



New Castle County Government Center
87 Reads Way
New Castle, DE 19720
Department of Land Use - Building Inspections

Date: **March 10, 2010**
Subject: **Concrete Sidewalks**
References: **2003 International Residential Code**

This Staff Code Interpretation is intended to be used to clarify Section R402.2 (Concrete) in the above referenced Code Edition.

Below is the exact text from the section of the 2003 International Residential Code in question.

Section R402.2, Concrete. Concrete shall have a minimum specified compressive strength as shown in Table R402.2. Concrete subject to weathering in Table R301.2(1) shall be air entrained as specified in Table R402.2. The maximum weight of fly ash, other pozzolans, silica fume, or slag that is included in concrete mixtures for garage floor slabs and for exterior porches, carport slabs, and steps that will be exposed to deicing chemicals shall not exceed the percentages of the total weight of cementitious materials specified in ACI 318. Materials used to produce concrete and testing thereof shall comply with the applicable standards listed in ACI 318. In addition to the cements permitted by ACI 318, cement complying with ASTM C 1157 is permitted.

Question: Does the minimum specified compressive strength of concrete set forth in Table R402.2, as well as Sec. R402.2, include concrete sidewalks associated with the dwelling?

Answer: The requirements are not applicable if the concrete flat work is not a portion of any of the elements indicated on Table R402.2.

NCC Stance: On-lot sidewalks are not listed as an element on Table R402.2 and are exempt from the requirements of Section R402.2.

Code Updates: This Code Opinion is unaffected by the adoption of the 2015 IRC.

George O. Haggerty
Code Official

STAFF CODE INTERPRETATION