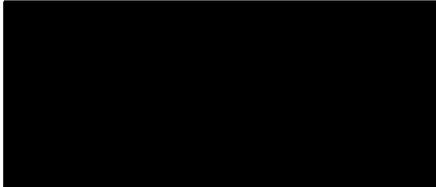




25 August 2009



On behalf of the Honourable Tony Clement, thank you for your email of July 22, 2009, regarding your views on the availability of the National Construction Codes. The National Construction Codes, including the National Building Code of Canada, published by the National Research Council of Canada (NRC) are model documents only and are not part of the federal regulations which can be accessed free of charge by the public. They do not become regulations until they are adopted by the provinces, territories or municipalities. The policy on public access to regulations differs in each jurisdiction.

As for why the National Construction Codes are sold at market value, please note that the Codes are sold on a cost-recovery basis and that considerable expenses, such as committees costs for developing code content, research, publishing tools as well as printing and distribution costs, are incurred to develop and produce the information they and other construction standards contain, and these expenses are funded in large part from the sale of the code documents (either in hardcopy or electronic versions). The Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC), funded by code sales and NRC, is responsible for developing and updating the National Construction Codes. It relies on hundreds of committee members from industry, the regulatory community and general interest groups from all provinces and territories who advise the CCBFC on technical issues and recommended changes to the Codes. Ongoing development of the National Construction Codes, based on sound research, is necessary so future editions can reflect improvements in technology, address emerging health and safety issues and continue to meet the evolving needs of the construction industry.

Please note that as an alternative to buying hardcopies of the National Construction Codes, users can purchase an annual or 10-day subscription to view the Codes on the Web, resulting in up to 60% savings compared to the price of the hardcopies. To review your purchasing options, please visit the NRC Virtual Store at www.nrc.gc.ca/virtualstore.

I trust that this information is helpful.

Yours sincerely,



Marielle Piché