

# **B E C K E R**

structural engineers, inc.

March 20, 2008

Ms. Jeanie Bourke  
Inspections Services Division  
City of Portland  
389 Congress Street  
Portland, Maine

**BUILDING CODE FOR PROPOSED MEZZANINE ADDITION  
CITY OF PORTLAND - PUBLIC SAFETY HEADQUARTERS  
PORTLAND, MAINE**

Dear Jeanie:

We are formally requesting to utilize the 2006 version of the International Building Code (IBC) for the structural design of above referenced project. We understand that the City of Portland is currently enforcing the 2003 version of the IBC Code. The following is our justification for the use of the newer version of the Code.

Our justification in using the 2006 Edition of the IBC Code pertains to the Seismic provisions included in the Codes. The Seismic Spectral Values used for the seismic design of buildings have been updated in the 2006 Edition of the IBC Code. The updated values are based on the 2004 Edition of the "National Earthquake Hazard Reduction Program (NEHRP) Recommended Provisions for Seismic Regulations for New Buildings and Other Structures – Part 1", Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Document 450. This document supersedes the 1998 version of the NEHRP/FEMA document, which is the basis of the 2003 Edition of the IBC Code. We understand that the updated FEMA guidelines are based on newer, more recent data provided by the United States Geological Survey (USGS). As design professionals we are of the opinion that use of the current values are appropriate for use in design of a building as they represent the latest science and data in the structural engineering field.

If you would like to discuss the matter further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,  
**BECKER STRUCTURAL ENGINEERS, Inc.**



Daniel S. Burne, P. E.  
Associate