SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

FLORIDA BUILDING CODE, BUILDING

6TH EDITION (2017)
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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 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.