

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

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INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

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2013-06	Designation of Essential Facilities and Critical Operations Power Systems (COPS)			May 29, 2013
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DESIGNATION of ESSENTIAL FACILITIES and CRITICAL OPERATIONS POWER SYSTEMS (COPS)

ESSENTIAL FACILITIES

The term “Essential Facility” is limited to a reference in the IBC and found in Section 1604.5 as Occupancy Category IV to include very specific uses such as hospitals, fire and police stations, designated shelters, critical national defense functions, etc. It is not a reference to a use group type. A definition is also provided that states ...remain operational in the event of extreme environmental loading from flood, wind, snow or earthquakes”. The sole purpose for this designation in the IBC is to provide for enhanced structural loading factors for wind, seismic and snow loads.

While the IBC references the Building Official as the person who makes this designation, the code specifically requires that *“This designation would only be made with consideration of broader public policy, as well as emergency preparedness planning within the jurisdiction in question”*. **Prior to making a determination, the Building Official is therefore obligated to take full consideration of input from all applicable federal, state and municipal authorities.**

CRITICAL OPERATIONS POWER SYSTEMS

The term “Critical Operations Power Systems” or COPS is limited to a reference in IEC Article 708 limited to power systems that “...are generally installed in vital infrastructure facilities that, if destroyed or incapacitated, would disrupt national security, the economy, public health or safety; and where enhanced electrical infrastructure for continuity of operations has been deemed necessary by governmental authority”. **Therefore designations for “Critical Operations Areas” requiring critical operations power systems, invoking the requirements of IEC Section 708, are made with considerable input from emergency management authorities and governmental officials.**

Designation as an “Essential Building” does not trigger a default requirement for COPS as this should be evaluated for designation based on the specific building requirements.