

Transition to the 2007 Florida Codes

Update Overview



2007 Florida Building Code, Building

The 2007 *Florida Building Code, Building* is based on the 2006 *International Building Code* with amendments where necessary for Florida's specific needs. 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 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 Codes* supercede all local building codes. The *Florida Building Codes* are developed and maintained by the Florida Building Commission. It is updated every three years and may be amended annually to incorporate interpretations and clarifications.

Scope

The provisions of this code shall apply to the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, equipment, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, removal and demolition of every building or structure or any appurtenances connected or attached to such buildings or structures.

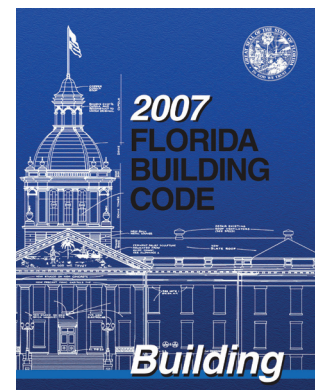
Content

This document provides an overview of the significant changes to the 2007 *Florida Building Code, Building* from the 2004 edition. This document is intended to be a comparative analysis of the significant differences between the 2004 and 2007 *Florida Building Code, Building*. The table is divided into three specific categories. The left two columns of the table contain the section and specific requirement from the 2004 *Florida Building Code, Building*. The next two columns contain the corresponding section and specific requirements from the 2007 *Florida Building Code, Building*. The right column provides an analysis, as applicable, of the significance of the change.

This overview book is categorized according to the following building code issues:

- **General Code Issues**
- **Fire Protection**
- **Means of Egress**
- **Structural**

The Overview is not designed to be used without the aid of the representative code books, as all the details pertaining to a specific section may or may not be provided. This comparison will, however, provide an easy means for identifying significant differences in between the two codes, as well as enabling the user to locate issue specific provisions in the 2007 *Florida Building Code, Building* by means of a numbered section cross reference.



Topic: Structural

Chapter 16 Structural Design

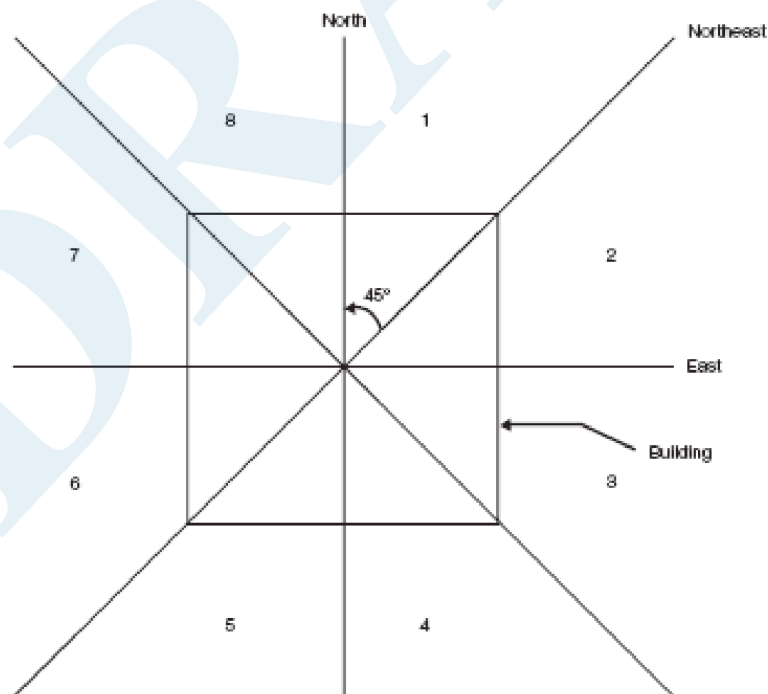
2004 FBCB	2007 FBCB	Requirement	Analysis
Section	Section		
1604.5	1604.5	Occupancy category	Importance factors are no longer included in Table 1604.5. Buildings are now simply given an occupant category. Importance factors are determined from ASCE 7. Section revised to require that buildings be assigned an occupant category.
-	1604.5.1	Multiple occupancies	New section addressing how to deal with buildings that have multiple occupancies not included in the same group. Requires the building to be assigned the classification having the highest occupancy category unless the occupancies are structurally separated. If the separated occupancies share life safety components, both are required to be assigned the higher category.
Table 1604.5	Table 1604.5	Occupancy category of buildings and other structures	Importance factors have been deleted from the table. Importance factors are now determined from ASCE 7. Criteria from Occupancy Category III has been revised to clarify the applicability of the “where more than 300 people congregate in one area.” The language now states, “Covered structures whose primary occupancy is public assembly with an occupant load greater than 300.” This clarifies that large commercial structures shouldn’t be classified as Occupancy Category III, even if the occupant load exceeds 300, since this type of building is typically not used for public assembly.

TABLE 1604.5
OCCUPANCY CATEGORY OF BUILDINGS AND OTHER STRUCTURES

OCCUPANCY CATEGORY	NATURE OF OCCUPANCY
I	Buildings and other structures that represent a low hazard to human life in the event of failure, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agricultural facilities. • Certain temporary facilities. • Minor storage facilities. • Screen enclosures.
II	Buildings and other structures except those listed in Occupancy Categories I, III and IV
III	Buildings and other structures that represent a substantial hazard to human life in the event of failure, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Covered structures whose primary occupancy is public assembly with an occupant load greater than 300. • Buildings and other structures with elementary school, secondary school or day care facilities with an occupant load greater than 250. • Buildings and other structures with an occupant load greater than 500 for colleges or adult education facilities. • Health care facilities with an occupant load of 50 or more resident patients, but not having surgery or emergency treatment facilities. • Jails and detention facilities. • Any other occupancy with an occupant load greater than 5,000. • Power-generating stations, water treatment for potable water, waste water treatment facilities and other public utility facilities not included in Occupancy Category IV. • Buildings and other structures not included in Occupancy Category IV containing sufficient quantities of toxic or explosive substances to be dangerous to the public if released.
IV	Buildings and other structures designated as essential facilities, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitals and other health care facilities having surgery or emergency treatment facilities. • Fire, rescue and police stations and emergency vehicle garages. • Designated hurricane or other emergency shelters. • Designated emergency preparedness, communication, and operation centers and other facilities required for emergency response. • Power-generating stations and other public utility facilities required as emergency backup facilities for Occupancy Category IV structures. • Structures containing highly toxic materials as defined by Section 307 where the quantity of the material exceeds the maximum allowable quantities of Table 307.1.(2). • Aviation control towers, air traffic control centers and emergency aircraft hangars. • Buildings and other structures having critical national defense functions. • Water treatment facilities required to maintain water pressure for fire suppression.

Topic: Structural
Chapter 16 Structural Design

2004 FBCB	2007 FBCB	Requirement	Analysis
Section	Section		
	1609.4	Exposure category	New exception permits the determination of an intermediate exposure in a transition zone when determined by a rational analysis. Definitions of exposure categories are relocated to Section 1609.4.3.
1609.4	1609.4.3	Exposure categories	<p>Exposure C has been revised to clarify the effect of open patches. Requires buildings in Exposure B-type terrain to be categorized as Exposure C where the building is within 100 feet horizontally in any direction of Exposure C-type terrain that extends more than 600 feet and width greater than 150 feet. Exposure C is required to extend downwind for a distance of 1500 feet. For buildings located within 600 feet of inland bodies of water with a fetch of 1 mile or more, roof sheathing uplift and roof-to-wall uplift loads are required to be increased by 20%.</p> <p>Exposure D has been revised to state "This exposure is not applicable in Florida."</p>
-	1609.4.1	Wind directions and sectors	New section requiring exposure categories to be determined for the two upwind sectors extending 45 degrees from either side of the wind direction. The exposure resulting in the highest wind loads is required to be used for that direction.



Wind Direction and Sectors

Topic: Structural
Chapter 16 Structural Design

2004 FBCB	2007 FBCB	Requirement	Analysis
Section	Section		
-	1609.4.2	Surface roughness categories	<p>New section requiring the ground surface roughness to be determined within each 45 degree sector for the distance upwind as specified for each exposure category. Surface roughness is used to determine the exposure category for the site.</p> <p>Three surface roughnesses are identified:</p> <p>Surface Roughness B Surface Roughness C Surface Roughness D</p>
1609.5	-	Importance factor	Section deleted because requirements are covered in ASCE 7.
1609.6	-	Simplified provisions for low-rise buildings	Simplified wind load method for low-rise buildings has been deleted because the same method is covered in ASCE 7.

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