

Aluminum Structures Code Update

May 2006

On April 19, 2006 at its Orlando board meeting, the Florida Board of Professional Engineers condemned the practice by certain professional engineers of producing aluminum structures design manuals and selling the right to use those manuals to contractors and aluminum materials manufacturers to use in designing aluminum structures. The Board discussed the increasing failure rate of these types of structures through the storms experienced in the last two hurricane seasons and heard from the Chief Building Officials of St. Lucie and Indian River counties as to the uniform failures of these structures in their counties. Some pool cages were rebuilt after the 2004 storms only to be blown away by one of the 2005 storms.

The officials explained that allowing non-design professionals to carry the responsibility for creating site-specific designs from these types of manuals and compelling building inspectors to attempt to confirm these designs as correct in the field, places them in an untenable position. Only complete, engineered designs for structures to be built on a specific site should be acceptable to building officials and the FBPE alike said the Board. Along with this notice, individual notice will be provided to all professional engineers and aluminum companies involved and known to the Board that, **after May 31, 2006, any professional engineer still engaged in this type of practice will be the subject of an investigation and be charged by administrative complaint**, if appropriate. All building officials in Florida will be notified of the Board's action.

NOTE:

At its May 26, 2006 teleconference meeting, the Board of Professional Engineers determined to extend the status quo regarding professional engineer involvement in aluminum structures design manuals from May 31, 2006 to **June 30, 2006**, in order to allow for additional discussion of the issues related to this matter to take place at its June 14, 2006 meeting at the Hyatt Regency Tampa in Tampa, Florida. A time certain for this discussion has been set for 2:00pm, Wednesday, June 14, 2006, during the Board's regular business meeting.

More information may be found at the
Florida Board of Professional Engineers' website

www.fbpe.org