2025 Plumbing Code of New York State

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PREFACE

ABOUT THE NYS CODES

In 1978, the State Legislature added Article 11 to the Energy Law to provide for a comprehensive energy conservation construction code applicable to all public and private buildings in New York State (including buildings located in the City of New York). Article 11, consisting of sections 11-101 through 11-110 of the Energy Law, sets forth the process by which the State Energy Conservation Construction Code ("*Energy Code*") is to be developed, maintained, administered, and enforced for the conservation of energy in buildings in New York State. Both State government and local governments are participants in this process. In 1981, the New York State Legislature enacted legislation directing the development and implementation of an integrated, State-wide building and fire code. Prior to the adoption of this legislation, the decision as to whether to adopt and enforce a building and/or fire prevention code was left to the discretion of local governments in New York State. Many municipalities, primarily in the more developed and densely populated areas of the State, had adopted building and/or fire prevention codes. However, there were also many communities, mostly rural in nature, where no building or fire prevention code was in effect. In light of the perils posed by fire and inadequate building construction, the State Legislature adopted a new Article 18 of the Executive Law to provide for an integrated and comprehensive building and fire prevention code. Article 18, consisting of sections 370 through 383 of the Executive Law, sets forth the process by which the code is to be developed, maintained, administered, and enforced for the protection of all New Yorkers. Both State government and local governments are participants in this process. The code, called the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code ("*Uniform Code*"), took effect January 1, 1984 and prescribed minimum standards for both fire prevention and building construction. It is applicable in every municipality of the State except the City of New York, which was permitted to retain its own code. Although the *Uniform Code* took effect in 1984, its antecedents are much older. Beginning in the late 1940's, New York State began developing a code known as the State Building Construction Code, which provided standards for the construction of buildings and the installation of equipment therein. Developing and maintaining the State Building Construction Code eventually became the responsibility of the New York State Division of Housing and Community Renewal (DHCR). In the 1960's, DHCR began developing a second code, the State Building Conservation and Fire Prevention Code, to address fire safety practices in buildings. Both of these codes were applicable in a municipality only when affirmatively adopted by the governing body. The State Building Construction Code and the State Building Conservation and Fire Prevention Code were repealed effective January 1, 1984 when they were replaced by the *Uniform Code*.

Code Development Process

Responsibility for developing and maintaining the *Uniform Code* and the *Energy Code* is vested in the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council (the "Code Council"), a seventeen-member body chaired by the Secretary of State and composed of the Secretary of State, the State Fire Administrator, and fifteen other members appointed by the Governor (seven with consent of the Senate). The Code Council is required to meet at least quarterly but additional meetings may be called by the chair or by petition of five members of the Code Council.

Periodically both the *Uniform Code* and the *Energy Code* require amendment. The *Uniform Code* and the *Energy Code* are implemented via regulations, and any amendment of either code must be adopted pursuant to the rule making process set forth in the State Administrative Procedure Act ("SAPA"). In most situations, that process includes publishing a notice of proposed rule making in the New York State Register, specifying a period during which the public may submit comments on the proposed amendment (which, unless a different time frame is specified in statute, shall be at least sixty days) holding at least one hearing at which the public may present input regarding the proposed amendment, reviewing and assessing the comments and testimony received, and publishing a notice of adoption in the New York State Register. Generally, any amendment of the *Uniform Code* will become effective 90 days after publication of the notice of adoption; however, the Code Council has the authority to designate an earlier effective date if necessary to protect health, safety and security. An amendment of the *Energy Code* can be effective as early as the date of publication of the notice of adoption. However, when both the *Uniform Code* and *Energy Code* are amended at the same time, the effective dates are typically coordinated with each other. In addition, either code can be amended by adoption of an emergency rule, which can be effective as early as the date of filing of the notice of emergency adoption. New York's emergency rule making process allows an agency to adopt a rule on a temporary basis for a maximum of 90 days, at which time the emergency may be re-adopted, but each such re-adoption will be effective for a maximum of 60 days and to file for re-adoption the agency must also take action to initiate the proposal process to formally adopt the rule on a permanent basis. All rule-making activity is published on the website of the Division of Building Standards and Codes.

Coordination of the NYS-Codes

The coordination of technical provisions allows the NYS-Codes to be used as a complete set of complementary documents. Some technical provisions that are relevant to more than one subject area are duplicated in multiple New York State Codes.

INTRODUCTION TO THE PLUMBING CODE OF NEW YORK STATE

The *Plumbing Code of New York State* (PCNYS) regulates the design and installation of plumbing systems including the plumbing fixtures in all types of buildings except for detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses that are not more than three stories above grade in height. The regulations for plumbing systems in one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses are covered by the *Residential Code of New York State* (RCNYS). The *Plumbing Code of New York State* (PCNYS) addresses general plumbing regulations, fixture requirements, water heater installations and systems for water distribution, sanitary drainage, special wastes, venting,

storm drainage and medical gases. The *Plumbing Code of New York State* (PCNYS) does not address fuel gas piping systems as those systems are covered by the *Fuel Gas Code of New York State* (FGCNYS). This 2024 edition was developed as a derivative work of the 2024 edition of the International Plumbing Code® (IPC®) published by the International Code Council® (ICC®).

This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a plumbing code that adequately protects public health, safety and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

LETTER DESIGNATIONS IN FRONT OF SECTION NUMBERS

The bracketed letter designations for the party responsible for portions of this code are as follows:

ICC Code Development Committee

[A] = Administrative Code Development Committee
[BE] = IBC—Egress Code Development Committee
[BF] = IBC—Fire Safety Code Development Committee
[BG] = IBC—General Code Development Committee
[BS] = IBC—Structural Code Development Committee
[E] = Developed under the ICC's Standard Development Process
[EB] = International Existing Building Code Development Committee
[F] = International Fire Code Development Committee
[FG] = International Fuel Gas Code Development Committee
[M] = International Mechanical Code Development Committee
[P] = International Plumbing Code Development Committee
[SP] = International Swimming Pool and Spa Code Development Committee

New York State Code Development

[NY] = New York State Department of State

ARRANGEMENT AND FORMAT OF THE 2024 PCNYS

The format of the PCNYS allows each chapter to be devoted to a particular subject with the exception of Chapter 3, which contains general subject matters that are not extensive enough to warrant their own independent chapter.

The following table shows how the PCNYS is divided. The subsequent table shows PCNYS requirements that are correlated with other I-Codes. The chapter synopses detail the scope and intent of the provisions of the PCNYS.

CHAPTER TOPICS	
CHAPTERS	**SUBJECTS**
1, 2	Administration and Definitions
3	General Regulations
4	Fixtures, Faucets and Fixture Fittings
5	Water Heaters
6	Water Supply and Distribution
7	Sanitary Drainage
8	Indirect/Special Waste
9	Vents
10	Traps, Interceptors and Separators
11	Storm Drainage
12	Special Piping (Medical Gas)
13	Nonpotable Water Systems
14	Subsurface Graywater Soil Absorption
15	Referenced Standards
Appendices A–F	Appendices
Resource A	Plumbing Provisions Excerpted from ICC A117.1–2017 with Supplement 1

Building Code of New York State Correlated Topics

The PCNYS requirements for plumbing fixtures and toilet rooms are directly correlated with the requirements of the BCNYS. The following table shows chapters/sections of the PCNYS that are correlated with the BCNYS:

PCNYS/BCNYS CORRELATED TOPICS		
PCNYS CHAPTER/SECTION	**BCNYS CHAPTER/SECTION**	**SUBJECT**
Chapters 3, 4	Chapter 29	Plumbing fixtures and facilities

Chapter 1 Scope and Administration.

Chapter 1 establishes the limits of applicability of the code and describes how the code is to be applied and enforced. The provisions of Chapter 1 establish the authority and duties of the code official appointed by the *authority having jurisdiction* and also establish the rights and privileges of the design professional, contractor and property owner.

Chapter 2 Definitions.

Chapter 2 is the repository of the definitions of terms used in the body of the code. The user of the code should be familiar with and consult this chapter because the definitions are essential to the correct interpretation of the code and because the user may not be aware that a term is defined.

Chapter 3 General Regulations.

The content of Chapter 3 is often referred to as "miscellaneous," rather than general regulations. Chapter 3 contains safety requirements for the installation of all types of plumbing and nonplumbing fixtures.

Chapter 4 Fixtures, Faucets and Fixture Fittings.

Chapter 3 contains safety requirements for the installation of all types of plumbing and nonplumbing fixtures.

Chapter 5 Water Heaters.

Chapter 5 regulates the design, approval and installation of water heaters and related safety devices. The intent is to minimize the hazards associated with the installation and operation of water heaters.

Chapter 6 Water Supply and Distribution.

Chapter 6 regulates the supply of potable water from both public and individual sources to every fixture and outlet so that it remains potable. Chapter 6 also regulates the design of the water distribution system, which will allow fixtures to function properly and help prevent backflow conditions.

Chapter 7 Sanitary Drainage.

The purpose of Chapter 7 is to regulate the materials, design and installation of sanitary drainage piping systems and connections made to the system. The intent is to design and install sanitary drainage systems that will function reliably, that are neither undersized nor oversized and that are constructed from materials, fittings and connections as prescribed herein.

Chapter 8 Indirect/Special Waste.

Chapter 8 regulates drainage installations that require an indirect connection to the sanitary drainage system. Fixtures and plumbing appliances, such as those associated with food preparation or handling, health care facilities and potable liquids, must be protected from contamination that can result from connection to the drainage system.

Chapter 9 Vents.

Chapter 9 covers the requirements for vents and venting. Venting protects every trap against the loss of its seal.

Chapter 10 Traps, Interceptors and Separators.

Chapter 10 contains design requirements and installation limitations for traps. Requirements for the design and location of various types of interceptors and separators are provided.

Chapter 11 Storm Drainage.

Chapter 11 regulates the removal of storm water. The proper installation of a storm drainage system reduces the possibility of structural collapse of a flat roof and prevents damage to the footings and foundation of the building.

Chapter 12 Special Piping and Storage Systems.

Chapter 12 contains the requirements for the design, installation, storage, handling and use of nonflammable medical gas systems, including inhalation anesthetic and vacuum piping systems, bulk oxygen storage systems and oxygen-fuel gas systems used for welding and cutting operations.

Chapter 13 Nonpotable Water Systems.

Chapter 13 regulates the design and installation of nonpotable water systems, including rainwater harvesting systems. The need for a reduction of potable water use in buildings has led building designers to utilize nonpotable water in building applications.

Chapter 14 Subsurface Graywater Soil Absorption Systems.

Chapter 14 regulates the design and installation of subsurface graywater soil absorption systems for the disposal of on-site nonpotable water such as graywater. The reduction of potable water use in buildings has led building designers in some jurisdictions to use on-site nonpotable water in building applications such as landscape irrigation.

Chapter 15 Referenced Standards.

Chapter 15 lists all of the product and installation standards and codes that are referenced throughout Chapters 1 through 14 and includes identification of the promulgators and the section numbers in which the standards and codes are referenced. As stated in Section 102.8, these standards and codes become an enforceable part of the code (to the prescribed extent of the reference) as if printed in the body of the code.

Appendix A RESERVED.

Appendix B Rates of Rainfall for Various Cities.

Appendix B provides specific rainfall rates for major cities in the United States.

Appendix C Structural Safety.

Appendix C is provided to direct the user to a registered design professional for the cutting, notching and boring of structural steel members.

Appendix D Degree Day and Design Temperatures.

Appendix D provides valuable temperature information for designers and installers of plumbing systems in areas where freezing temperatures might exist.

Appendix E Sizing of Water Piping System.

Appendix E provides two recognized methods for sizing the water service and water distribution piping for any structure.

Appendix F RESERVED.

Resource A Plumbing Provisions Excerpted from ICC A117.1–2017 with Supplement 1, Standard for Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities.

Building accessibility is a fundamental tenet in the International Codes. The codes rely on the provisions contained in ICC A117.1 for the design and construction of accessible buildings. Accessible plumbing facilities and fixtures play a key role in making sure that all aspects of the building provide the requisite level of accessibility. ICC A117.1 is referenced in Sections 404.2 and 410.3.

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