



[Building Code Discussions Group \(BCDG\)](#) [Student Version \(SV\)](#)

<http://bcodes.infopop.cc/eve>

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1. What is the BCDG, Student Version (SV)?

The BCDG is a powerful Online Community accessed only by "Premium Members". The Premium Membership- Student Version of the BCDG, "BCDG -SV", is a special version of the BCDG that will be offered at a reduced cost (\$25/year) to currently-enrolled full-time students that meet specific qualifications criteria.

The "BCDG- SV" is offered by the Administrator at a reduced yearly cost to qualified students, as a powerful resource that can be used while they are at school.

2. Who can be a member of "BCDG SV"?

To be a member of "BCDG -SV" you must qualify. The qualifications are listed below:

- 1) Currently enrolled full-time students (i.e. taking at least 12 units) in an Architecture, Engineering, Interior Design, Building Technology or Building Inspection Program.
- 2) The school which you attend is either a college or other recognized training facility.

3) Within 14 days of “BCDG- SV” activation, fax to (559)272-2110, or email: imad@bcodes.com, the current registration/class roster showing classes enrolled in the current semester. If the enrollment information is not provided to the Administrator within 14 days of the “BCDG SV” activation, the membership will be terminated and fee refunded.

3. How can students benefit from the BCDG?

Anyone dealing with the building codes, construction, design, inspection, code enforcement, legal topics related to codes, development and the permitting process will greatly benefit from using the BCDG. Students and individuals starting out in the design and code enforcement arenas will receive massive amount of practical cross training related to all the codes by reading the Q&A available on the BCDG forums.

Students in architecture, engineering, interior design, building inspection and building technology programs can benefit by:

A. Reading the daily Q&A is a powerful “Continuing Education” for all current and proposed codes, upcoming changes to the codes, news and legislation affecting design and construction and related topics. It will compliment and enhance your learning of the building codes and provide you with practical means to learn, apply and comply with the codes.

B. Ability to post code-related questions for the BCDG membership to answer. Any construction code question is fair game. Ever wanted to know why a code section is asking for something? Need an alternate design critique by the professional membership? Need second opinions from practicing professionals? You can get your needs met by asking away and having the BCDG assist you.

C. Ability to upload design sketches for the membership to comment on. You literally have thousands of experienced professionals from throughout the US helping you with code-related compliance and alerting you for potential problems in the design or code analysis.

D. Ability to search thousands of previous code discussions (current and archived) instantly by “key word” or by using the advanced search functions across all the forums. Most of your questions will be answered by the previous Q&A. If you cannot find exactly what you are looking for, then post it! Within hours (sometimes minutes) the responses start pouring in.

E. Ability to customize the BCDG features such as alerts and notifications. If you want to follow a specific member’s posts, you can easily do that. If you want to follow a certain discussion, you can do that too. It all comes to you via email.

4. How do I become a “BCDG SV Premium Member” and start using the BCDG?

As a student, you can participate on the BCDG by becoming a “BCDG SV Premium Member”. **Only Premium Members can access the BCDG forums; read, post, upload documents for review, research thousands of previous and current code discussions and interact with other professionals on the BCDG.**

Premium Membership is a simple two-step process, in this order:

1) **STEP#1:** Becoming a registered member of the BCDG. This allows you to choose a username and password. You can start from here:

<http://bcodes.infopop.cc/eve/login>

Existing members of the BCDG have this step completed already (*i.e. they have a username and password that they used in the past to access the BCDG*).

STEP #1 would then apply to brand new members that have not used the BCDG before!

2) **STEP#2:** Transition your registered membership (*which you completed in STEP#1*) into a "Premium BCDG SV Membership". To select a Premium Membership, you can use this link: <http://bcodes.infopop.cc/eve/premium>

3) **STEP#3:** Provide the following information to the Administrator within 14 days to complete your qualification process of "BCDG SV":

A) Information showing full-time current enrollment paperwork.

B) Fax to (559)272-2110 or email to: imad@bcodes.com, your current registration/class roster showing classes enrolled in the current semester. If the enrollment information is not provided to the Administrator within 14 days of the "BCDG SV" activation, the membership will be terminated.

5. Which forums are the most active on the BCDG?

There are 24 different technical forums on the BCDG. Any code or design related question or discussion should fit in one of these forums.

The top three forums in terms of Q&A and traffic are:

- Disabled Access/ADA/ADAAG
- Exiting (Means of Egress)
- Fire Resistive Construction

6. What do the symbols mean after each member's name when they post/reply on the BCDG?

We're glad you asked! When you are a new member on the BCDG, you start off by being a "Member" of the community. Once you reach 50 points (i.e. you have 50 posts or more under your belt), then you become a "Copper Member".

After that,

At 250 you are "Silver Member"

At 500, a "Gold Member"

At 750 and above, you reach the pinnacle of membership participation by becoming a "Platinum Member"

Bottom line- your membership designation denotes your level of participation and involvement on the BCDG. The movers and shakers on the BCDG, if you will, would be the “Gold” and “Platinum” members since they are doing most of the work in the community and helping field the daily technical questions.

7. What is Term of Service (TOS) and do I have to accept it?

The [TOS \(http://bcodes.infopop.cc/eve/tos\)](http://bcodes.infopop.cc/eve/tos) represents the rules and regulations that govern the BCDG. It contains the purpose, rules and disclaimers. When you first join the BCDG, you must read and accept the TOS before your membership is accepted. You should read the TOS thoroughly to make sure you will abide with its terms. If you do not accept the TOS, you are not permitted to join the BCDG. A link to TOS appears on the bottom of each BCDG page that you can review at any time.

8. Can the responses, comments or interpretations on the BCDG be considered acceptable official interpretations by the Authority Having Jurisdiction (AHJ), such as Building and Fire Departments?

No. The comments and posts on the BCDG are opinions of the individual members. Although, the majority of the contributing members on the BCDG are qualified and experienced, the comments should be considered professional opinions of the posting member only. Official interpretations to code-related items are reserved to the AHJ. The AHJ has no obligation whatsoever to accept the opinions expressed on the BCDG.

None of the posts should be construed legal opinions on any matter. As an end user, you should consult with your own Legal Council for any legal matter.

Many AHJ will entertain the opinions voiced on the BCDG; realize and appreciate the benefits of having second opinions, well-researched code analysis and the expertise presented by the BCDG membership. You are advised to read the Terms of Service ([TOS](#)) if you have any further questions.

9. Will all my questions get answered and how do I know who answered them?

The vast majority of the questions posted on the BCDG get answered. But there is no guarantee that every question will be answered. It may not be the answer you hoped for, but the contributing members usually provide practical, well-researched responses and professional opinions based on their expertise and experience with the subject. The “checks and balances” built into the BCDG (i.e. by having a large membership read, evaluate and correct each other as part of the Q&A) provides the end user with the best possible professional opinions and interpretations by accessing and leveraging the combined knowledge base of the membership.

You increase your chances of getting responses by locating your question in the appropriate forum; providing a short and “catchy” title in the subject line; and providing a concise, specific and easy-to-follow questions. Adding images and drawings that relate to your post, as attachments; when applicable, also helps.

To find out who answered your question, simply double-click on the responder’s screen name, and choose “view public profile”.

10. I still have questions, who can I contact?

At any time during your membership period, you can forward your emails with specifics to imad@bcodes.com for immediate attention. We can also assist you during the registration process or while using any of the BCDG powerful features. For additional information regarding use of the BCDG’s features and functions, you may want to read these FAQ’s:

<http://bcodes.infopop.cc/eve/faq>