



## STATE OF RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION  
BUILDING CODE COMMISSION  
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### MEMORANDUM

**Project:** CELL TOWER COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND EQUIPMENT PERMITTING  
**To:** ALL PERMIT APPLICANTS  
**CC:** BUILDING DEPARTMENTS / FILE  
**From:** Warren J Ducharme  
**Date:** January 11, 2013  
**Re:** PERMIT REQUIREMENTS BUILDING AND ELECTRICAL

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#### WHAT TYPE OF PERMITS ARE REQUIRED FOR CELL COMMUNICATIONS RELATED WORK?

Several questions arise when permit expeditors apply for “Building Permits” to execute Cellular Communications tasks. This Memo is meant to address those typical issues in a general response. Contact this office for specific information on your particular project.

Permits to Build include the following; Building (Structures), Electrical (Wires and Devices) Mechanical (Equipment gasses etc) Plumbing (Water and Waste) .

Cell Towers and related structures require Building (Structural element) Permits.

Antennae, communication equipment and cable distribution systems, require Electrical Permits.

Building Permits are issued **ONLY to Registered Builders** so certified by the Rhode Island Contractors Registration Board. [www.crb.ri.gov](http://www.crb.ri.gov).

Electrical Permits are issued **ONLY to Licensed Electricians** so certified by the Rhode Island Department of Labor and Training <http://www.dlt.ri.gov/profregs/ElectricianMain.htm> . **NOTE:** By State Law RIGL 5-70 some Telecommunications Providers listed with the RI Public Utilities Commission may be exempt from license requirements but that exemption does not extend to required permits.

Support Structures other or Modular Pre-Fabricated Buildings must comply with the RI Building code for Modular Construction {SBC-1 **SECTION 425 MODULAR CONSTRUCTION**}. This requires compliance with the Interstate Industrialized Building Commission (<http://www.interstateibc.org/index.asp>) for certified Manufacturer and Inspection procedures as implemented through the State of Rhode Island Building Commission Offices. Cabinet type support enclosures must be listed and labeled and are considered Electrical Equipment or Apparatus as defined in the current Electric Code {RISBC-5}.

**NOTE:** Communication equipment located on or near occupied buildings must submit EME interaction and intensity plans for our consideration. This office will require that the placement of the transmitting antennae be such that the adjacent occupied areas be designated below at a “Power density that is less than the FCC’s uncontrolled MPE” at a minimum standard that provides that designation at or above the elevation of the roof surface.