

STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION NO. I-21-99

May 27, 1999

The following is offered in response to your request for formal interpretation as to the correct Use Group and Type of Construction for a 12,240 square foot membrane structure to be utilized as a riding arena for training and exercising horses with no storage and no seating.

The Use Group which most accurately describes a facility of this kind would be a participant sport area in Use Group A-3. Unless required by other sections of the State Building Code, this designation would allow this facility to be constructed without a fire suppression system according to exception 2 to section 904.2 of the BOCA National Building Code/1996 (BOCA) portion of the 1999 State Building Code.

The construction Type of this structure is determined by section 3103.3.1 of the BOCA code. If all elements of the membrane structure, including the membrane, are non-combustible, the construction type would be 2C. If the frame of the membrane is heavy timber and the membrane is non-combustible, the construction type would be 3B. If the membrane is flame-resistant and combustible, the construction type would be 5B.