FLORIDA BUILDING CODE Seventh Edition (2020)

Mechanical
PREFACE

History

The State of Florida first mandated statewide building codes during the 1970s at the beginning of the modern construction boom. The first law required all municipalities and counties to adopt and enforce one of the four state-recognized model codes known as the “state minimum building codes.” During the early 1990s a series of natural disasters, together with the increasing complexity of building construction regulation in vastly changed markets, led to a comprehensive review of the state building code system. The study revealed that building code adoption and enforcement was inconsistent throughout the state and those local codes thought to be the strongest proved inadequate when tested by major hurricane events. The consequences of the building codes system failure were devastation to lives and economies and a statewide property insurance crisis. The response was a reform of the state building construction regulatory system that placed emphasis on uniformity and accountability.

The 1998 Florida Legislature amended chapter 553, Florida Statutes, Building Construction Standards, to create a single state building code that is enforced by local governments. As of March 1, 2002, the Florida Building Code, which is developed and maintained by the Florida Building Commission, supersedes all local building codes. The Florida Building Code is updated every three years and may be amended in the interim in accordance with criteria set out in section 553.73, Florida Statutes.

Scope

The Florida Building Code is based on national model building codes and national consensus standards, in addition to Florida-specific provisions. The code incorporates all building construction-related regulations for public and 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.

Under certain strictly defined conditions, local governments may amend technical requirements to be more stringent than the code. All local technical amendments to the Florida Building Code must be adopted in accordance with the requirements of section 553.73(4), Florida Statutes, and reported to the Florida Building Commission, then posted on www.floridabuilding.org in legislative format for 30 days prior to being enforced. Local amendments to the Florida Building Code and the Florida Fire Prevention Code may be obtained from the Florida Building Commission website, or from the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation or the Florida Department of Financial Services, Office of the State Fire Marshal, respectively.
Adoption and Maintenance

An updated edition of the Florida Building Code is adopted triennially by the Florida Building Commission. The code may also be amended between updates in order to incorporate the Florida Building Commission’s interpretations into the code, address conflicts, and update standards, among other statutorily specified reasons. Minimum requirements for permitting, plans review and inspections are established by the code, and local jurisdictions may adopt additional administrative requirements that are more stringent. Local technical amendments are subject to strict criteria established by section 553.73(4), Florida Statutes. They are subject to Commission review during each triennial update of the code, and may be either adopted into the updated edition of the code or repealed. Local technical amendments are also subject to appeal according to the procedures established by section 553.73(4), Florida Statutes.

Eleven Technical Advisory Committees (TACs), which are constituted consistent with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Guidelines, review proposed code changes and clarifications of the code and make recommendations to the Commission. These TACs whose membership is constituted consistent with American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Guidelines include: Accessibility; Joint Building Fire (a joint committee of the Commission and the State Fire Marshal); Building Structural; Code Administration/Enforcement; Electrical; Energy; Mechanical; Plumbing and Fuel Gas; Roofing; Swimming Pool; and Special Occupancy (state agency construction and facility licensing regulations).

The Commission may only issue official code interpretations using procedures set out by Chapter 120, Florida Statutes. To obtain such an interpretation, a request for a declaratory statement must be made to the Florida Building Commission in a manner that establishes a clear set of facts and circumstances and identifies the section of the code in question. Requests are analyzed by staff, reviewed by the appropriate Technical Advisory Committee, and sent to the Florida Building Commission for action. These interpretations establish precedents for situations having similar facts and circumstances and are typically incorporated into the code in the next code amendment cycle. Non-binding interpretations are available from the Building Officials Association of Florida’s website (www.BOAF.net) and a binding interpretation process is available online at www.floridabuilding.org.

Marginal Markings


Sections deleted from the base code are designated “Reserved” in order to maintain the structure of the base code.

Italicized Terms

Selected terms set forth in Chapter 2, Definitions, are italicized where they appear in code text. Such terms are not italicized where the definition set forth in Chapter 2 does not impart the intended meaning in the use of the term. The terms selected have definitions that the user should read carefully to facilitate better understanding of the code.

Acknowledgments

The Florida Building Code is produced through the efforts and contributions of building designers, contractors, product manufacturers, regulators and other interested parties who participate in the Florida Building Commission’s consensus processes, Commission staff and the participants in the national model code development processes.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**CHAPTER 1  SCOPE AND ADMINISTRATION . . . . 1**

**PART 1—SCOPE AND APPLICATION. .......... 1**

Section

101 General ................................. 1
102 Applicability (Reserved) ................. 1

**PART 2—ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT. .......... 1**

103 Department of Mechanical Inspection (Reserved) ........................ 1
104 Duties and Powers of the Code Official (Reserved) ......................... 1
105 Approval (Reserved) ...................... 1
106 Permits (Reserved) ...................... 1
107 Inspections and Testing (Reserved) ................. 1
108 Violations (Reserved) ................... 1
109 Means of Appeal (Reserved) ............ 1
110 Temporary Equipment, Systems and Uses (Reserved) ................. 1

**CHAPTER 2  DEFINITIONS ................. 3**

Section

201 General ................................. 3
202 General Definitions .................... 3

**CHAPTER 3  GENERAL REGULATIONS ......... 15**

Section

301 General .................................. 15
302 Protection of Structure ............... 16
303 Equipment and Appliance Location ........ 17
304 Installation ............................... 17
305 Piping Support ......................... 19
306 Access and Service Space .......... 19
307 Condensate Disposal ................... 21
308 Clearance Reduction ................... 22
309 Temperature Control .................. 24
310 Explosion Control ..................... 24
311 Smoke and Heat Vents ............... 24
312 Heating and Cooling Load Calculations ................. 24

**CHAPTER 4  VENTILATION ................. 25**

Section

401 General .................................. 25
402 Natural Ventilation .................... 26
403 Mechanical Ventilation ............... 26
404 Enclosed Parking Garages .......... 29
405 Systems Control ....................... 29
406 Ventilation of Uninhabited Spaces .... 29
407 Ambulatory Care Facilities and Group I-2 Occupancies ................. 29

**CHAPTER 5  EXHAUST SYSTEMS .......... 35**

Section

501 General .................................. 35
502 Required Systems ...................... 36
503 Motors and Fans ....................... 43
504 Clothes Dryer Exhaust ............... 43
505 Domestic Kitchen Exhaust Equipment .... 45
506 Commercial Kitchen Hood Ventilation System Ducts and Exhaust Equipment .... 46
507 Commercial Kitchen Hoods .......... 51
508 Commercial Kitchen Makeup Air .... 54
509 Fire Suppression Systems .......... 54
510 Hazardous Exhaust Systems .......... 54
511 Dust, Stock and Refuse Conveying Systems ................. 57
512 Subslab Soil Exhaust Systems ........ 58
513 Smoke Control Systems .......... 58
514 Energy Recovery Ventilation Systems .... 62
515 Mausoleum Relief Vent .......... 62
516 Carbon Monoxide Control Systems .... 63

**CHAPTER 6  DUCT SYSTEMS .......... 65**

Section

601 General .................................. 65
602 Plenums ................................. 66
603 Duct Construction and Installation .... 68
604 Insulation ............................... 70
605 Air Filters ............................... 71
606 Smoke Detection Systems Control .... 71
607 Duct and Transfer Openings ...... 72
### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### CHAPTER 7  COMBUSTION AIR .............. 79
Section
701  General ........................................ 79

#### CHAPTER 8  CHIMNEYS AND VENTS .......... 81
Section
801  General ........................................ 81
802  Vents ........................................... 82
803  Connectors ...................................... 83
804  Direct-vent, Integral Vent and Mechanical Draft Systems .................. 84
805  Factory-built Chimneys .......................... 85
806  Metal Chimneys .................................. 86

#### CHAPTER 9  SPECIFIC APPLIANCES, FIREPLACES AND SOLID FUEL-BURNING EQUIPMENT ........ 87
Section
901  General ........................................ 87
902  Masonry Fireplaces .............................. 87
903  Factory-built Fireplaces ......................... 87
904  Pellet Fuel-burning Appliances ............... 87
905  Fireplace Stoves and Room Heaters .......... 87
906  Factory-built Barbecue Appliances .......... 87
907  Incinerators and Crematories ................ 87
908  Cooling Towers, Evaporative Condensers and Fluid Coolers ............... 88
909  Vented Wall Furnaces .......................... 88
910  Floor Furnaces ................................ 88
911  Duct Furnaces ................................ 89
912  Infrared Radiant Heaters ....................... 89
913  Clothes Dryers ................................ 89
914  Sauna Heaters ................................ 89
915  Engine and Gas Turbine-powered Equipment and Appliances ............... 89
916  Pool and Spa Heaters .......................... 89
917  Cooking Appliances ............................ 90
918  Forced-air Warm-air Furnaces .................. 90
919  Conversion Burners ............................. 90
920  Unit Heaters .................................. 90
921  Vented Room Heaters ........................... 90
922  Kerosene and Oil-fired Stoves ................. 90
923  Small Ceramic Kilns ............................ 90
924  Stationary Fuel Cell Power Systems .......... 90
925  Masonry Heaters ................................ 90
926  Gaseous Hydrogen Systems .................... 91
927  Radiant Heating Systems ....................... 91
928  Evaporative Cooling Equipment ............... 91
929  Large-diameter Ceiling Fans ................... 91

#### CHAPTER 10  BOILERS, WATER HEATERS AND PRESSURE VESSELS ....... 93
Section
1001  General ....................................... 93
1002  Water Heaters ................................ 93
1003  Pressure Vessels ............................... 93
1004  Boilers ........................................ 94
1005  Boiler Connections ............................. 95
1006  Safety and Pressure Relief Valves and Controls .......................... 95
1007  Boiler Low-water Cutoff ....................... 95
1008  Bottom Blowoff Valve ......................... 95
1009  Hot Water Boiler Expansion Tank ............ 96
1010  Gauges ........................................ 96
1011  Tests ......................................... 96

#### CHAPTER 11  REFRIGERATION ............... 97
Section
1101  General ....................................... 97
1102  System Requirements .......................... 97
1103  Refrigeration System Classification .......... 98
1104  System Application Requirements ............ 103
1105  Machinery Room, General Requirements .... 104
1106  Machinery Room, Special Requirements .... 105
1107  Refrigerant Piping ............................. 106
1108  Field Test ..................................... 107
1109  Periodic Testing ............................... 107

#### CHAPTER 12  HYDRONIC PIPING .......... 109
Section
1201  General ....................................... 109
1202  Material ....................................... 109
1203  Joints and Connections ........................ 110
1204  Pipe Insulation ................................ 111
1205  Valves ......................................... 112
1206  Piping Installation ............................. 112
1207  Transfer Fluid ................................. 112
1208  Tests ......................................... 112
1209  Embedded Piping ............................... 113
1210  Plastic Pipe Ground-source Heat Pump Loop Systems ...................... 113
### CHAPTER 13 FUEL OIL PIPING AND STORAGE .......................... 117

**Section**
- 1301 General .................................................. 117
- 1302 Material .................................................. 117
- 1303 Joints and Connections ................................. 117
- 1304 Piping Support ........................................... 118
- 1305 Fuel Oil System Installation ............................ 118
- 1306 Oil Gauging .............................................. 119
- 1307 Fuel Oil Valves ........................................... 119
- 1308 Testing .................................................. 119

### CHAPTER 14 SOLAR SYSTEMS ................. 121

**Section**
- 1401 General .................................................. 121
- 1402 Installation .............................................. 121
- 1403 Heat Transfer Fluids ................................. 122
- 1404 Materials ............................................... 122

### CHAPTER 15 REFERENCED STANDARDS .... 123

- **APPENDIX A** CHIMNEY CONNECTOR PASS-THROUGHS ............... 135
- **APPENDIX B** RECOMMENDED PERMIT FEE SCHEDULE ............. 137

**INDEX** .................................................. 139