Building Code - Clarifications and Interpretations

Introduction

Consistency and fairness in the interpretation and application of the Building Code is paramount in maintaining the confidence of the development/design/construction community in the efficiency and integrity of the permit process. Citizens who may only apply for one permit must also view the permit process as evenhanded and rational. It is essential to the continued acceptance of the permit process and the resulting safety of the citizens of Chicago that all plans and applications are judged by the same standards.

The following paragraphs are Department of Buildings clarifications and interpretations of certain sections of the Building Code. These sections have come to require further explanation in order to resolve confusion over when and how they are intended to be applied.

Please bear in mind that each project is unique, and may include elements that make the guidelines presented here inapplicable. Where specific cases require additional analysis of the Code, the Building Commissioner or his/her designee will provide the definitive interpretation. In such cases, and as a general rule, the Municipal Code is the primary authority, and in case of any inconsistency between the Code and these guidelines, the Code should be followed.

Richard Monocchio, Commissioner

Department of Buildings

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<u>1.</u>	Administrative				
1.1	(13-32-310)(E)	Changes in Contractors or Owners after a permit is issued			
1.2	(13-32-035)	Assessing Stop Work Order (SWO) Fees			
2	Definition	20			
	2. Definitions (Not used)				
(1101)	useu)				
<u>3.</u>	Use and Occupancy				
3. 3.1	(13-64-020)	Wood framing into masonry walls			
3.2	(13-64-090)	Exterior stairway serving 2nd floor of single family residence			
3.3	(13-56-300)	Health clubs & fitness centers policy			
3.4	(13-56-300)	Occupancy content - Residential roof decks,			
3.5	(13-56-310)	Occupancy content - Floor area per person			
3.6	(13-84-050)(c)	Bathroom doors in school corridors			
3.7	(13-56-080)	Assembly Occupancy - Classification			
	& (13-56-090)	• •			
3.8	(13-84-331)	Automatic sprinkler system required in basement areas of			
		night clubs or restaurant			
<u>4.</u>	Special detailed requirements based on Use and Occupancy				
4.1	(13-96-250)	Private garage, one per Building			
4.2	(13-96-280)	Access to a public-way from the rear exit for single family			
	& (13-160-070)	residences and multiple dwelling units			
4.3	(13-76-100)(4)	Atriums			
4.4	(13-76-030)	Combined detection and voice communication			
4.5	(13-96-260)	Maximum height of private garages			
4.6	(4-95-052)	Massage parlors - Requirement for separate bathrooms			
5.	Building	Heights and Areas			
<u>5.</u> 5.1	(13-116-020)	Fire limits - Prohibited construction types			
5.2	(13-48-030)	Parking garages in residential buildings			
5.3	(13-48-030)	Retail occupancy in residential buildings			
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6.	Types of Construction				
6.1	(13-60-100)	Framing into walls			
6.2	(13-60-100)	Type III-B construction - One-hour floor system			
6.3	(13-60-010)	Mixed construction types			
6.4	(13-60-140)	Fire protection for lintels			

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<u>7. </u>	Fire Resistant Materials and Construction			
7.1	(15- 12-030)	Use of combustibles in Type III construction roof assemblies		
7.2	(15-8-322)	Wood frame balconies		
7.3	(15-8-210)	Combustible material used to enclose heating equipment		
	& (15-8-220)	rooms in Types III & IV construction		
7.4	(15-8-520)	Skylights and sloped glazing		
7.5	(15-8-110)	Protection of openings		
7.6	(15-12-160)	Size of fire rated windows		
7.7	(15-8-110)	Fire rated windows and the Energy Code		
7.8	(15-8-160)	Enclosure of pipe shafts and ducts		
7.9	(15-8-200)	Enclosure of heating plants & boilers		
7.10	(15-8-180)	Stairwell enclosure - Nonessential openings		
7.11	(15-8-140)	Convenient stairway enclosures		
7.12	(15-8-140)(b)	Convenient stairways - No enclosure required		
7.13	(15-8-323)	Weather protected entries		
7.14	(15-8-320)	Clarifications concerning combustible porch materials		
7.15	(15-8-322)	Clarification of the definition of 'balcony'		
7.16	(15-8-150)	Clarification of elevator enclosures		
7.17	(15-8-010)	See 3.1 for additional information		

8. Interior Finishes (Not used)

<u>9.</u>	Fire Protection Systems		
9.1	(15-16-1280)	Visual and audible fire alarm devices	
9.2	(18-27-760)	Remote power supply control unit Fire alarm system	
9.3	(15-16-350)	Buildings equipped with automatic sprinkler system	
4.0	3.5		
<u>10.</u>	Means of Egress		
10.1	(13-160-120)	Definition of travel distance	
10.2	(13-160-150)	Maximum travel distance - Permitted increase	
10.3	(13-160-090)	Direction in line of travel	
10.4	(13-160-250)	Power-operated sliding doors	
10.5	(13-160-250)	Sliding exit doors	
10.6	(13-160-269)	Electro-magnetic locks on egress doors	
10.7	(13-160-050)	Residential duplex units - exits	
10.8	(13-160-050)	Basement level - One exit (part I)	
10.9	(13-160-050)	Basement level - One exit (part II)	
10.10	(13-160-050)	Roof Deck - Exits	
10.11	(13-160-040)(d)	Stairway serving the roof deck	
	& (13-160-330)(a)(4)		
10.12	(13-160-310)(b)	Stairway landings	
10.13	(13-160-000)	Exits in existing buildings	
10.14	(13-160-050)(c)	Minimum number of exits from the 2nd floor of a single-	
		family residence	
10.15	(13-160-100)	Continuous means of exit - Stairs from a dwelling unit	
	•	connecting to a common exit stair	
10.16	(13-160-070)	Exits through storage areas in Mercantile buildings	

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11. Accessibility (Not used) 12. Interior Environment Natural light and ventilation (part I) (13-172)12.2 (13-172)**Natural light and ventilation (part II)** 13. Energy Conservation (Not used) 14. Exterior Walls (Not used) **15.** Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures (Not used) **Structural Loads** Replacement of roof decks Installed before 10/1/2003 **17.** Special Inspections and Tests (Not used) 18. Foundations and Retaining Walls (Not used) 19. Concrete (Not used) **20.** Aluminum (Not used) 22. Steel (Not used) 23. Wood (Not used) **25.** Gypsum Board and Plaster (Not used)

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26. (Not used) **Plastic 27.** Electrical (Not used) 28. Mechanical and Refrigeration (Not used) **Plumbing** (11-18-010) **Stormwater management** & (18-29-1101.2.1) & (18-29-1101.2.3) 29.2 (18-29-403.6) Location and availability of customer toilet facilities **Elevators and Other Conveying Systems** (Not used) 31. Special Construction (Not used) 32. Encroachments into the Public Right-of-Way (Not used) Safeguards During Construction (13-124-320)Stair railings and guardrails 34. Repair, Alterations, and Occupancy Changes Exit requirements - Assembly and Institutional occupancies 34.1 (13-200-330)34.2 (13-200-200)Change of occupancy 34.3 (13-200-380)Light and ventilation requirements - Existing buildings Replacement of existing porches and decks 34.4 (13-200-260)Materials and installation standards for retrofit fire 34.5 (13-196-205) & (13-196-207) protection systems **Maintenance of Existing Buildings**

END

36. Referenced Standards

(Not used)

(Not used)

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