

CITY OF SAN ANTONIO
Planning and Development Services Department
MEMORANDUM

TO: PDS Associates
FROM: Roderick Sanchez, AICP, CBO - Building Official
DATE: January 8, 2010
FILE: Code Interpretation Manual

INTERPRETATION NUMBER: CI2010-003

TITLE: Guards for one- and two-family dwellings

CODE EDITION: 2009 *International Residential Code* (IRC) as amended by COSA

SECTION: R312.1

PURPOSE: To clarify whether guards are required along sidewalks, driveways, yards or typical residential landscaping elements associated with one- and two-family dwellings.

QUESTION: Is it the intent of Section R312.1 to require guards along sidewalks, driveways, yards or typical residential landscaping elements associated with one- and two-family dwellings?

ANSWER: No. Section R312.1 requires guards along all open-sided walking surfaces (including stairs, ramps, landings, etc.) *that are within the scope of the IRC.* The IRC does not regulate sidewalks, driveways, yards, or typical residential landscaping elements for guard requirements.

NOTE: Please refer to International Code Council's publication entitled "Significant Changes to the International Residential Code, 2009 Edition" for further information on this topic.



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