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CODE INTERPRETATION

Subject:	Compaction of Plumbing and Utility Trenches Complying With Soils Report	**Code Interpretation**	09-IBC-002
Code:	IBC 1704.7	**Effective Date:**	06/01/08
Edition:	2006	**Revised Date:**	03/11/09

A. Code Requirement

The International Building Code 1704.7 states that "Special inspections for existing site soil conditions, fill placement and load-bearing requirements shall be required by this section and Table 1704.7 and the documents prepared by the registered design professional in responsible charge shall be used to determine compliance."

B. Interpretation

The load-bearing capacity of the supporting soil has a significant impact on the structural integrity of any building. Use of proper compaction, lift and density, however, is critical to achieving the desired bearing capacity. Without observing and documenting that the proper material is used and the proper compaction techniques and lifts are used, the specific load-bearing capacity may not be achieved.

C. Rationale

All plumbing and utility trenches within slab boundaries and to a point of five feet from the slab edge must be compacted as prescribed in the soils report for said project. It is the responsibility of the owner or the builder to hire a third party special inspector to test the compaction and moisture content of the areas that have been re-compacted due to trenching. The engineer on staff must seal the testing reports and they become the responsible party.

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