

Maine Uniform Building and Energy Code (MUBEC)

By Philip Saucier, Esq. | November 16, 2010

In 2008, the Maine Legislature passed legislation adopting a statewide building code that applies to all new construction statewide. The law directs that all locally adopted building codes will be void as of December 1, 2010 and prohibits local amendments. Enforcement of the new standards begins December 1st this year for municipalities with a population of over 2,000 that have existing building codes, and for municipalities without building codes on July 1, 2012.

The Building Codes and Standards Board recently promulgated rules that define which portions of the 2009 IBC Codes will constitute the MUBEC. Certain policy decisions, including the permitting and appeals process, whether to conduct inspections or to use third party inspectors, and the details of enforcement will be left to municipalities to administer.

With the new standards soon upon us, it is important for municipalities to review and amend their building regulations and ordinances as soon as possible to avoid confusion. We have been closely following the developments and the announcements of the Building Codes and Standards Board and are prepared to assist municipalities with questions and to assist with the process of updating ordinances to comply with the new law.

If you have questions regarding the Maine Uniform Building Code please contact our Phil Saucier, psaucier@bernsteinshur.com or any member of our Municipal Department at our Portland office, 774-1200 or Augusta office, 623-1596.