STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION FORM	STATE BUILDING COMMISSION One Capitol Hill Providence, RI. 02908-5859 (401) 222-3033	Code Interpretation No. 2010.005 Code Section Date of Staff Preparation 5-12-2011

INQUIRER General TITLE

JURISDICTION / ORGANIZATION Multiple Building and Fire Officials

ADDRESS TOWN STATE RI ZIP ALL

X	BUILDING CODE		1&2 FAMILY CODE		ELECTRICAL CODE
	MECHANICAL CODE		PLUMBING CODE		ENERGY CODE
	ACCESIBILITY CODE		FUEL AND GAS CODE	X	OTHER Transportation

QUESTION:
Relating to the placement of transportation shipping containers are they vehicles or structures when removed from their transport trailer frames and placed on the ground.

RESPONSE:
The Rhode Island Building Codes established under RIGL § 23-27.3-100 et al has jurisdiction over
§ 23-27.3-100.1.1 Chapter title – Applicability.
This chapter shall be known as the Rhode Island State Building Code hereinafter referred to as this code. This chapter shall control:
(1) The construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, demolition, removal, inspection, issuance, and revocation of permits or licenses, installation of equipment, classification and definition **of any building or structure, and use or occupancy of all buildings and structure and parts thereof**; …
§ 23-27.3-101.0 Matters covered.
The provisions of this code shall apply to all buildings and structures and their appurtenant constructions, including vaults, area, and street projections and accessory additions, and shall apply with equal force to municipal and state authorities established by the legislature and private buildings and structures, except where the buildings and structures are otherwise specifically provided for by statute.
The RIGL for motor vehicles **§ 31-3-2 Vehicles subject to registration** covers vehicles subject to registration.
Every motor vehicle, trailer, semi-trailer, pole trailer, motorized camper, tent trailer, travel trailer, pick-up coach and pick-up camper, owned by a resident of this state when operated or drawn upon a highway within this state for a period of thirty (30) days shall be subject to the registration provisions of chapters 3 – 9 of this title …

The Building code covers buildings or structures (that which is built) and the Transportation law covers Registered Vehicles (Motorized or Trailers). Some trailers carry Shipping Containers and when that container is in transit it is attached to a vehicle (trailer that is registered).

When such a shipping container is removed from the trailer the registered portion of the assembly drives away and the container is placed on site it becomes a structure subject to the jurisdiction and regulations of the Zoning, Fire, and Building codes.

PREPARED BY:	STATE BUILDING COMMISSIONER	DATE:
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