires concrete-filled pipe columns to be manufactured from standard, extra-strong, or double extra-strong steel pipe. A 16-gauge (0.062-inch or 1.57-mm thickness) steel outer casing, for example, does not meet the minimum wall thickness (0.216 inches or 5.49 mm) for a standard pipe column and may not be used unless it can be determined by test results that the 16-gauge, concrete-filled pipe column is capable of safely supporting the loads.

Since the structural design is the responsibility of the licensed professional, the code official shall ensure that the building conforms to approved plans. In any instance where a steel outer casing, concrete-filled pipe column is used other than the code-specified concrete-filled pipe column, the construction official needs to require test information, or a certification from an architect or engineer, to determine that safe loading requirements are met.

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