



THE CITY OF ASPEN

MEMORANDUM OF POLICY

Building Codes

FROM: Stephen Kanipe

DATE: August 1, 2005

APPROVED: Stephen Kanipe, C.B.O.
Chief Building Official

DATE: August 1, 2005

SUBJECT: **Stair Tread Material and Design**

The 2003 International Building Code (IBC) Section 1009.5.1 requires that “Stairway treads and landings shall have a solid surface.” ICC/ ANSI A117.1 2003 Section 504.4 Tread Surfaces refers to the Section 302.3 entitled Openings: “Openings in floor surfaces shall be of a size that does not allow the passage of a 1/2 inch diameter sphere. Elongated openings shall be placed such that the long dimension is perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel.” These requirements for stair tread materials are in direct conflict.

It is the policy of this jurisdiction that reasonable efforts be made to comply with the requirements of IBC Section 1009.5.1 and 1009.5 requiring stairways and walking surfaces to be of solid surfaces and protected from rain, snow and ice to prevent the build up of snow and ice and prevent a slipping hazard.

In situations where strict compliance with the IBC cannot be practicably met, this jurisdiction will consider an alternate method of design per IBC Section 104.11. An open tread that does not allow a 3/8 inch diameter sphere to pass through with the long dimension in elongated openings perpendicular to the dominant direction of travel and a maintenance schedule to prevent the build up of snow and ice shall be submitted when applying for this alternate method of approval.