



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

FLORIDA BUILDING CODE, BUILDING

6TH EDITION (2017)

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE
FLORIDA BUILDING CODE, BUILDING**

6th Edition (2017)

International Code Council

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ISBN: 978-1-60983-708-2

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First Printing: August 2017

PRINTED IN THE U.S.A.

Contents



PART 1

Administration Chapters 1 and 2

- **101.2**
Exempt Residential Accessory Structures 2
- **111.1**
Change of Use or Occupancy 4
- **202**
Definition of Horizontal Exit 6
- **202**
Definition of Platform 7
- **202**
Definition of Private Garage 8
- **202**
Definition of Treated Wood 9

PART 2

Building Planning Chapters 3 through 6

- **304.1**
Food Processing Facilities
and Commercial Kitchens 13
- **304.1**
Training and Skill Development Facilities 15
- **306.2**
Food Processing Facilities
and Commercial Kitchens 17
- **308.3**
Group I-1 Occupancy Classification 19

- **308.4**
Group I-2 Occupancy Classification 21
- **310.5**
Group R-3 Lodging Houses 23
- **310.6**
Group R-4 Occupancy Classification 25
- **311.1.1**
Classification of Accessory Storage Spaces 27
- **403.1, Exception Items 3 and 5**
Applicability of High-Rise Provisions 28
- **404.5, Exception**
Atrium Smoke Control in Group I
Occupancies 30
- **404.9, 404.10**
Egress Travel through an Atrium 31
- **406.3.1**
Private Garage Floor-Area Limitation 32
- **406.3.2**
Private Parking Garage Ceiling Height 34
- **407.2.5**
Group I-2 Shared Living Spaces 35
- **407.2.6**
Group I-2 Cooking Facilities 37
- **407.5**
Maximum Size of Group I-2 Smoke
Compartments 40
- **410.3.5**
Horizontal Sliding Doors at Stage
Proscenium Opening 42

■ 412.7	Travel Distance in Aircraft Manufacturing Facilities	44	■ 706.2	Structural Stability of Fire Walls	86
■ 503	General Building Height and Area Limitations	46	■ 709.4	Continuity of Smoke Barriers	87
■ Tables 504.3, 504.4	Building Height and Number of Stories	48	■ 711, 712	Horizontal Assemblies and Vertical Openings	89
■ 505.2.3, Exception 2	Mezzanine Openness	50	■ 714.4.2	Membrane Penetrations	95
■ Table 506.2	Building Area	52	■ 717.1.1	Ducts Transitioning between Shafts	97
■ 507.1	Basements in Unlimited Area Buildings	54	■ 717.3, 717.5	Corridor Dampers	99
■ 507.9	Group H-5 in Unlimited Area Buildings	55	■ 903.2.1.6	Sprinkler Systems—Assembly Occupancies	103
■ Table 509	Fire Protection from Incidental Uses	57	■ 903.2.1.7	Multiple Fire Areas	105
■ 510.2	Horizontal Building Separation	61	■ 903.2.8	Sprinkler Systems—Group R Occupancies	107
■ Table 601, Footnote d	One-Hour Substitution	64	■ 903.3.1.1.2	Exempt Locations for NFPA 13 Sprinklers	109
■ 602.4	Type IV Member Size Equivalencies	66	■ 903.3.1.2.2	Open-Ended Corridors	111
■ 602.4.2	Cross-Laminated Timber in Exterior Walls	68	■ 903.3.8	Limited Area Sprinkler Systems	113
■ 603.1, Item 26	Wall Construction of Freezers and Coolers	69	■ 904.13	Domestic Cooking Systems in Group I-2 Condition 1	116
PART 3			■ 907.2.3	Fire Alarms—Group E Occupancies	118
Fire Protection			■ 907.2.9.3	Alarm Systems—Group R-2 College and University Buildings	120
Chapters 7 through 9			■ 907.2.11.3, 907.2.11.4	Smoke Alarms near Cooking Appliances and Bathrooms	122
■ 704.4	Protection of Secondary Members	73	■ 909.21.1	Elevator Hoistway Pressurization	124
■ 705.2	Projections at Exterior Walls	75	■ 910	Smoke and Heat Removal	128
■ 705.2.3	Combustible Projections	78	PART 4		
■ 705.3	Buildings on the Same Lot	79	Means of Egress		
■ 705.6	Structural Element Bracing of Exterior Walls	82	Chapter 10		
■ 705.8.5	Vertical Separation of Openings	84	Chapter 10		
			Means of Egress		
			135		
			Chapter 10		
			Means of Egress		
			136		

■ 1004.1.1 Cumulative Occupant Loads	137	■ 1603.1.8 Special Loads	182
■ Table 1004.1.2 Occupant Load Factors	139	■ 1604.3 Serviceability	183
■ 1006, 1007 Numbers of Exits and Exit Access Doorways	141	■ 1604.5 Risk Category	186
■ 1007.1 Exit and Exit Access Doorway Configuration	146	■ 1607.5 Partition Loads	189
■ 1010.1.9 Door Operations—Locking Systems	148	■ 1607.9 Impact Loads for Façade Access Equipment	190
■ 1011.15, 1011.16 Ladders	152	■ 1607.12 Roof Loads	192
■ 1014.8 Handrail Projections	154	■ 1607.12.5 Photovoltaic Panel Systems	194
■ 1016.2 Egress through Intervening Spaces	156	■ 1609.1.1 Determination of Wind Loads	196
■ 1017.2.2 Travel Distance Increase for Groups F-1 and S-1	158	■ 1609.1.2 Projection of Openings in Windborne Debris Regions	198
■ 1018.3 Aisles in Groups B and M	161	■ 1708.3.2 Static Load Testing	202
■ 1020.2 Corridor Width and Capacity	163	■ 1711 Material and Test Standards	204
■ 1023.3.1 Stairway Extension	165	■ 1803.5 Investigated Conditions	207
■ 1029.13.2.2.1 Stepped Aisle Construction Tolerances	167	■ 1804.1 Excavation near Foundations	209
PART 5		■ 1808.3 Design Surcharge Loads	210
Accessibility		■ 1810.2.5 Group Effects	211
Chapter 11	169	■ 1810.3 Design and Detailing	212
PART 6		■ 1901.3 Anchoring to Concrete	214
Building Envelope, Structural Systems, and Construction Materials		■ 1901.4 Composite Structural Steel and Concrete Structures	217
Chapters 12 through 26	171	■ 1904 Durability Requirements	219
■ 1405.3 Vapor Retarders	173	■ 2101.2 Masonry Design Methods	221
■ 1507.1.1 Underlayment	176		
■ 1603.1.7 Flood Design Data	180		

vi CONTENTS

■ 2103	Masonry Construction Materials	223	■ 2406.4.7	Safety Glazing Adjacent to Bottom Stair Landing	243
■ 2104	Masonry Construction	227	■ Chapter 25	Gypsum Panel Products	245
■ 2105	Quality Assurance	229	■ 2612	Plastic Composites	248
■ 2210	Cold-Formed Steel	231			
■ 2211	Cold-Formed Steel Light-Frame Construction	232	PART 7		
■ 2303.1.4	Structural Glued Cross-Laminated Timber	234	Building Services, Special Devices, and Special Conditions		
■ 2303.1.13	Engineered Wood Rim Board	236	Chapters 27 through 34		251
■ 2304.6	Exterior Wall Sheathing	237	■ 2902.3	Public Toilet Facilities	252
■ 2304.10.6	Load Path	239	■ 3004	Elevator Hoistway Venting	254
■ 2304.12	Protection Against Decay and Termites	240	■ 3006	Elevator Lobbies	257
			■ 3109	Structures Seaward of a Coastal Construction Control Line	261

Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the Florida Building Code, Building 6th Edition (2017)* is to familiarize building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the construction industry with many of the important changes in the 6th Edition (2017) *Florida Building Code, Building* (FBCB). This publication is designed to assist those code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, understanding the reasons behind the changes. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions when the new code goes into effect.

Only a portion of the total number of code changes to the FBCB are discussed in this book. The changes selected were identified for a number of reasons, including their frequency of application, special significance, or change in application. However, the importance of those changes not included is not to be diminished. Further information on all code changes can be found in the Complete Revision History, available from the International Code Council® (ICC®) and www.floridabuilding.org. The resource collection provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the base code (2015 *International Building Code*®) since the 2012 edition. All Florida-specific amendments to the base code can be found under the “Proposed Code Modifications” at www.floridabuilding.org.

This book is organized into seven general categories, each representing a distinct grouping of code topics. It is arranged to follow the general layout of the FBCB, including code sections and section number format. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those significant code changes that occur in the 6th Edition (2017) *Florida Building Code, Building*.

Throughout the book, each change is accompanied by a photograph, an application example, or an illustration to assist and enhance the reader’s understanding of the specific change. A summary and a discussion of the significance of the changes are also provided. Each code change is identified by type, be it an addition, modification, clarification, or deletion.

The code change itself is presented in a format similar to the style utilized for code-change proposals. Deleted code language is shown with a strike-through, whereas new code text is indicated by underlining. As a

result, the actual 6th Edition (2017) code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 5th Edition (2014) language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the Florida Building Code, Building 6th Edition (2017)* is best used as a study companion to the 6th Edition (2017) FBCB. Because only a limited discussion of each change is provided, the code itself should always be referenced in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the code change and its application.

The commentary and opinions set forth in this text are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the ICC. In addition, they may not represent the views of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render interpretations of the FBCB. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by the code-change proponent.

Comments concerning this publication are encouraged and may be directed to the ICC at significantchanges@iccsafe.org.

About the *Florida Building Code*

The *Florida Building Code* is based on national model building codes and national consensus standards, which are amended where necessary for Florida's specific needs. It is applicable to private buildings in the State of Florida other than those specifically exempted by Section 553.73, Florida Statutes. It has been harmonized with the *Florida Fire Prevention Code*, which is developed and maintained by the Department of Financial Services, Office of the State Fire Marshal, to establish unified and consistent standards.

The base codes for the sixth edition (2017) of the *Florida Building Code* include the *International Building Code*®, 2015 edition; the *International Plumbing Code*®, 2015 edition; the *International Mechanical Code*®, 2015 edition; the *International Fuel Gas Code*®, 2015 edition; the *International Residential Code*®, 2015 edition; the *International Existing Building Code*®, 2015 edition; the *International Energy Conservation Code*®, 2015 edition; the *National Electrical Code*, 2014 edition; and substantive criteria from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers' (ASHRAE) Standard 90.1-2013. State and local codes adopted and incorporated into the code include the *Florida Building Code, Accessibility*, and special hurricane protection standards for the High-Velocity Hurricane Zone.

The code is composed of nine main volumes: the *Florida Building Code, Building*, which also includes state regulations for licensed facilities; the *Florida Building Code, Plumbing*; the *Florida Building Code, Mechanical*; the *Florida Building Code, Fuel Gas*; the *Florida Building Code, Existing Building*; the *Florida Building Code, Residential*; the *Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation*; the *Florida Building Code, Accessibility*; and the *Florida Building Code, Test Protocols for High-Velocity Hurricane Zones*. Chapter 27 of the *Florida Building Code, Building*, adopts the *National Electrical Code*, NFPA 70, by reference.

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About the International Code Council®

The International Code Council is a member-focused association dedicated to helping the building safety community and construction industry provide safe, sustainable and affordable construction through the development of codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes. ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES), a subsidiary of the International Code Council, has been the industry leader in performing technical evaluations for code compliance, fostering safe and sustainable design and construction.

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About the Building Officials Association of Florida

The Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) is a member-driven association dedicated to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the public through safe building practices. BOAF equips building professionals through education, advocacy, leadership and code development. For more information, visit www.boaf.net.