



New Castle County Government Center
87 Reads Way
New Castle, DE 19720
Department of Land Use - Building Inspections

Date: **September 22, 2010**
Subject: **Sales and Service Counters**
References: **2003 ICC A117.1**

This Staff Code Interpretation is intended to be used to clarify Section 904.3 (Sales and Service Counters) in the above referenced Code Edition.

Below is the exact text from the section of the 2003 ICC A117.1 in question.

Section 904.3 Sales and Service Counters. Sales and service counters shall comply with Section 904.3.1 or 904.3.2. The accessible portion of the countertop shall extend the same depth as the sales and service countertop.

Question: Is it the intent of Section 904.3 to require the countertop space provided be free of any obstructions? Would it be possible for someone to install cash registers on the accessible portion of the countertop and therefore reduce the area of the countertop?

Answer: The discussions during the development of this requirement were that there should be equal access to services and communication between the employee and customer. While there is no specific prohibitions of placing anything on this counter area, it is not the intent for the accessible portion to be 'blocked' while areas for standing customers were clear. At the same time, if every customer used the same counter space, providing less than a 36" width is permissible.

NCC Stance: Placing a cash register or other object on the accessible portion of the counter is allowed, provided that such an object does not result in less counter space than is provided for other patrons.

Code Updates: The adoption of the 2009 ICC A117.1 has made no change to this section.

George O. Haggerty
Code Official

STAFF CODE INTERPRETATION