

Analysis of Changes for the 7th Edition (2020) Florida Codes

Changes to the Florida Building Code, Existing Building

This *Analysis of Changes for the 7th Edition (2020) of the Florida Building Code* is intended to provide a comprehensive comparison of the provisions in the *6th Edition (2017) Florida Building Code, Existing Building (FBCEB)* and the *7th Edition (2020) Florida Building Code, Existing Building*. The *6th Edition (2017) FBCEB* is the base code for the *7th Edition (2020) FBCEB*. The model code used to update the *7th Edition (2020) FBCEB* is the *2018 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)*. However, not all changes in the 2018 IEBC are included in the *7th Edition (2020) FBCEB*. As a result of changes from the 2018 IEBC and Florida-specific amendments, certain provisions and criteria of the code have changed. This *Analysis* will serve as a useful tool to facilitate the transition to the new code.

This *Analysis* is arranged so that comparable provisions in the two codes can be easily located. The left two columns contain section numbers and a brief overview of the corresponding requirements from the *6th Edition (2017) FBCEB*. The next two columns contain section numbers and a brief overview of the corresponding requirements in the *7th Edition (2020) FBCEB*. The far-right column contains a brief analysis or comment on the differences between the provisions.

This *Analysis* is not intended to replace or interpret the provisions contained in either the *6th Edition (2017)* or the *7th Edition (2020) FBCEB*. This information simply points out the differences. The *Analysis* 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. However, this *Analysis* will provide an easy means for identifying differences in the two codes, as well as enabling the user to locate issue specific provisions in the *7th Edition (2020) FBCEB* by means of a numbered section cross reference.

This *Analysis* provides a cross-reference for most of the sections that changed in the *7th Edition (2020) FBCEB*. In some cases, sections were grouped together due to substantial differences. This grouping enables the extent of the differences to be more readily identified.

Notable changes deemed to be the most significant or to have the greatest impact have been highlighted in **yellow**.

Note: Seismic loading and snow loading provisions in the code are not reserved (deleted) in the *7th Edition (2020) FBCEB*, even though they do not apply in the State of Florida. While there are changes to some of these sections and provisions, they are not shown here in this *Analysis* because they do not apply to construction in the State of Florida.

6 th Edition (2017) FBCEB		7 th Edition (2020) FBCEB		Analysis
Section	Requirement	Section	Requirement	
Chapter 1: Scope and Administration				
<i>No changes.</i>				
Chapter 2: Definitions				
202	Definitions: Change of Occupancy	202	Definitions: Change of Occupancy	Definition reformatted into a numbered list for clarity. Change of use within a group has been revised for consistency with the FBCB.
202	Definitions: Existing Structures	202	Definitions: Existing Structures	Definition revised to be consistent with the FBCB instead of referencing the applicable section in the FBCB.
-	-	202	Definitions: Positive Roof Drainage	New definition of Positive Roof Drainage has been added that is consistent with how the term is defined in the FBCB.
-	-	202	Definitions: Substantial Structural Alteration	New definition based on criteria contained in Section 907.4.2. Existing wording in Section 907.4.2 has been relocated to form a new definition for clarity.
Chapter 3: Provisions for All Compliance Methods				
301.1	General	301.1	General	The topic of repair has been removed from the 3 compliance methods. New Section 301.2 refers to Chapter 4 for repairs (relocated from Chapter 6). The exception that allows the code official to waive certain requirements for alterations complying with the laws in existence at the time the building or affected portion of the building was built has been modified. The exception now does not apply to the structural provisions of Chapter 5, Section 707, Section 807, and Section 907.
		301.2	Repairs	
		301.3	Alteration, change of occupancy, addition or relocation	
301.1.1	Prescriptive compliance method	301.3.1	Prescriptive compliance method	Repairs have been removed from the scope of this section.
301.1.2	Work area compliance method	301.3.2	Work area compliance method	Repairs have been removed from the scope of this section.

301.1.3	Performance compliance method	301.3.3	Performance compliance method	Repairs have been removed from the scope of this section.
-	-	301.3.4	Concrete evaluation design procedures	New section added permitting the evaluation and design of structural concrete in compliance with ACI 562.
Chapter 4: Repairs				
Chapter 4	Prescriptive Compliance Method	Chapter 5	Prescriptive Compliance Method	Chapter 6 Repairs has been relocated to Chapter 4. The provisions of the prescriptive compliance method of Chapter 4 have been relocated to Chapter 5. Classification of work in Chapter 5 has been relocated to Chapter 6.
Chapter 5	Classification of Work	Chapter 6	Classification of Work	
Chapter 6	Repairs	Chapter 4	Repairs	Criteria related to repairs in other chapters has been deleted.
602.1	Existing building materials	-	-	Section deleted. Requirements are covered in Section 302.3
Chapter 5: Prescriptive Compliance Method				
401.1.1	Compliance with other methods	501.1.1	Compliance with other methods	Repairs have been removed from the scope of this section.
401.2	Building materials and systems	-	-	Section deleted.
401.2.1	Existing building materials	-	-	Section deleted. Requirements are covered in Section 302.3
-	-	501.2	Fire-resistance ratings	New section added consistent with Section 803.6 for Alteration Level 2. Where an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 of the FBCB has been added throughout, the required fire-resistance ratings of building elements and materials are permitted to meet the current building code. Plans, investigations, evaluation reports, or other data is required to be submitted indicating which building elements and materials that the applicant is requesting the code official review and approve for determination of applying the current building code fire-resistance ratings.

-	-	502.6	Carbon monoxide protection	New section requiring carbon monoxide alarms in additions to existing buildings. Carbon monoxide alarms are required to comply with the FFPC, Section 915 of the FBCB, or Section R315 of the FBCR.
403.8	Roof diaphragms resisting wind loads in high-wind regions	503.8	Roof diaphragms resisting wind loads in high-wind regions	The scope of this section has been revised to now only apply where the structural roof deck is removed from more than 30 percent of the structural diaphragm of a building or section of a building. Exceptions 2 through 5 have been deleted as they are no longer applicable.
403.9	Voluntary seismic improvements	503.9	Voluntary lateral force-resisting systems alterations	Section revised to achieve consistency between the voluntary retrofit provisions of the prescriptive compliance method with Section 807.6 of the work area compliance method. The scope now applies to all voluntary lateral force-resisting system alterations, not just seismic improvements. New language clarifies that the capacity of existing structural systems cannot be reduced.
-	-	503.13	Substantial structural alteration	New section added to the prescriptive compliance method addressing substantial structural alterations for consistency with Section 907.4.2 for Alteration Level 3 and the new definition of substantial structural alteration.
404	Repairs	-	-	Section deleted as repairs are now covered in Chapter 4.
406.2	Replacement window opening control devices	505.2	Replacement window opening control devices	Section revised for consistency between the prescriptive compliance method and Section 702.4 of the work area compliance method. New language added clarifying that the section also applies to one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the FBCR.
406.3	Replacement window emergency escape and rescue openings	505.3	Replacement window emergency escape and rescue openings	Section revised for consistency between the prescriptive compliance method and Section 702.5 of the work area compliance

				method. New language added clarifying that the section also applies to one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the FBCR.
Chapter 6: Classification of Work				
502	Repairs	-	-	Section deleted as repairs are now covered in Chapter 4.
Chapter 7: Alterations - Level 1				
702.4	Window opening control devices	702.4	Window opening control devices on replacement windows	Section revised for clarity and consistency with Section 505.2 of the prescriptive compliance method.
702.5	Emergency escape and rescue openings	702.5	Replacement window emergency escape and rescue openings	<p>Section revised for consistency between the work area compliance method and Section 505.3 of the prescriptive compliance method. A new limitation has been added to the exemption of replacement windows complying with the emergency escape and rescue opening requirements in the FBCB or FBCR. To be exempt from the emergency escape and rescue opening requirements in the FBCB or FBCR, the replacement of the window cannot be part of a change of occupancy.</p> <p>Section revised to add Section R310.2.2 to the list of exempt sections where the replacement window meets the conditions of this section.</p>
706.5	Reinstallation of materials	706.5	Reinstallation/reuse of materials	Section revised to permit the use of salvaged slate, clay or concrete tile to repair an existing tile roof provide the salvaged tile is of like kind in both material and profile. New language provides the building official the authority to permit salvaged slate, clay and concrete tile on additions and new construction where the tile is tested and installed in compliance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 15 in the FBCB.

706.7	Mitigation	706.7	Mitigation	Section revised to apply to all buildings with wood roof decks not just site-built single-family dwellings.
706.7.1	Roof decking attachment for site-built single-family residential structures	706.7.1	Roof decking attachment for existing structures with wood roof decks.	Section revised to apply to all buildings with wood roof decks not just site-built single-family dwellings.
706.7.2	Roof secondary water barrier for site-built single-family residential structures	706.7.2	Roof secondary water barrier for existing structures with wood roof decks	Section revised to apply to all buildings with wood roof decks not just site-built single-family dwellings.
706.8	Roof-to-wall connection mitigation	706.8	Roof-to-wall connection mitigation	Section revised to apply to all buildings with wood roof decks not just site-built single-family dwellings.
706.8.1	Roof-to-wall connections for site-built single-family residential structures	706.8.1	Roof-to-wall connections for structures with wood roof decks.	Section revised to apply to all buildings with wood roof decks not just site-built single-family dwellings.
707.3.2	Roof diaphragms resisting wind loads in high-wind regions	707.3.2	Roof diaphragms resisting wind loads in high-wind regions	The scope of this section has been revised to now only apply where the structural roof deck is removed from more than 30 percent of the structural diaphragm of a building or section of a building. Exceptions 2 through 5 have been deleted as they are no longer applicable.
Chapter 8: Alterations – Level 2				
804.2.4	Other required automatic sprinkler systems	904.1.4	Other required automatic sprinkler systems	Section relocated to Alteration Level 3. Section also revised to make the determining factor for an automatic fire sprinkler system to be based on whether there is adequate water supply at the site, not whether a fire pump may be required.
804.4.1.7	Group R-4 (fire alarms)	804.4.1.7	Group R-4 (fire alarms)	Section revised to clarify that the required fire alarms system in work areas of Group R-4 residential care/assisted living facilities is to be a manual fire alarm system.
805.3.1	Minimum number (number of exits)	805.3.1	Minimum number (number of exits)	Section revised to clarify that exits are not required to comply with Sections 805.3.1.1 and 805.3.1.2, but are permitted to comply in addition to the FBCB.
805.3.1.1	Single-exit buildings	805.3.1.1	Single-exit buildings	Section completely revised to be consistent with single exit requirements for new construction in the FBCB.

807.6	Voluntary lateral force-resisting system alterations	807.6	Voluntary lateral force-resisting system alterations	Section revised to correlate with the voluntary retrofit provisions of the prescriptive compliance method in Section 403.9. New language added clarifying that the alteration cannot create a structural irregularity as defined in ASCE 7 or make an existing structural irregularity more severe.
Chapter 9: Alterations – Level 3				
907.4	Existing structural elements resisting lateral loads	907.4	Existing structural elements resisting lateral loads	Exception 2 has been editorially revised to remove the phrase regarding change of occupancy. This phrase is not needed because the FBCEB applies requirements for multiple project types independently and cumulatively.
907.4.2	Substantial structural alteration	907.4.2	Substantial structural alteration	The criteria triggering a substantial structural alteration has been moved to a new definition of substantial structural alteration in Chapter 2. The section has been simplified by referring to that definition.
Chapter 10: Change of Occupancy				
Table 1012.4	Means of Egress Hazard Categories	Table 1012.4	Means of Egress Hazard Categories	Table revised to classify Group R-4 Condition 2 as a Relative Hazard level 3 and Group R-4 Condition 1 as Relative Hazard level 4.
Table 1012.5	Heights and Areas Hazard Categories	Table 1012.5	Heights and Areas Hazard Categories	Table revised to classify Group R-4 Condition 2 as a Relative Hazard level 2 and Group R-4 Condition 1 as Relative Hazard level 4.
Chapter 11: Additions				
-	-	1108	Carbon Monoxide Protection	New section requiring carbon monoxide alarms in additions to existing buildings. Carbon monoxide alarms are required to comply with the FFPC, Section 915 of the FBCB, or Section R315 of the FBCR.
Chapter 14: Performance Compliance Methods				
1401.2.5	Accessibility requirements	1401.2.5	Accessibility requirements	Section revised to refer to the accessibility requirements in Sections 405, 705, 806, 906, 1105, and 1201.4.

1401.6	Evaluation process	1401.6	Evaluation process	The phrase other codes have been added to this section to clarify that provisions from other Florida codes may also apply.
1401.6.6	Vertical openings	1401.6.6	Vertical openings	Section revised to add (VO) to clarify the maximum positive value for the vertical opening value.
1401.6.6.1	Vertical opening formula	1401.6.6.1	Vertical opening formula	Section revised to clarify that the calculated value of the vertical opening value cannot be greater than positive 2.0.
1401.6.8	Automatic Fire Detection Values	1401.6.8	Automatic Fire Detection Values	Table revised to change the dashed lines in Category f to NA (not applicable) for clarity.