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# **PROPERTY MAINTENANCE CODE**

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**ORDINANCE #98-24**

# **INTRODUCTION**

## **Welcome to Bentonville!**

We are excited that you have chosen Bentonville as the place you want to live. Our mission with our Property Maintenance Code manual is to provide you with a quick and handy reference guide that will furnish the specifications necessary for you to maintain your property in accordance with our city ordinances. Our ordinances are designed to uphold generally accepted municipal building code principles ensuring a safe and aesthetically pleasing community for us all. Our code enforcement staff understands the importance of assisting you in order to achieve this end and is prepared to help you any way possible. We also intend to enforce these regulations in a fair and even handed manner.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call our Code Enforcement Office at 271-3107.

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## **CHAPTER 1 ADMINISTRATION**

### **SECTION 101 GENERAL**

**101.1 Title.** These regulations shall be known as the Property Maintenance Code of The City of Bentonville, Arkansas, hereinafter referred to as “this code.”

**101.2 Scope.** The provisions of this code shall apply to all existing residential and nonresidential structures and all existing premises and constitute minimum requirements and standards for premises, structures, equipment, and facilities for light, ventilation, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, life safety, safety from fire and other hazards, and for safe and sanitary maintenance; the responsibility of owners, operators and occupants; the occupancy of existing structures and premises, and for administration, enforcement and penalties.

**101.2.1 Appendices.** Provisions in the appendices shall not apply unless specifically adopted.

**101.3 Intent.** The expressed intent of this code is to ensure public health, safety and welfare insofar as they are affected by the continued occupancy and maintenance of structures and premises. Existing structures, when altered or repaired shall comply to the provisions of this code to provide a minimum level of health and safety as required herein.

Also the purpose of the Property Maintenance Code is to provide a consolidated and condensed version of existing ordinances and codes pertaining to the maintenance and repair of properties within The City of Bentonville.

**101.4 Severability.** If a section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

### **SECTION 102 APPLICABILITY**

**102.1 General.** The provisions of this code shall apply to all matters affecting or relating to structures and premises, as set forth in Section 101. Where, in a specific case, different sections of this code specify different requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.

**102.2 Maintenance.** Equipment, systems, devices and safeguards required by this code or a previous regulation or code under which the structure or premises was conducted, altered or repaired shall be maintained in good working order. The requirements of this code are not intended to provide the basis for removal or abrogation of fire protection and safety systems and devices in existing structures. Except as otherwise specified herein, the owner or the owner’s designated agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings, structures and premises.

**102.3 Application of other codes.** Repairs, additions or alterations to a structure, or changes of occupancy, shall be done in accordance with the procedures and provisions of the building, plumbing and mechanical codes and NFPA 70 listed in Chapter 8. Nothing in this code shall be construed to cancel, modify or set aside any provision of The Bentonville Zoning Code.

**102.4 Existing remedies.** The provisions in this code shall not be construed to abolish or impair existing remedies of the jurisdiction or its officers or agencies relating to the removal or demolition of any structure which is dangerous, unsafe and unsanitary.

**102.5 Workmanship.** Repairs, maintenance work, alterations or installations which are caused directly or indirectly by the enforcement of this code shall be executed and installed in a workmanlike manner and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

**102.6 Historic buildings.** The provisions of this code shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures designated by the state or local jurisdiction as historic buildings when such buildings or structures are judged by the code official to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare.

**102.7 Referenced codes.** The codes referenced in this code shall be those that are listed in Chapter 8 and considered part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where differences occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall apply.

**102.8 Requirements not covered by code.** Requirements necessary for the strength, stability or proper operation of an existing structure or equipment, or for the public safety, health and general welfare, not specifically covered by this code, shall be determined by the code official.

## **SECTION 103 DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE INSPECTION**

**103.1 General.** The department of property maintenance inspection is hereby created and the executive official in charge thereof shall be known as the code official.

**103.2 Appointment.** The code official shall be appointed by the chief appointing authority of the jurisdiction; and the code official shall not be removed from office except for cause and after full opportunity to be heard on specific and relevant charges by and before the appointment authority.

**103.3 Deputies.** In accordance with the prescribed procedure of this jurisdiction and with the concurrence of the appointing authority, the code official shall have the authority to appoint a deputy code official, other related technical officers, inspectors and other employees.

**103.4 Restriction of employees.** An official or employee connected with the enforcement of this code, except one whose only connection is that of a member of the board of appeals established under the provisions of Section PM-111.0, shall not be engaged in, or directly or indirectly connected with, the furnishings of labor, materials or appliances for the construction, alteration or maintenance of a building, or the preparation of construction documents thereof, unless that person is the owner of the building; nor shall such officer or employee engage in any work that conflicts with official duties or with the interests of the department.

**103.5 Liability.** The code official, officer or employee charged with the enforcement of this code, while acting for the jurisdiction, shall not thereby be rendered liable personally, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage accruing to persons or property as a result of an act required or permitted in the discharge of official duties.

Any suit instituted against any officer or employee because of an act performed by that officer or employee in the lawful discharge of duties and under the provisions of this code shall be defended by the legal representation of the jurisdiction until the final termination of the proceedings. The code official or any subordinate shall not be liable for costs in an action, suit or proceeding that is instituted in pursuance of the provisions of this code; and any officer of the department of property maintenance inspection, acting in good faith and without malice, shall be free from liability for acts performed under any of its provisions or by reason of any act or omission in the performance of official duties in connection therewith.

**SECTION 104  
DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE CODE OFFICIAL**

**104.1 General.** The code official shall enforce the provisions of this code.

**104.2 Rule-making authority.** The code official shall have authority as necessary in the interest of public health, safety and general welfare, to adopt and promulgate rules and procedures; to interpret and implement the provisions of this code; to secure the intent thereof; and to designate requirements applicable because of local climatic or other conditions. Such rules shall not have the effect of waiving structural or fire performance requirements specifically provided for in this code, or of violating accepted engineering methods involving public safety.

**104.3 Inspections.** The code official shall make all of the required inspections, or shall accept reports of inspection by approved agencies or individuals. All reports of such inspections shall be in writing and be certified by a responsible officer of such approved agency or by the responsible individual. The code official is authorized to engage such expert opinions as deemed necessary to report upon unusual technical issues that arise, subject to the approval of the appointing authority.

**104.4 Right of entry.** The code official is authorized to enter the structure or premises at reasonable times to inspect subject to constitutional restrictions on unreasonable searches and seizures. If entry is refused or not obtained, the code official is authorized to pursue recourse as provided by law.

**104.5 Identification.** The code official shall carry proper identification when inspecting structures or premises in the performance of duties under this code.

**104.6 Notices and orders.** The code official shall issue all necessary notices or orders to ensure compliance with this code.

**104.7 Department records.** The code official shall keep official records of all business and activities of the department specified in the provisions of this code. Such records shall be retained in the official records as long as the building or structure to which such records relate remain in existence, unless otherwise provided for by other regulations.

**104.8 Coordination of inspections.** Whenever in the enforcement of this code or another code or ordinance, the responsibility of more than one code official of the jurisdiction is involved, it shall be the duty of the code officials involved to coordinate their inspections and administrative orders as fully as practicable so that the owner and occupants of the structure shall not be subjected to visits by numerous inspectors or multiple or conflicting orders. Whenever an inspector from any agency or department observes an apparent or actual violation of some provision of the law, ordinance or code not within the inspector's authority to enforce, the inspector shall report the findings to the code official having jurisdiction.

**SECTION 105  
APPROVAL**

**105.1 Modifications.** Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the code official shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases, provided the code official shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of this code impractical and that such modification does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the department files.

**105.2 Alternative materials, methods and equipment.** The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved. An alternative material or method of construction shall be approved where the code official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

**105.3 Required testing.** Whenever there is insufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of this code, or evidence that a material or method does not conform to the requirements of this code, or in order to substantiate claims for alternative materials or methods, the code official shall have the authority to require tests as evidence of compliance to be made at no expense to the jurisdiction.

**105.3.1 Test methods.** Test methods shall be as specified in this code or by other recognized test standards. In the absence of recognized and accepted test methods, the code official shall approve the testing procedures.

**105.3.2 Testing agency.** All tests shall be performed by an approved agency.

**105.3.3 Test reports.** Reports of tests shall be retained by the code official for the period required for retention of public records.

**105.4 Material and equipment reuse.** Materials, equipment and devices shall not be reused unless such elements have been reconditioned and tested when necessary, placed in good and proper working condition and approved.

## **SECTION 106 VIOLATIONS**

**106.1 Unlawful acts.** It shall be unlawful for a person, firm or corporation to be in conflict with or in violation of any of the provisions of this code.

**106.2 Notice of violation.** The code official shall serve a notice of violation or order in accordance with Section 107.

**106.3 Prosecution of violation.** If the notice of violation is not complied with, the code official shall institute the appropriate proceeding at law or in equity to restrain, correct or abate such violation, or to require the removal or termination of the unlawful occupancy of the structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto.

**106.4 Violation penalties.** Any person who shall violate a provision of this code, or fail to comply therewith, or with any of the requirements thereof shall be prosecuted within the limits provided by state or local laws. Each day that a violation continues after due notice has been served shall be deemed a separate offense.

**106.5 Abatement of violation.** The imposition of the penalties herein prescribed shall not preclude the legal officer of the jurisdiction from instituting appropriate action to restrain, correct or abate a violation, or to prevent illegal occupancy of a building, structure or premises, or to stop an illegal act, conduct, business or utilization of the building, structure or premises.

## **SECTION 107 NOTICES AND ORDERS**

**107.1 Notice to owner or to person or persons responsible.** Whenever the code official determines that there has been a violation of this code or has grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, notice shall be given to the owner or the person or persons responsible therefore in the manner prescribed in Sections 107.2 and 107.3. Notices for condemnation procedures shall also comply with Section 108.3.

**107.2 Form.** Such notice prescribed in Section 107.1 shall:

1. Be in writing;
2. Include a description of the real estate sufficient for identification;
3. Include a statement of the violation or violations and why the notice is being issued; and
4. Include a correction order allowing a reasonable time to make the repairs and improvements required to bring the dwelling unit or structure into compliance with the provisions of this code.

**107.3 Method of service.** Such notice shall be deemed to be properly served if a copy thereof is:

1. Delivered personally; or
2. Sent by certified or first class mail addressed to the owner at the last known address; or
3. If the notice is returned showing that the letter was not delivered a copy thereof shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice.

**107.4 Penalties.** Penalties for noncompliance with orders and notices shall be as set forth in Section 106.4.

**107.5 Transfer of ownership.** It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dwelling unit or structure who has received a compliance order or upon who a notice of violation has been served to sell, transfer, mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of to another until the provisions of the compliance order or notice of violation have been complied with, or until such owner shall first furnish the grantee, transferee, mortgagee or lessee a true copy of any compliance order or notice of violation issued by the code official and shall furnish to the code official a signed and notarized statement from the grantee, transferee, mortgagee, or lessee, acknowledging the receipt of such compliance order or notice of violation and fully accepting the responsibility without condition for making the corrections or repairs required by such compliance order or notice of violation.

## **SECTION 108 UNSAFE STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT**

**108.1 General.** When a structure or equipment is found by the code official to be unsafe, or when a structure is found unfit for human occupancy, or is found unlawful, such structure shall be condemned pursuant to the provisions of this code.

**108.1.1 Unsafe structures.** An unsafe structure is one that is found to be dangerous to the life, health, property or safety of the public or the occupants of the structure by not providing minimum safeguards to protect or warn occupants in the event of fire, or because such structure contains unsafe equipment or is so damaged, decayed, dilapidated, structurally unsafe, or of such faulty construction or unstable foundation, that partial or complete collapse is possible.

**108.1.2 Unsafe equipment.** Unsafe equipment includes any boiler, heating equipment, elevator, moving stairway, electrical wiring or device, flammable liquid containers or other equipment on the premises or within the structure which is in such disrepair or condition that such equipment is a hazard to life, health, property or safety of the public or occupants of the premises or structure.

**108.1.3 Structure unfit for human occupancy.** A structure is unfit for human occupancy whenever the code official finds that such structure is unsafe, unlawful or, because of the degree to which the structure is in disrepair or lacks maintenance, is unsanitary, vermin or rat infested, contains filth and contamination, or lacks ventilation, illumination, sanitary or heating facilities or other essential equipment required by this code, or because the location of the structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants of the structure or to the public.

**108.1.4 Unlawful structure.** An unlawful structure is one found in whole or in part to be occupied by more persons than permitted under this code, or was erected, altered or occupied contrary to law.

**108.2 Closing of vacant structures.** If the structure is vacant and unfit for human habitation and occupancy, and is not in danger of structural collapse, the code official is authorized to post a placard of condemnation on the premises and order the structure closed up so as not to be an attractive nuisance. Upon failure of the owner to close up the premises within the time specified in the order, the code official shall cause the premises to be closed through any available public agency or by contract or arrangement by private persons and the cost thereof shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

**108.3 Notice.** Whenever the code official has condemned a structure or equipment under the provisions of this section, notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice and served on the owner or the person or persons responsible for the structure or equipment in accordance with Section 107.3. The notice shall be in the form prescribed in Section 107.2.

**108.4 Placarding.** Upon failure of the owner or person responsible to comply with the notice provisions within the time given, the code official shall post on the premises or on defective equipment, a placard bearing the word "Condemned" and a statement of the penalties provided for occupying the premises, operating the equipment or removing the placard.

**108.5 Prohibited occupancy.** Any person who shall occupy a placarded premises or shall operate placarded equipment, and any owner or any person responsible for the premises who shall let anyone occupy a placarded premises or operate placarded equipment shall be liable for the penalties provided by this code.

**108.6 Removal of placard.** The code official shall remove the condemnation placard whenever the defect or defects upon which the condemnation and placarding action were based have been eliminated. Any person who defaces or removes a condemnation placard without the approval of the code official shall be subject to the penalties provided by this code.

## **SECTION 109 EMERGENCY MEASURES**

**109.1 Imminent danger.** When, in the opinion of the code official, there is imminent danger of failure or collapse of a building or structure which endangers life, or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and life is endangered by the occupation of the structure, or when there is actual or potential danger to the building occupants or those in the proximity of any structure because of explosives, explosive fumes or vapors or the presence of toxic fumes, gases or materials, or operation of defective or dangerous equipment, the code official is hereby authorized and empowered to order and require the occupants to vacate the premises forthwith. The code official shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such structure a notice reading as follows. "This Structure is Unsafe and its Occupancy has been Prohibited by the Code Official." It shall be unlawful for any person to enter such structure except for the purpose of securing the

structure, making the required repairs, removing the hazardous condition, or of demolishing the same.

**109.2 Temporary safeguards.** Notwithstanding other provisions of this code, whenever, in the opinion of the code official, there is imminent danger due to an unsafe condition, the code officer shall order the necessary work to be done, including the boarding-up of openings, to render such structure temporarily safe whether or not the legal procedure herein described has been instituted; and shall cause such other action to be taken as the code official deems necessary to meet such emergency.

**109.3 Closing streets.** When necessary for the public safety, the code official shall temporarily close structures and close, or order the authority having jurisdiction to close, sidewalks, streets, public ways and places adjacent to unsafe structures, and prohibit the same from being utilized.

**109.4 Emergency repairs.** For the purpose of this section, the code official shall employ the necessary labor and materials to perform the required work as expeditiously as possible.

**109.5 Costs of emergency repairs.** Costs incurred in the performance of emergency work shall be paid by the jurisdiction. The legal counsel of the jurisdiction shall institute appropriate action against the owner of the premises where the unsafe structure is or was located for the recovery of such costs.

**109.6 Hearing.** Any person ordered to take emergency measures shall comply with such order forthwith. Any affected person shall thereafter, upon petition directed to the appeals board, be afforded a hearing as described in this code.

## **SECTION 110 DEMOLITION**

**110.1 General.** The code official shall order the owner of any premises upon which is located any structure, which in the code official's judgment is so old, dilapidated or has become so out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, unsanitary or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occupancy, and such that it is unreasonable to repair the structure, to demolish and remove such structure; or if such structure is capable of being made safe by repairs, to repair and make safe and sanitary or to demolish and remove at the owner's option; or where there has been a cessation of normal construction of any structure for a period of more than six months, to demolish and remove such structure.

**110.2 Notices and orders.** All notices and orders shall comply with Section 107.

**110.3 Failure to comply.** If the owner of a premises fails to comply with a demolition order within the time prescribed, the code official shall cause the structure to be demolished and removed, either through an available public agency or by contract or arrangement with private persons, and the cost of such demolition and removal shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

**110.4 Salvage materials.** When any structure has been ordered demolished and removed, the governing body or other designated officer under said contract or arrangement aforesaid shall have the right to sell the salvage and valuable materials at the highest price obtainable. The net proceeds or such sale, after deducting the expenses of such demolition and removal, shall be promptly remitted with a report of such sale or transaction, including the items of expense and the amounts deducted, for the person who is entitled thereto, subject to any order of a court. If such a surplus does not remain to be turned over, the report shall so state.

## CHAPTER 2 DEFINITIONS

### SECTION 201 GENERAL

**201.1 Scope.** Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following terms shall, for the purposes of this code, have the meanings shown in this chapter.

**201.2 Interchangeability.** Words stated in the present tense include the future; words stated in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter; the singular number includes the plural and the plural the singular.

**201.3 Terms defined in other codes.** Where terms are not defined in this code and are defined in the building, plumbing or mechanical codes listed in Chapter 8, such terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them as in those codes.

**201.4 Terms not defined.** Where terms are not defined, through the methods authorized by this section, such terms shall have ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies.

**201.5 Parts.** Whenever the words "dwelling unit," "dwelling," "premises," "building," "rooming house," "rooming unit," or "story" are stated in this code, they shall be construed as though they were followed by the words "or any part thereof."

### SECTION 202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

**APPROVED.** Approved by the code official.

**BASEMENT.** That portion of a building which is partly or completely below grade.

**BATHROOM.** A room containing plumbing fixtures including a bathtub or shower.

**BEDROOM.** Any room or space used or intended to be used for sleeping purposes.

**CODE OFFICIAL.** The official who is charged with the administration and enforcement of this code, or any duly authorized representative.

**CONDEMN.** To adjudge unfit for occupancy.

**DWELLING UNIT.** A single unit providing complete, independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

**EXTERIOR PROPERTY.** The open space on the premises and on adjoining property under the control of owners or operators of such premises.

**EXTERMINATION.** The control and elimination of insects, rats or other pests by eliminating their harborage places; by removing or making inaccessible materials that serve as their food; by poison spraying, fumigating, trapping or by any other approved pest elimination methods.

**GARBAGE.** The animal or vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.

**HABITABLE SPACE.** Space in a structure for living, sleeping, eating or cooking. Bathrooms, toilet rooms, closets, halls, storage or utility spaces and similar areas are not considered habitable spaces.

**IMMINENT HAZARD.** A condition which could cause serious or life-threatening injury or death at any time.

**INFESTATION.** The presence, within or contiguous to, a structure or premises of insects, rats, vermin or other pests.

**LET FOR OCCUPANCY OR LET.** To permit, provide or offer possession or occupancy of a dwelling, dwelling unit, rooming unit, building, premise or structure by a person who is or is not the legal owner of record thereof, pursuant to a written or unwritten lease, agreement or license, or pursuant to a recorded or unrecorded agreement of contract for the sale of land.

**OCCUPANCY.** The purpose for which a building or portion thereof is utilized or occupied.

**OCCUPANT.** Any individual living or sleeping in a building; or having possession of a space within a building.

**OPENABLE AREA.** That part of a window, skylight or door which is available for unobstructed ventilation and which opens directly to the outdoors.

**OPERATOR.** Any person who has charge, care or control of a structure or premises which is let or offered for occupancy.

**OWNER.** Any person, agent, operator, firm or corporation having a legal or equitable interest in the property; or recorded in the official records of the state, county, or municipality as holding title to the property; or otherwise having control of the property, including the guardian of the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court.

**PERSON.** An individual, corporation, partnership or any other group acting as a unit.

**PREMISES.** A lot, plot or parcel of land including any structures thereon.

**ROOMING HOUSE.** A building arranged or occupied for lodging, with or without meals, for compensation and not occupied as a one-family dwelling or a two-family dwelling.

**ROOMING UNIT.** Any room or group of rooms forming a single habitable unit occupied or intended to be occupied for sleeping or living, but not for cooking purposes.

**RUBBISH.** Combustible and noncombustible waste materials, except garbage; the term shall include the residue from the burning of wood, coal, coke and other combustible materials, paper, rags, cartons, boxes, wood, excelsior, rubber, leather, tree branches, yard trimmings, tin cans, metals, mineral matter, glass, crockery and dust and other similar materials.

**STRUCTURE.** That which is built or constructed or a portion thereof.

**TENANT.** A person, corporation, partnership or group, whether or not the legal owner of record, occupying a building or portion thereof as a unit.

**TOILET ROOM.** A room containing a water closet or urinal but not a bathtub or shower.

**VENTILATION.** The natural or mechanical process of supplying conditioned or unconditioned air to, or removing such air from, any space.

**WORKMANLIKE.** Executed in a skilled manner; e.g., generally plumb, level, square, in line, undamaged, and without marring adjacent work.

**YARD.** An open space on the same lot with a structure.

## CHAPTER 3 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

### SECTION 301 GENERAL

**301.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum conditions and the responsibilities of persons for maintenance of structures, equipment and exterior property.

**301.2 Responsibility.** The owner of the premises shall maintain the structures and exterior property in compliance with these requirements, except as otherwise provided for in Sections 305 and 306. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy premises which do not comply with the requirements of this chapter. Occupants of a dwelling unit are responsible for keeping in a clean, sanitary and safe condition that part of the dwelling unit or premises which they occupy and control.

**301.3 Vacant structures and land.** All vacant structures and premises thereof or vacant land shall be maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition as provided herein so as not to cause a blighting problem or adversely affect the public health and safety.

**301.4 Existing Buildings.** Alterations, repairs or rehabilitation work may be made to any existing building without requiring the entire building to comply with all the requirements of this code provided that the alteration, repair or rehabilitation work conforms to the requirements of this code for new construction and does not exceed 50% of the total area of the structure. The housing official shall determine, subject to appeal to the Board of Adjustments and Appeals, the extent, if any, to which the existing building shall be made to conform to the requirements of this code for new construction.

### SECTION 302 EXTERIOR PROPERTY AREAS

**302.1 Sanitation.** All exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. The occupant shall keep that part of the exterior property which such occupant occupies or controls in a clean and sanitary condition.

**302.2 Grading and drainage.** All premises shall be graded and maintained to prevent the erosion of soil and to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water thereon, or within any structure located thereon.

**Exception.** Approved retention areas and reservoirs.

**302.3 Sidewalks and driveways.** All sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas shall be kept in proper state of repair, and maintained free from hazardous conditions. Stairs shall comply with the requirements of Sections 303.10 and 702.9.

**302.4 Weeds.** All premises or lawns shall be maintained to prohibit the growth of weeds and or grass in excess of 8". This section shall not include shrubs, cultivated flowers, or gardens.

**NOTE:** This section shall not apply to areas zoned agricultural used for pastures and/or crop cultivation.

**302.5 Rodent harborage.** All structures and exterior property shall be kept free from rodent infestation. Where rodents are found, they shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes which will not be injurious to human health. After examination, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation.

**302.6 Exhaust vents.** Pipes, ducts, conductors, fans or blowers shall not discharge gases, steam, vapor, hot air, grease, smoke, odors or other gaseous or particulate wastes directly upon abutting or adjacent public or private property or that of another tenant.

**302.7 Accessory structures.** All accessory structures, including detached garages, fences and walls, shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

**302.8 Motor vehicles.** Except as provided for in other regulations, no unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled.

**302.9 Parking and storage of certain vehicles.** Automotive vehicles or trailers of any kind or type without current license plates shall not be parked or stored on any residentially zoned property other than in complete enclosed buildings or carports.

**Exception.** A vehicle of any type is permitted to undergo major overhaul, including body work, provided that such work is performed inside a structure or similarly enclosed area designed and approved for such purposes. And provided that the vehicle is registered to the property owner.

**302.10 Appliances.** No appliances, including water heaters, washing machines, dryers, refrigerators, freezers, televisions, etc., shall be stored or discarded in any yard.

### **SECTION 303 EXTERIOR STRUCTURE**

**303.1 General.** The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare.

**303.2 Protective treatment:** All exterior surfaces, including but not limited to, doors, door and window frames, cornices, porches and trim shall be maintained in a good condition. Exterior wood surfaces, other than decay resistant woods, shall be protected from the elements and decay by painting or other protective covering or treatment. Peeling, flaking and chipped paint shall be eliminated and surfaces repainted. All siding and masonry joints shall be maintained weather resistant and water tight.

**303.3 Street numbers.** Each structure to which a street number has been assigned shall have such number displayed in a position easily observed and readable from the public way. All numbers shall be in Arabic numerals at least 3 inches (76 mm) high and 1/2 inch (13 mm) stroke.

**303.4 Structural members.** All structural members shall be maintained free from deterioration, and shall be capable of safely supporting the imposed dead and live loads.

**303.5 Foundation walls.** All foundation walls shall be maintained plumb and free from open cracks and breaks and shall be kept in such condition so as to prevent the entry of rodents.

**303.6 Exterior walls.** All exterior walls shall be free from holes, breaks, loose or rotting materials; and maintained weatherproof and properly surface coated where required to prevent deterioration.

**303.7 Roofs and drainage.** The roof and flashing shall be sound, tight and not have defects that admit rain. Roof drainage shall be adequate to prevent dampness or deterioration in the walls or interior portion of the structure. Roof drains, gutters and downspouts shall be maintained in good repair and free from obstructions. Roof water shall not be discharged in a manner that creates a public nuisance.

**303.8 Decorative features.** All cornices, belt courses, corbels, terra cotta trim, wall facings and similar decorative features shall be maintained in good repair with proper anchorage and in a safe condition.

**303.9 Overhang extensions.** All canopies, marquees, signs, metal awnings, fire escapes, standpipes, exhaust ducts and similar overhang extensions shall be maintained in good repair and be properly anchored so as to be kept in a sound condition. When required, all exposed surfaces of metal or wood shall be protected from the elements and against decay or rust by periodic application of weather-coating materials, such as paint or similar surface treatment.

**303.10 Stair and walking surfaces.** Every stair, ramp, balcony, porch, deck or other walking surface shall comply with the provisions of Section 702.9.

**303.11 Stairways, decks, porches and balconies.** Every exterior stairway, deck, porch and balcony, and all appurtenances attached thereto, shall be maintained structurally sound, in good repair, with proper anchorage and capable of supporting the imposed loads.

**303.12 Chimneys and towers.** All chimneys, cooling towers, smoke stacks, and similar appurtenances shall be maintained structurally safe and sound, and in good repair. All exposed surfaces of metal or wood shall be protected from the elements and against decay or rust by periodic application of weather-coating materials, such as paint or similar surface treatment.

**303.13 Handrails and guards.** Every handrail and guard shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.

**303.14 Window and door frames.** Every window, door and frame shall be kept in sound condition, good repair and weather tight.

**303.14.1 Glazing.** All glazing materials shall be maintained free from cracks and holes.

**303.14.2 Openable windows.** Every window, other than a fixed window, shall be easily openable and capable of being held in position by window hardware.

**303.15 Insect screens.** Every door, window and other outside opening utilized or required for ventilation purposes serving any structure containing habitable rooms, food preparation areas, food service areas, or any areas where products to be included or utilized in food for human consumption are processed, manufactured, packaged or stored, shall be supplied with approved tightly fitting screens of not less than 16 mesh per inch and every swinging door shall have a self-closing device in good working condition.

**Exception.** Screen doors shall not be required where other approved means, such as air curtains or insect repellent fans are employed.

**303.16 Doors.** All exterior doors and hardware shall be maintained in good condition. Locks at all entrances to dwelling units, rooming units and guestrooms shall tightly secure the door.

**303.17 Basement hatchways.** Every basement hatchway shall be maintained to prevent the entrance of rodents, rain and surface drainage water.

**303.18 Guards for basement windows.** Every basement window that is openable shall be supplied with rodent shields, storm windows or other approved protection against the entry of rodents.

## **SECTION 304 INTERIOR STRUCTURE**

**304.1 General.** The interior of a structure and equipment therein shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and in a sanitary condition. Every occupant shall keep that part of the structure which such occupant occupies or controls in a clean and sanitary condition. Every owner of a structure containing a rooming house, a hotel, a dormitory, two or more dwelling units or two or more nonresidential occupancies, shall maintain, in a clean and sanitary condition, the shared public areas of the structure and exterior property.

**304.2 Structural members.** All structural members shall be maintained structurally sound, and be capable of supporting the imposed loads.

**304.3 Interior surfaces.** All interior surfaces, including windows and doors, shall be maintained in good, clean and sanitary condition. Peeling paint, cracked or loose plaster, decayed wood, and other defective surface conditions shall be corrected.

**304.4 Stairs and railings.** All interior stairs and railings shall be maintained in sound condition and good repair.

**304.5 Stairs and walking surfaces.** Every stair, ramp, balcony, porch, deck or other walking surface shall comply with the provisions of Section 702.9.

**304.6 Handrails and guards.** Every handrail and guard shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.

**304.7 Interior doors.** Every existing interior door shall fit reasonably well within its frame and shall be capable of being opened and closed by being properly and securely attached to jambs, headers or tracks as intended by the manufacturer of the attachment hardware.

## **SECTION 305 RUBBISH AND GARBAGE**

**305.1 Accumulation of rubbish or garbage.** All exterior property and premises, and the interior of every structure shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage.

**305.2 Disposal of rubbish.** Every occupant of a structure shall dispose of all rubbish in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such rubbish in approved containers.

**305.2.1 Rubbish storage facilities.** The owner of every occupied premises shall supply approved covered containers for rubbish, and the owner of the premises shall be responsible for the removal of rubbish.

**305.3 Disposal of garbage.** Every occupant of a structure shall dispose of garbage in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such garbage in an approved garbage disposal facility or approved garbage containers.

**305.3.1 Garbage facilities.** The owner of every dwelling shall supply one of the following: an approved mechanical food water grinder in each dwelling unit; an approved incinerator unit in the structure available to the occupants in each dwelling unit; or an approved leakproof, covered, outside garbage container.

**305.3.2 Containers.** The operator of every establishment producing garbage shall provide, and at all times cause to be utilized, approved leakproof containers provided with close-fitting covers for the storage of such materials until removed from the premises for disposal.

## **SECTION 306 EXTERMINATION**

**306.1 Infestation.** All structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent infestation. All structures in which insects are found shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes that will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation.

**306.2 Owner.** The owner of any structure shall be responsible for extermination within the structure prior to renting or leasing the structure.

**306.3 Single occupant.** The occupant of a one-family dwelling or of a single-tenant nonresidential structure shall be responsible for extermination of the premises.

**306.4 Multiple occupancy.** The owner of a structure containing two or more dwelling units, a multiple occupancy, a rooming house or a nonresidential structure shall be responsible for extermination in the public or shared areas of the structure and exterior property. If infestation is caused by failure of an occupant to prevent such infestation in the area occupied, the occupants shall be responsible for extermination.

**306.5 Occupant.** The occupant of any structure shall be responsible for the continued rodent and pest free condition of the structure.

**Exception.** Where the infestations are caused by defects in the structure, the owner shall be responsible for extermination.

**306.6 Defacement of property.** No person shall willfully or wantonly damage, mutilate or deface any exterior surface of any structure or building on any private or public property by placing thereon any marking, carving or graffiti.

It shall be the responsibility of the owner to restore said surface to an approved state of maintenance and repair.

**CHAPTER 4  
LIGHT, VENTILATION  
AND OCCUPANCY LIMITATIONS**

**SECTION 401  
GENERAL**

**401.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum conditions and standards for light, ventilation and space for occupying a structure.

**401.2 Responsibility.** The owner of the structure shall provide and maintain light, ventilation and space conditions in compliance with these requirements. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant, or permit another person to occupy any premises that do not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

**401.3 Alternative devices.** In lieu of the means for natural light and ventilation herein prescribed, artificial light or mechanical ventilation complying with the building code shall be permitted.

**SECTION 402  
LIGHT AND VENTILATION**

**402.1 Minimum requirements.** Every habitable room of buildings hereafter erected shall have one or more windows, unless otherwise specifically provided herein, to afford adequate light and ventilation. The requirements specified in this section shall be considered as minimum requirements supplementary to all state laws regulating light and ventilation.

**402.2 Bathrooms and toilet rooms.** Every bathroom and toilet room shall comply with the ventilation requirements for habitable spaces as required by Section 402.1, except that a window shall not be required in spaces equipped with a mechanical ventilation system that complies with the following.

1. Air exhausted by a mechanical ventilation system from a bathroom within a dwelling unit shall be exhausted to the exterior and shall not be recirculated to any space, including the space from which such air is withdrawn.
2. Air exhausted by a mechanical ventilation system for all other bathrooms or toilet rooms shall be exhausted to the exterior without recirculation to any space, or not more than 85 percent of the exhaust air shall be recirculated where the system is provided with effective absorption and filtering equipment.

**402.3 Cooking facilities.** Unless approved through the certificate of occupancy, cooking shall not be permitted in any rooming unit or dormitory unit, and a cooking facility or appliance shall not be permitted to be present in a rooming unit or dormitory unit.

**Exception.** Where specifically approved in writing by the code official.

**402.4 Process ventilation.** Where injurious, toxic, irritation or noxious fumes, gases, dusts or mists are generated, a local exhaust ventilation system shall be provided to remove the contaminating agent at the source. Air shall be exhausted to the exterior and not be recirculated to any space.

**402.5 Clothes dryer exhaust.** Clothes dryer venting systems shall be independent of all other systems and shall be vented in accordance with the manufacturers instructions.

## **SECTION 403 OCCUPANCY LIMITATIONS**

**403.1 Privacy.** Dwelling units, hotel units, rooming units and dormitory units shall be arranged to provide privacy and be separate from other adjoining spaces.

**403.2 Minimum room widths.** A habitable room, other than a kitchen, shall not be less than 7 feet (2134 mm) in any plan dimension. Kitchens shall have a clear passageway of not less than 3 feet (914 mm) between counterfronts and appliances or counterfronts and walls.

**403.3 Minimum ceiling heights.** Habitable spaces, hallways, corridors, laundry areas, bathrooms, toilet rooms and habitable basement areas shall have a clear ceiling height of not less than 7 feet (2134 mm).

### **Exceptions**

1. In one- and two-family dwellings, beams or girders spaced not less than 4 feet (1219 mm) on center and projecting not more than 6 inches (152 mm) below the required ceiling height.
2. Basement rooms in one- and two-family dwellings occupied exclusively for laundry, study or recreation purposes, having a ceiling height of not less than 6 feet 8 inches (2033 mm) with not less than 6 feet 4 inches (1932 mm) of clear height under beams, girders, ducts and similar obstructions.
3. Rooms occupied exclusively for sleeping, study or similar purposes and having a sloped ceiling over all or part of the room, with a clear ceiling height of at least 7 feet (2134 mm) over not less than one-third of the required minimum floor area. In calculating the floor area of such rooms, only those portions of the floor area with a clear ceiling height of 5 feet (1524 mm) or more shall be included.

**403.4 Bedroom requirements.** Every bedroom shall comply with the requirements of Sections 403.4.1 through 403.4.4.

**403.4.1 Area for sleeping purposes.** Every bedroom occupied by one occupant shall contain at least 70 square feet (6.5 m<sup>2</sup>) of floor area, and every bedroom occupied by more than one person shall contain at least 50 square feet (4.6 m<sup>2</sup>) of floor area for each occupant thereof.

**403.4.2 Access from bedrooms.** Bedrooms shall not constitute the only means of access to other bedrooms or habitable spaces and shall not serve as the only means of egress from other habitable spaces.

**Exception:** Units that contain fewer than two bedrooms.

**403.4.3 Prohibited occupancy.** Kitchens and nonhabitable spaces shall not be used for sleeping purposes.

**403.4.4 Other requirements.** Bedrooms shall comply with the applicable provisions of this code including, but not limited to, the light, ventilation, room area, ceiling height and room width requirements of this chapter; the plumbing facilities and water heating facilities requirements of Chapter 5; the heating facilities and electrical receptacle requirements of Chapter 6 and the smoke detector and emergency escape requirements of Chapter 7.

**403.5 Overcrowding.** Dwelling units shall not be occupied by more occupants than permitted by the minimum area requirements of Table 403.5.

**Table 403.5  
MINIMUM AREA REQUIREMENTS**

Space	Minimum area in square feet <sup>c</sup>		
	1-2 occupants	3-5 occupants	6 or more
Living room <sup>a,b</sup>	No requirements	120	150
Dining room <sup>a,b</sup>	No requirements	80	100
Kitchen <sup>b</sup>	50	50	60
Bedrooms	Shall comply with Section 403.4		

**Note a.** See Section 403.5.2 for combined living room/dining room spaces.

**Note b.** See Section 403.5.1 for limitations on determining minimum occupancy area for sleeping purposes.

**Note c.** 1 square foot = 0.093 m<sup>2</sup>.

**403.5.1 Sleeping area.** The minimum occupancy area required by Table 403.5 shall not be included as sleeping area in determining minimum occupancy area for sleeping purposes. All sleeping areas shall comply with Section 403.4.

**403.5.2 Combined spaces.** Combined living room and dining room spaces shall comply with the requirements of Table 403.5 if the total area is equal to that required for separate rooms and if the space is located so as to function as a combination living room/dining room.

**403.6 Efficiency unit.** Nothing in this section shall prohibit an efficiency living unit meeting the following requirements.

- (1) A unit occupied by not more than two occupants shall have a clear floor area of not less than 220 square feet (20.4 m<sup>2</sup>).  
A unit occupied by three occupants shall have a clear floor area of not less than 320 square feet (29.7 m<sup>2</sup>). These required areas shall be exclusive of the areas required by paragraphs (2) and (3).
- (2) The unit shall be provided with a kitchen sink, cooking appliance and refrigeration facilities, each having a clear working space of not less than 30 inches (762 mm) in front. Light and ventilation conforming to this code shall be provided.
- (3) The unit shall be provided with a separate bathroom containing a water closet, lavatory and bathtub or shower.
- (4) The maximum number of occupants shall be three.

**403.7 Food preparation.** All spaces to be occupied for food preparation purposes shall contain suitable space and equipment to store, prepare and serve foods in a sanitary manner. There shall be adequate facilities and services for the sanitary disposal of food wastes and refuse, including facilities for temporary storage.

## CHAPTER 5 PLUMBING FACILITIES AND FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS

### SECTION 501 GENERAL

**501.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum plumbing systems, facilities and plumbing fixtures to be provided.

**501.2 Responsibility.** The owner of the structure shall provide and maintain such plumbing facilities and plumbing fixtures in compliance with these requirements. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy any structure or premises which does not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

### SECTION 502 REQUIRED FACILITIES

**502.1 Dwelling units.** Every dwelling unit shall contain its own bathtub or shower, lavatory, water closet and kitchen sink which shall be maintained in a sanitary, safe working condition. The lavatory shall be placed in the same room as the water closet or located in close proximity to the door leading directly into the room in which such water closet is located.

**502.2 Rooming houses.** At least one water closet, lavatory and bathtub or shower shall be supplied for each four rooming units.

**502.3 Hotels.** Where private water closets, lavatories, and baths are not provided, one water closet, one lavatory and one bathtub or shower having access from a public hallway shall be provided for each ten occupants.

**502.4 Employee's facilities.** A minimum of one water closet, one lavatory and one drinking facility shall be available to employees.

**502.4.1 Drinking facilities.** Drinking facilities shall be a drinking fountain, water cooler, bottled water cooler, or disposable cups next to a sink or water dispenser. Drinking facilities shall not be located in toilet rooms or bathrooms.

### SECTION 503 TOILET ROOMS

**503.1 Privacy.** Toilet rooms and bathrooms shall provide privacy and shall not constitute the only passageway to a hall or other space, or to the exterior.

**503.2 Location.** Toilet rooms and bathrooms serving hotel units, rooming units or dormitory units, shall have access by traversing not more than one flight of stairs and shall have access from a common hall or passageway.

**503.3 Location of employee toilet facilities.** Toilet facilities shall have access from within the employees regular working area. The required toilet facilities shall be located not more than one story above or below the employee's regular working area and the path of travel to such facilities shall not exceed a distance of 500 feet (152 m). Employee facilities shall either be separate facilities or public customer facilities.

**Exception.** Facilities that are required for employees in storage structures or kiosks, and which are located in adjacent structures under the same ownership, lease or control, shall not exceed a travel distance of 500 feet (152 m) from the employee's regular working area to the facilities.

#### **SECTION 504 PLUMBING FIXTURES**

**504.1 General.** All plumbing fixtures shall be properly installed and maintained in working order, and shall be kept free from obstructions, leaks, and defects and be capable of performing the function for which such plumbing fixtures are designed. All plumbing fixtures shall be maintained in a safe, sanitary and functional condition.

**504.2 Fixture clearances.** Plumbing fixtures shall have adequate clearances for usage and cleaning.

#### **SECTION 505 WATER SYSTEM**

**505.1 General.** Every sink, lavatory, bathtub or shower, drinking fountain, water closet or other plumbing fixture shall be properly connected to either a public water system or to an approved private water system. All kitchen sinks, lavatories, laundry facilities, bathtubs and showers shall be supplied with hot or tempered and cold running water.

**505.2 Contamination.** The water supply shall be maintained free from contamination, and all water inlets for plumbing fixtures shall be located above the floor level rim of the fixture. Shampoo basin faucets, janitor sink faucets, and other hose bibs or faucets to which hoses are attached and left in place, shall be protected by an approved atmospheric-type vacuum breaker or an approved permanently attached hose connection vacuum breaker.

**505.3 Supply.** The water supply system shall be installed and maintained to provide a supply of water to plumbing fixtures, devices and appurtenances in sufficient volume and at pressures adequate to enable the fixtures to function properly, safely, and free from defects and leaks.

**505.4 Water heating facilities.** Water heating facilities shall be properly installed, maintained and capable of providing an adequate amount of water to be drawn at every required sink, lavatory, bathtub, shower and laundry facilities at a temperature of not less than 120 degrees F. (49 degrees C.). A gas-burning water heater shall not be located in any bathroom, toilet room, bedroom or other occupied room normally kept closed, unless adequate combustion air is provided. An approved combination temperature and pressure relief valve and relief valve discharge pipe shall be properly installed and maintained on water heaters.

#### **SECTION 506 SANITARY DRAINAGE SYSTEM**

**506.1 General.** All plumbing fixtures shall be properly connected to either a public sewer system or to an approved private sewage disposal system.

**506.2 Sanitary facilities.** Every dwelling unit shall contain not less than a kitchen sink, lavatory, tub or shower, and a water closet all in good working condition and properly connected to an

approved water and sewer system. Every plumbing fixture and water and waste pipe shall be properly installed and maintained in good sanitary working condition free from defects, leaks and obstructions.

## **SECTION 507 STORM DRAINAGE**

**507.1 General.** Drainage of roofs and paved areas, yards and courts, and other open areas on the premises shall not be discharged in a manner that creates a public nuisance.

## **CHAPTER 6 MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **SECTION 601 GENERAL**

**601.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum mechanical and electrical facilities and equipment to be provided.

**601.2 Responsibility.** The owner of the structure shall provide and maintain mechanical and electrical facilities and equipment in compliance with these requirements. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy any premises which does not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

### **SECTION 602 HEATING FACILITIES**

**602.1 Facilities required.** Heating facilities shall be provided in structures as required by this section.

**602.2 Residential buildings.** Every dwelling shall be provided with heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of 65 degrees F. (18 degrees C.) in all habitable rooms, bathrooms and toilet rooms based on the outside design temperature required for the locality by the mechanical code.

**602.2.1 Heat supply.** Every owner and operator of any building who rents, leases or lets one or more dwelling unit, rooming unit, dormitory or guestroom on terms, either express or implied, to furnish heat to the occupants thereof shall supply sufficient heat to maintain the room temperatures specified in Section 602.2.

**602.2.2. Room temperature exception.** When the outdoor temperature is below the outdoor design temperature required for the locality by the mechanical code, the owner or operator shall not be required to maintain the minimum room temperatures, provided that the heating system is operating at full capacity, with supply valves and dampers in a full open position.

**602.3 Nonresidential structures.** Every enclosed occupied work space shall be supplied with sufficient heat to maintain a temperature of not less than 65 degrees F. (18 degrees C.) during all working hours.

#### **Exceptions**

1. Processing, storage and operation areas that require cooling or special temperature conditions.
2. Areas in which persons are primarily engaged in vigorous physical activities.

**602.4 Room temperature measurement.** The required room temperature shall be measured at a point 3 feet (914 mm) above the floor and 3 feet (914 mm) from the exterior walls.

## **SECTION 603 MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT**

**603.1 Mechanical equipment.** All mechanical equipment, fireplaces and solid fuel-burning appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe working condition, and shall be capable of performing the intended function.

**603.2 Equipment access.** Access to outdoor mechanical equipment shall be maintained under all weather conditions.

**603.4 Flue.** All fuel burning equipment and appliances shall be connected to an approved chimney or vent.

**Exception.** Fuel-burning equipment and appliances which are labeled for unvented operation.

**603.5 Clearances.** All required clearances to combustible materials shall be maintained.

**603.6 Safety controls.** All safety controls for fuel-burning equipment shall be maintained in effective operation.

**603.7 Combustion air.** A supply of air for complete combustion of the fuel and for ventilation of the space shall be provided for the fuel-burning equipment.

**603.8 Energy conservation devices.** Devices intended to reduce fuel consumption by attachment to a fuel-burning appliance, to the fuel supply line thereto, or to the vent outlet or vent piping therefrom, shall not be installed unless labeled for such purpose and the installation is specifically approved.

## **SECTION 604 ELECTRICAL FACILITIES**

**604.1 Facilities required.** Every occupied building shall be provided with an electrical system in compliance with the requirements of this section and Section 605.0.

**604.2 Service.** The size and usage of appliances and equipment shall serve as a basis for determining the need for additional facilities in accordance with NFPA 70. Every dwelling shall be served by a main service that is not less than 100 amperes, three wires.

**604.3 Electrical system hazards.** Where it is found that the electrical system in a structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants or the structure by reason of inadequate service, improper fusing, insufficient outlets, improper wiring or installation, deterioration or damage, or for similar reasons, the code official shall require the defects to be corrected to eliminate the hazard.

## **SECTION 605**

## **ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

**605.1 Installation.** All electrical equipment, wiring and appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe and approved manner.

**605.2 Receptacles.** Every habitable space in a dwelling shall contain at least three separate and remote receptacle outlets. Every laundry area shall contain at least one grounded-type receptacle or a receptacle with a ground fault circuit interrupter. Every bathroom shall contain at least one receptacle. Any new bathroom receptacle outlet shall have ground fault circuit interrupter protection.

**NOTE:** All electrical wiring in new construction shall conform to the 1996 National Electric Code as amended.

**605.3 Lighting fixtures.** Every public hall, interior stairway, water closet compartment, bathroom, laundry room and furnace room shall contain at least one electric lighting fixture.

## CHAPTER 7 FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

### SECTION 701 GENERAL

**701.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum conditions and standards for fire safety relating to structures and exterior premises, including fire safety facilities and equipment to be provided.

**701.2 Responsibility.** The owner of the premises shall provide and maintain such fire safety facilities and equipment in compliance with these requirements. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy any premises that do not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

### SECTION 702 MEANS OF EGRESS

**702.1 General.** A safe, continuous and unobstructed means of egress shall be provided. The means of egress shall be maintained continuous and unobstructed.

**702.2 Exit capacity.** The capacity of the exits servicing a floor shall be sufficient for the occupant load thereof as determined by the building code.

**702.3 Number of exits.** In nonresidential buildings, every occupied story more than six stories above grade shall be provided with not less than two independent exits. In residential buildings, every story exceeding two stories above grade shall be provided with not less than two independent exits. In stories where more than one exit is required, all occupants shall have access to at least two exits. Every occupied story which is both totally below grade and greater than 2000 square feet (186 m<sup>2</sup>) shall be provided with not less than two independent exits.

**Exceptions.** A single exit is acceptable under any one of the following conditions.

1. Where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system and an automatic fire detection system with smoke detectors located in all corridors, lobbies and common areas.
2. Where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic fire detection system and the exit is an approved smokeproof enclosure or pressurized stairway.
3. Where an existing fire escape conforming to the building code is provided in addition to the single exit.
4. Where permitted by the building code.

**702.4 Arrangement.** Exits from dwelling units, rooming units, guestrooms and dormitory units shall not lead through other such units, or through toilet rooms or bathrooms.

**702.5 Exit signs.** All means of egress shall be indicated with approved "Exit" signs where required by the building code. All "Exit" signs shall be maintained visible and all illuminated "Exit" signs shall be illuminated at all times that the building is occupied.

**702.6 Corridor enclosure.** All corridors serving an occupant load greater than 30 and the openings therein shall provide an effective barrier to resist the movement of smoke. All transoms, louvers, doors and other openings shall be closed or shall be self-closing.

**Exceptions.**

1. Corridors in occupancies, other than high hazard occupancies which are equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system.
2. Patient room doors in corridors in health care occupancies where smoke barriers are provided in accordance with the fire prevention code, are not required to be self-closing.
3. Corridors in educational occupancies where each room that is occupied for instruction or assembly purposes has at least one-half of the required means of egress doors opening directly to the exterior of the building at ground level.
4. Corridors that are in compliance with the building code.

**702.7 Dead-end travel distance.** All corridors that serve more than one exit shall provide direct connection to such exits. The length of a dead-end corridor shall not exceed 35 feet (10668 mm) where the building is not equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system. The dead-end travel distance limitation shall be increased to 70 feet (21336 mm) where the building is equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system.

**702.8 Aisles.** Arrangements of chairs or tables and chairs shall provide for ready access by aisle accessways and aisles to each egress door. The minimum clear width of each aisle in assembly, educational and health care occupancies shall be maintained in accordance with the requirements of the building code. In all other occupancies, aisles shall have a minimum required clear width of 44 inches (1118 mm) where serving an occupant load greater than 50, and 36 inches (914 mm) where serving an occupant load of 50 or less. The clear width of aisles shall not be obstructed by chairs, tables or other objects.

**702.9 Stairways, handrails and guards.** Every exterior and interior flight of means of egress stairs serving any building or portion thereof and having more than four risers shall have a handrail on at least one side of the stair. Every open portion of a stair, landing, balcony, porch, deck, ramp or other walking surface which is more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below shall have guards. Handrails shall not be less than 30 inches (762 mm) nor more than 42 inches (1067 mm) high, measured vertically above the nosing of the tread or above the finished floor of the landing or walking surfaces. Guards shall not be less than 30 inches (762 mm) high above the floor of the landing, balcony, porch, deck, ramp or other walking surface.

**Exception:** Guards are not required at any location where guards are exempted by the building code.

**702.10 Stairway identification.** A sign shall be provided at each floor landing in all interior stairways more than three stories above grade, designating the floor level above the floor of discharge. All elevator lobby call stations on all floor levels shall be identified by approved signs in accordance with the requirements for new buildings in the building code.

**Exception.** The emergency sign shall not be required for elevators that are part of an accessible means of egress complying with the building code.

**702.11 Locked doors.** All means of egress doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without the need for keys, special knowledge or effort, except as provided for in Section PM-702.11.1

**702.11.1 Locks permitted.** Locks or fasteners shall not be installed on egress doors except in accordance with the following conditions.

1. In mental, penal or other institutions where the security of inmates is necessary, in which case properly trained supervisory personnel shall be continuously on duty and approved provisions are made to remove occupants safely in case of fire or other emergency.
2. In problem security areas, special purpose door alarms or locking devices shall be approved prior to installation. Manually operated edge or surface-molded flush bolts are prohibited.
3. Where the door hardware conforms to that permitted by the building code.

**702.12 Emergency escape.** Every sleeping room located below the third story in residential and group home occupancies shall have at least one openable window or exterior door approved for emergency egress or rescue; or shall have access to not less than two approved independent exits.

**Exception.** Buildings equipped throughout with an automatic fire suppression system.

**702.12.1 Security.** Bars, grilles or screens placed over emergency escape windows shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the window.

## **SECTION 703 ACCUMULATIONS AND STORAGE**

**703.1 Accumulations.** Rubbish, garbage or other materials shall not be stored or allowed to accumulate in stairways, passageways, doors, windows, fire escapes or other means of egress.

**703.2 Hazardous material.** Combustible, flammable, explosive or other hazardous materials, such as paints, volatile oils and cleaning fluids, or combustible rubbish, such as wastepaper, boxes and rags, shall not be accumulated or stored unless such storage complies with the applicable requirements of the building code and the fire prevention code.

## **SECTION 704 FIRERESISTANCE RATINGS**

**704.1 General.** The fireresistance rating of floors, walls, ceilings, and other elements and components shall be maintained.

**704.2 Maintenance.** All required fire doors and smoke barriers shall be maintained in good working order, including all hardware necessary for the proper operation thereof. Fire doors shall not be held open by door stops, wedges and other unapproved hold-open devices.

## **SECTION 705**

## **FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

**705.1 General.** All systems, devices and equipment to detect a fire, actuate an alarm, or suppress or control a fire or any combination thereof shall be properly maintained.

**705.2 Fire suppression system.** Fire suppression systems shall be in proper operating condition at all times.

**705.3 Standpipe systems.** Standpipe systems shall be in proper operating condition at all times.

**705.4 Fire extinguishers.** All portable fire extinguishers shall be visible, provided with ready access thereto, and maintained in an efficient and safe operating condition. Extinguishers shall be of an approved type.

**705.5 Smoke detectors.** A minimum of one approved single-station or multiple-station smoke detector shall be installed in each guestroom, suite or sleeping area in residential and group home occupancies, and in dwelling units in the immediate vicinity of the bedrooms in occupancies in one and two family dwellings and multi-family dwellings. In all residential occupancies, smoke detectors shall be required on every story of the dwelling unit, including basements. In dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke detector installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level, provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

**705.5.1 Installation.** All detectors shall be installed in accordance with the building code. When actuated, the smoke detectors shall provide an alarm suitable to warn the occupants within the individual room or dwelling unit.

**705.5.2 Power source.** The power source for smoke detectors shall be either an AC primary power source or a monitored battery primary power source.

**NOTE:** On all new construction all smoke detectors shall comply with the 1996 National Electric Code and the 1997 Standard Building Code.

**705.5.3 Tampering.** Anyone tampering or interfering with the effectiveness of a smoke detector shall be in violation of this code.

**705.6 Fire alarm systems.** Fire alarm systems shall be in proper operating condition at all times.

## **CHAPTER 8 REFERENCED CODES**

This chapter lists the codes that are referenced in various sections of this document. The application of the referenced codes shall be specified in Section 102.7.

### **CODES**

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**1997 Standard Building Code.**  
**1996 National Electric Code as amended**  
**1992 Arkansas State Plumbing and Gas Codes as amended**  
**1997 Standard Fire Prevention Code**

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