

History of British Columbia Building Regulations

The provincial government receives numerous requests for information concerning the date that various building codes and regulations came into effect. In response to these requests the following history and table were prepared.

Under the terms of the Constitution Act, regulation of building in Canada is the responsibility of the provincial and territorial governments. British Columbia enacts building regulation through the Local Government Act and the authority to enforce these building regulations is granted to municipalities and regional districts, also through the Local Government Act. The [Building and Safety Standards Branch](#) for Housing and Construction Standards is responsible for developing and maintaining the building regulations.

Prior to September 1, 1973, local governments adopted a building code under local bylaws. In 1973, an amendment to the Municipal Act gave the provincial government the power to make regulations establishing a building code (includes the plumbing code) for the province through an Order in Council. An amendment to the Act in 1977 eliminated the need for an OIC and gave authority to the Minister of Municipal Affairs to enact the codes through a Minister's Order. Currently, the authority for building regulations belongs to the Minister of Forests and Range.

The following table lists the various regulations that have been enacted over the years to adopt various building and plumbing codes and their amendments. Some of the effective dates were difficult to establish as the rules for the effective date have changed over the years based on changes to other relevant legislation. Therefore, the Province of British Columbia disclaims all responsibility for the accuracy of the information. This information should not be used as a basis for making financial, legal or any other commitments. If an exact date is required contact the Registrar of Regulations at the Ministry of Attorney General in Victoria, 604 356-5747 or fax 604 356-5758 to verify the date.

Copies of the regulations, which have been published in Part 2 of the BC Gazette, are available from the Legislative Library in Victoria, 250 387-6510, the Vancouver Public Library, 604 331-3603 (ask for History and Government Division) or the UBC library, 604 822-6375. Other libraries may also carry these documents.

Regulations Pertaining to the B.C. Building Code

Number	Description	Effective Date
140/73	Adopt 1970 National Building Code (NBC)	01 Sep 73
396/73	Add mobile homes and factory built housing	03 Nov 73
805/74	Amendments to Building Code	07 Dec 74
378/75	Adopt 1975 NBC, except Part 2 and 7	10 May 75
28/77	Add definition of first storey	01 Feb 77
477/77	Adopt 1977 NBC	01 Mar 78
407/78	Amendment to the Plumbing Code	15 Sep 78
532/78	Amend reference to edition of NFPA - 96	26 Dec 78
184/79	Add NBC amendments & clauses re: fire alarms	31 Mar 79
233/79	Amendment to the Plumbing Code	25 May 79
236/79	Add Part 10, Handicap provisions	23 Aug 79
374/81	Adopt 1980 NBC as BC Building Code	09 Dec 81
1/83	Exemptions for buildings on Mine Site	08 Jan 83
191/83	Definition of Mine Site	25 May 83
263/84	Amendments re: chimneys	21 Nov 84
287/84	Amendments to BCBC 1980 & add Section 3.7	17 Dec 84
35/86	Exemptions for Victoria's old buildings (pre 1950)	27 Feb 86
79/86	Exemptions for Expo' 86	15 Apr 86
192/87	Adopt BC Building Code 1985 (amended '85 NBC)	28 Sep 87
339/87	Reinstate Mobile Home Standard, CSA Z240	15 Sep 87
362/88	First revisions and errata	16 Nov 88
231/89	Second revisions Sept. 89	01 Oct 89
351/92	Adopt BC Building Code 1992 (amended '90 NBC)	01 Dec 92
3/93	Rescind part of CSA-A440 window Standard	08 Jan 93
4/93	Reinstate CSA-A440 window Standard	05 Apr 93
172/93	Emergency additions re: combustibile insulation	25 May 93
383/93	Residential insulation requirements	21 Feb 94
2/94	Amendments re: update of NBC	21 Feb 94
47/95	Revisions re: update of NBC	30 Apr 95
232/95	Revisions to the Plumbing Code	01 Sep 95
420/95	Add Section 9.36 on secondary suites	15 Nov 95
295/98	Adopt BC Building Code 1998 (amended '95 NBC)	18 Dec 98
172/99	Revisions reflecting updates to the NBC	7 June 1999
171/2003	Revisions reflecting updates to the NBC	1 May 2003
165/2004	Revision re: Update CSA standard	1 May 2004
216/2006	Adopt BC Building Code 2006	15 Dec 2006
108/2007	Amendments to BC Building Code	27 April 2007