

Notable Changes to the 2015 Code

The 2015 National Building Code (NBC) anticipated adoption date is January 1, 2018.

Prior to January 1, 2018 - Building permit applications that have been submitted with a full set of plans will be considered to be "in process" and will be assessed under the 2010 NBC.

On or after January 1, 2018 - Building permit applications will be assessed under the provisions of the 2015 NBC.

The NBC will be adopted and in force with the exception of Section 9.36, which contains the provisions related to the National Energy Code. This section is expected to be adopted in 2019.

Changes to Part 3 (include but are not limited to):

Definition: Buildings that fall under Part III: Assembly, Care, Treatment, Detention or High-hazard industrial occupancies, or any building exceeding 600 m². (6,458 ft²) in building area, or exceeding 3 stories in building height, require professional design and changes to meet the NBC will be the responsibility of the designer.

- Provisions for wood frame construction that exceeds 4 stories
- An extension of the definition of a closure to cover all aspects of a fire rated door assembly - meaning that hardware such as a door handle must meet requirements
- A requirement for smoke dampers in air-transfer openings
- The only location where combustible sprinkler piping can be used is in residential and light hazard occupancies
- Provision to apply the requirements of Part 6 to residential cooking equipment when used in a non-residential application
- A new section for Self-service Storage Buildings as well as defining the occupancy as Group F, Division 2 *major*
- A new requirement that the primary entrance doors to an assembly use serving more than 250 persons provide a minimum of half the required exit width
- Provisions for dealing with sound have changed
- Exit stair locations, landing dimensions, guards and rails have changed
- Barrier free provisions as noted below

3.8.3.11. Water-Closet Stalls

e) Be equipped with an L-shaped grab bar that;

i) Is mounted on the side wall closest to the water closet,

ii) Has horizontal and vertical components not less than 760 mm long mounted with the horizontal component 750 mm to 850 mm above the floor and the vertical component 150 mm in front of the water closet.

f) Be equipped with either one grab bar at least 600 mm long and centered over the water closet, or two grab bars at least 300 mm long and located either side of the flush valve are mounted on the rear wall, and are mounted at the same height as the grab bar on the side wall or 100 mm above the top of the attached water tank, if applicable.

Changes to Part 9: (include but are not limited to):

Definition: All buildings 3 stories or less in building height, having a building area not exceeding 600 m². and used for major occupancies classified as residential, business and personal services occupancies, mercantile occupancies, or medium and low-hazard industrial occupancies.

- The minimum tread width for private stairs has increased to 255mm (10") this will affect layout and design

- With the exception of a ramp serving a single dwelling unit, all ramps must be a minimum of 1100mm (3ft 7 1/4") wide
- Handrails must be continuous as they pass over an intermediate landing
- Changes to guards in some locations

9.8.8.6. Design of Guards to Not Facilitate Climbing

- 1) Except for *guards* in *industrial occupancies* that protect a level located more than 4.2 m above the adjacent level shall be designed so that no member, attachment or opening located between 140 mm and 900 mm above the level protected by the *guard* facilitates climbing.
 - New requirements for fire rated ceilings include fire-stop-flaps and fire blocking in concealed ceiling spaces:
 - Smoke alarms are now required in ancillary spaces in a dwelling with a secondary suite
 - There are now specific requirements for both EFIS systems such as acrylic stucco and other exterior insulation systems (compliance statements will be required on plan sets)
 - Laundry dryers must be vented to the exterior
 - New rules for the use of spray foam as duct insulation (i.e. coverage in a floor system for a garage bonus room)
 - There is a relaxation for the foundation of garages under 600 sq. ft. - a simple 4" concrete slab is now allowed. The City will accept both the current standard in use for a thickened slab or the simple 4" slab specified for garages under 600sq.ft.

Please Note: The 2015 NBC contains hundreds of changes. This handout only addresses those changes that are relatively common to small scale projects. In addition to the adoption of the 2015 NBC, the Province will also be amending *The Uniform Building and Accessibility Standards Act* which provides for Provincial amendments to the NBC.

Please Remember: The requirement for a 45 minute fire separation between a dwelling unit and attached garage was adopted into the City of Yorkton Building Bylaw No. 4/2017 on April 13, 2017