



# Office of the Fire Commissioner

## Summary of major Changes 2010 – 2020: National Fire Code of Canada Adoption

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Effective January 1, 2024, Manitoba will be adopting the 2020 editions of the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) and the National Fire Code of Canada (NFC).

The information contained in the below table is a summary of changes to the NFC, Manitoba Fire Code Regulation (MFCR) and Fire Safety Inspections Regulation (FSIR), occurring from 2010 to 2020 model codes. Where applicable, changes to the MFCR amendments are highlighted in yellow and the change year noted.

This summary is not a sole source of information, and information contained herein is only for reference and to bring awareness. Please confirm the information by referencing the 2020 NFC, MFCR and FSIR directly and have codes in hand while reviewing this bulletin.

For enquiries on the updated Manitoba building, plumbing and energy codes, please contact the Building Codes Section of Inspection and Technical Services:

[Province of Manitoba | Labour | Labour and Immigration | Building Codes \(gov.mb.ca\)](https://www.gov.mb.ca/labour-immigration/building-codes/)

The national model codes are now freely available online through the NRC's website:

<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/certifications-evaluations-standards/codes-canada/codes-canada-publications>

### Major changes to the National Fire Code

- Hot Works
- Dangerous Goods
- Fuel Dispensing Stations
- Leak Detection
- Laboratories
- Reuse of Storage Tanks
- Mid-rise Combustible Construction
- Basement Storage
- Fire and Smoke Dampers Inspection and Maintenance per NFPA 80
- Exit Sign for exterior side (outdoors)
- Integrated Systems Testing per CAN/ULC-S1001
- Fire Safety Plans
- Large Farm Buildings
- Fire Warning Systems
- Water-Miscible Liquid Mixtures
- Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction Fire Safety
- Home-type Care Occupancies

### Background:

Codes Canada, under the direction of the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes, develops the National Construction Codes, including the Building Code, Fire Code, Plumbing Code, and Energy Code.

In Manitoba, The Department of Municipal and Northern Relations administers the legislative framework for the development, adoption, and implementation of the National Fire Code of Canada through the MFCR.

National Fire Code Changes <sup>1</sup>		
<b>Division A - Compliance, Objectives and Functional Statements</b>		
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division A Part 1 - Compliance</b>		
Code Reference	Summary of Change	
1.4.1.2.	Defined Term - Dangerous Goods	Revised 2015- added reference to controlled products under HC SOR/2015-17 to harmonize TDGR and WHMIS. Added addendum note.
	Defined Term - Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction	Added 2020- new definitions related to encapsulated mass timber construction.
	Defined Term - Farm building	Added 2020- definition of farm building.
	Defined Term - Agricultural Occupancy	Added 2020- definition for agriculture occupancy (Group G1 to G4). Further definitions for Greenhouse Ag. Occ. (G3); High Hazard Ag. Occ. (G1); Ag. Occ. No humans (G4).
	Defined Term - Home-type Care Occupancy. Manitoba Amendment	Added 2020- revised new occupancy classification (Group B, Division 4) in a single housekeeping unit to align with current care requirements.
	Defined Term- Residential Care Client Manitoba Amendment	Removed 2020.
	Defined Term- Residential Care Occupancy Manitoba Amendment	Removed 2020.
	Defined Term - Major Occupancy	Revised 2020- to include occupancy classifications B4, G1, G2, G3, and G4.
1.5.1.1.	Application of Referenced Documents	Revised 2015- provision for function and objectives for each National Model Code.
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division A Part 2 - Objectives</b>		
Code Reference	Summary of Change	
2.1.1.2.	Application of Objectives	Added 2020- excludes farm buildings from property protection objectives in the NFC
A2.2.1.1.(1)	Note to Part 2 Objectives	Revised 2020- 'Fire Safety' addendum note for Objective OS1 to define 'person' and include emergency responders performing their duties.
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division A Part 3 - Functional Statements - No Changes</b>		

<sup>1</sup> Consult Actual National Fire Code of Canada (2020) and Manitoba Fire Code Regulation for full details.

<b>Division B - Acceptable Solutions</b>		
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division B Part 1 - General</b>		
<b>Code Reference</b>	<b>Summary of Change</b>	
1.3.2.2.	Table 1.3.1.2. is amended <b>Manitoba Amendment</b>	Revised 2020- reference to NFPA 10-2013.
	Table 1.3.1.2. is amended <b>Manitoba Amendment</b>	Revised 2020- reference to Can/ULC S532-07-R2019.
	Table 1.3.1.2. is amended <b>Manitoba Amendment</b>	Removed 2020- standard for CO detection installation.
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division B Part 2 - Building and Occupant Fire Safety</b>		
<b>Code Reference</b>	<b>Summary of Change</b>	
2.1.2.2.	Building Classification- Hazardous Activities	Revised 2020- updated to include new occupancy classifications
2.1.3.1.	Fire Alarm, Standpipe and Sprinkler Systems	Revised 2015- Includes exception for installation in conformance with NBC if other provision in NFC.
2.1.3.3.	Smoke Alarms	Revised 2020- to include home-type care occupancies and exemption for residential fire warning system.
	Smoke Alarms <b>Manitoba Amendment</b>	Added 2020- home-type care occupancy alarms required hard wired and inter-connected.
2.1.3.5.	Special Fire Suppression Systems	Revised 2015- added reference to installation by good engineering practices.
2.1.3.6.	Inspection, Maintenance and Testing of Fire Safety Devices	Revised 2015- renumbered with editorial changes for clarity.
2.1.3.7.	Integrated Life Safety and Fire Protection Systems	Revised 2015- testing in accordance with NBC.
	Service Personal Qualifications <b>Manitoba Amendment</b>	Revised 2020- includes training approved by fire commissioner to align with other amendments. Previously 2.1.3.6.
2.1.3.8.	Carbon Monoxide Detectors <b>Manitoba Amendment</b>	Revised 2020- install in conformance with Manitoba Building Code
2.1.5.1.	Portable Extinguishers	Revised 2020- to include home-type care occupancies.
2.2.1.2.	Damage to Fire Separations and Fire Protection Materials	Revised 2020- added repair requirements for fire protection materials.
2.2.2.4.	Closures-Inspection and Maintenance	Revised 2015- allows for hold open device exception and introduces frequency testing per NFPA 80.
2.2.3.	Encapsulation Materials	Added 2020- added repair requirements for damaged or removed material.
2.3.2.3.	Textiles in Group B Occupancies	Revised 2020- clarification of test method to use depending on division of group B.
2.4.3.	Open Flames	Added 2020- home-type care occupancies.
2.4.4.2.	Flammable Gases	Revised 2015- includes reference to dangerous goods.
2.6.1.5	Clearances	Revised 2020- Reference to encapsulated mass timber
2.6.1.6	Operation and Maintenance Procedures	Revised 2020- include home-type care occupancies.
2.7.1.2.	Open Floor Areas	Revised 2020- simplified wording.

2.7.1.6.	Maintenance	Added 2020- addendum note to explain persons with cognitive disabilities.
2.7.1.8.	Free of Obstructions	Added 2015- exit sign required on exterior of door if subject to obstruction.
2.7.3.1.	Installation and Maintenance	Revised 2015- include provision for exit sign maintenance.
2.8.	Emergency Planning	Added 2020- all safety plans centralized under section 2.8.
2.8.1.1.	Application	Revised 2020- include home-type care occupancy
	Application Manitoba Amendment	Removed 2020- had referenced residential care, boarding and lodging house.
2.8.1.2.	Supervisory Staff	Revised 2020- include requirement for on duty staff in care and assembly occupancies.
2.8.2.2.	High Buildings	Added 2020- procedures for fire department access to plan and test procedures under part 7.
2.8.2.12.	Retention of Fire Safety Plans	Added 2015- safety plan kept at principle entrance.
2.8.2.14.	Posting of Fire Emergency Procedures	Revised 2020- post at outdoor storage area.
	Posting of Fire Emergency Procedures Manitoba Amendment	Revised 2020- include home-type care occupancies.
2.8.3.2.	Fire Drill Frequency	Revised 2015- include laboratories.
	Fire Drill Frequency Manitoba Amendment	Revised 2020- include home-type care occupancies.
2.12.1.7.	Covered Malls	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
2.14.	Farm Buildings	Added 2020- requirements for maintenance of electrical and mechanical systems in large farm buildings. Include requirements for signage, control of gases and vapours. Include requirements for below-floor manure storage.
2.16.	Retrofit Requirements Manitoba Amendment	Revised 2020- section number change from 2.15. to align with NFC.
2.16.1.	Home-Type Care Facilities Manitoba Amendment	Revised 2020- renamed from Residential Care Facilities
2.16.1.1.	Application Manitoba Amendment	Revised 2020- align requirements with home-type care and clarify exceptions for application.
2.15.1.6.	Fire Extinguishers Manitoba Amendment	Removed 2020- aligned in NFC.
2.15.1.7.	Smoke Alarms Manitoba Amendment	Removed 2020- aligned in NFC.
2.16.1.6.	Sprinklers Manitoba Amendment	Revised 2020- realign section numbering. Include training for risk assessment personal.
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division B Part 3 - Indoor and Outdoor Storage</b>		
<b>Code Reference</b>	<b>Summary of Change</b>	
3.1.1.1.	Application	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.

3.1.1.2.	Radioactive Materials	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.1.1.3.	Explosives	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.1.1.4.	Compressed Gases	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.1.2.1.	Classification	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods and reference to WHMIS.
3.1.2.2.	Ambient Temperature	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.1.2.4.	Storage Arrangement and Conditions	Added 2015- storage requires stable piling
3.1.2.5.	Compressed Gases	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.1.2.6.	Reactive Materials	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods. Minor wording change and added unstable dangerous goods to section.
3.1.2.7.	Fire Safety Plan	Revised 2015- moved to 2.8 and minor wording change.
3.2.7.1.	Application	Revised 2015- WHMIS classifications introduced and an exemption for small quantities and table revised.
3.2.7.2.	Ignition Sources	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.2.7.5.	Ambient Conditions	Revised 2015- minor wording change for clarity.
3.2.7.6.	Separation From Other Dangerous Goods	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods and provisions for fire-resistance ratings. Revised table 3.2.7.6.
3.2.7.2.	Ignition Sources	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.2.7.8.	Flooring Materials	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.2.7.9.	Fire Suppression Systems	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods and provides exemption classifications of dangerous goods.
3.2.7.14	Placards	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods and adds requirement for laboratories.
3.2.7.18.	Storage of Oxidizers in Mercantile Occupancies	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.2.8.1.	Application	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.2.8.2.	Flammable Gases	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.2.8.3.	Indoor Storage of Anhydrous Ammonia and Toxic or Oxidizing Gases	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods and revised title.
3.3.1.1.	Application	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.3.4.1.	Application	Revised 2015- added clarification for exemption amounts for products that have multiple classes.
3.3.4.2.	Individual Storage Areas and Clearances	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.3.5.1.	Application	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.

3.3.5.2.	Location	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
3.3.5.3.	Clearances	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division B Part 4 - Flammable and Combustible Liquids</b>		
<b>Code Reference</b>	<b>Summary of Change</b>	
4.1.1.1.	Application	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
	Application	Revised 2020- clarifies that CSA B139, "Installation Code for Oil-Burning Equipment," applies to aboveground storage tanks of less than 2500 L.
	Application	Revised 2020- removed exemption for isolated construction projects.
	Application	Revised 2020- include requirements for farms under 4.12.
4.1.2.2.	Water-Miscible Liquid Mixtures	Added 2020- introduced classification requirements.
4.1.5.1.	Additional Fire Protection Equipment	Revised 2020- provide clarity for special hazards.
4.1.5.8.	Basement Storage	Revised 2015- increased allowable storage to 10L.
4.1.6.1.	Spill Containment	Revised 2020- include requirements for spill containment of above ground storage tanks.
4.1.7.1.	Ventilation	Revised 2020- include transferring within rooms and enclosed spaces.
4.1.8.2.	Control of Static Electrical Charge	Revised 2015- include provisions for grounding of all conducting material.
4.2.2.2.	Storage Arrangements and Conditions	Revised 2015- include provisions for acceptable and unacceptable locations for storage of flammable and combustible liquids.
4.2.2.3.	Separation of Dangerous Goods	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods and requirements for class B3 liquids.
4.2.7.1.	Application	Revised 2015- include exemption for self-service storage buildings under 4.2.12.
4.2.12.	Self-Service Storage Buildings	Added 2015- include requirements for self-storage buildings.
4.3.1.2.	Atmospheric Storage Tanks	Revised 2015- include new reference standards and addendum note.
4.3.1.5.	Corrosion Protection	Revised 2015- include requirement for any storage tank to be protected by any means.
4.3.1.8.	Overfill Protection	Revised 2020- include protection for used lubricating oil; add device for tight-filled above/belowground storage tanks.
4.3.1.10.	Reuse	Revised 2015- changed reference standards for tank refurbishing.
4.3.6.4.	Connections for Filling and Emptying	Revised 2020- include requirements for spill containment device.
4.3.7.2.	Construction	Revised 2015- new reference standard.
	Construction	Revised 2020- provides clarity for liner installation.

4.3.7.4.	Clearances	Revised 2015- include change in volume limit and collision protection. New reference standard.
4.3.9.2.	Construction	Revised 2020- new reference standard for sump construction.
4.3.14.4.	Hose stations and Portable Extinguishers	Revised 2020- section removed.
4.3.15.1.	Connections	Revised 2020- include provision for spill containment device.
4.5.2.1.	Materials	Revised 2015- include new reference standard.
4.5.6.14.	Provision for Expansion and Retraction	Revised 2015- include new reference standard.
4.6.1.1.	Fuel Dispensing Stations	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
4.6.2.1.	Outside Above Ground Storage Tanks	Revised 2015- include external shut off valve.
4.6.2.3.	Piping	Revised 2015- include reference to other provisions.
4.6.4.1.	Location and Identification	Revised 2015- include provision for steel shut off valve.
	Location and Identification	Revised 2020- provide clarity for shut off valve distance and added note.
4.6.4.2.	Self Service Outlets	Revised 2015- included changes for clarity.
4.6.8.1 4.6.8.2	Supervision and Dispensing Procedures	Revised 2020- Clarified the requirements for attendants at fuel-dispensing stations that offer both attended service and self-service; removes the potential for confusion about the location of emergency shut-off devices.
4.6.8.5.	Duties of Attendants	Revised 2015- include requirement for visual inspections in accordance to 4.5.10.5.
4.6.8.9.	Training Procedures	Added 2015- include training of transfer personnel.
4.9.4.3.	Fire Protection	Revised 2015- include requirements for evaluation of risk of fire and explosions.
4.12.	Farms	Added 2020- introduced container and tank storage for flammable and combustible liquids/pesticides.
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division B Part 5 - Hazardous Processes and Operations</b>		
<b>Code Reference</b>	<b>Summary of Change</b>	
5.1.1.2.	Explosives	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
5.1.5.1.	Fire Safety Plan	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
5.2.1.1.	Application	Revised 2015- include roofing operations.
5.2.2.3.	Equipment Not in Use	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
5.2.2.4.	Compressed Gas Equipment	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
5.2.3.1.	Location of Operations	Revised 2015- include provisions for hot work area inspection.
5.2.3.2.	Protection of Combustible and Flammable Materials	Revised 2015- include provision for fire watch.



5.2.3.3.	Fire Watch	Revised 2015- new reference note.
5.2.3.4.	Work on Containers, Equipment or Piping	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
5.2.3.5.	Work Adjacent to Piping	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods.
5.3.1.4.	Dust Collectors	Revised 2015- increases allowable dust collector size to 2.36 m3/s.
5.4.3.4.	Electrical Equipment	Revised 2015- new reference note.
5.4.7.	Production of Ethanol for Fuel	Added 2015- applies to process plants. Use, handling, storage to conform to Part 3
5.5.4.3.	Enclosure Exhaust Ventilation	Revised 2015- include exception for interlock provisions and references to other provisions.
5.5.5.2.	Containers for Flammable and Combustible Liquids	Revised 2015- include provisions for containers for specimen preservation.
5.5.5.3.	Compressed Gases	Revised 2015- include reference to dangerous goods; provisions for use and storage; provisions for toxic gases, lecture bottles and pyrophoric gases.
5.5.5.5.	Dangerously Reactive Materials	Added 2015- include exemption and reference to other provisions.
5.5.5.6.	Perchloric Acid	Revised 2015- renamed from 'highly unstable substances'.
5.6.1.4.	Access for Fire Fighting	Revised 2015- new appendix note.
5.6.1.2.	Measures to Mitigate Fire Spread to Adjacent Buildings	Revised 2020- renamed from 'Protection of Adjacent Buildings'.
5.6.1.5.	Portable Extinguishers	Revised 2015- increased size of portable fire extinguisher and include designated smoking areas. New appendix note.
5.6.1.7.	Hot Surface Applications	Revised 2020- added requirement not to be located inside building.
5.6.3.	Additional Requirements for Residential and Business and Personal; Services Occupancies	Added 2015- include several additional subsection requirements for mid-rise wood frame-frame construction and further clarification in 2020.
5.6.3.1.	Application	Revised 2020- revise to align application to sections with NBC changes.
5.6.4.	Additional Requirements for Buildings of Encapsulated Mass Timber Construction	Added 2020- include requirements for buildings of encapsulated mass timber construction under construction.
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division B Part 6 - Fire Protection Equipment</b>		
<b>Code Reference</b>	<b>Summary of Change</b>	
6.3.1.5.	Qualifications of Service Personal <b>Manitoba Amendment</b>	Revised 2020- removed sentence (d).
6.5.1.8.	Inspection of Exit Signs	Added 2015- include requirements and exceptions for inspection.
6.7.1.1.	Inspection, Testing and Maintenance	Added 2020- include requirement for residential fire warning systems. New reference standard.
6.8.	Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems	Added 2015- include provision for testing and maintenance in conformance with Can/ULC-S1001.
<b>2010 to 2020</b>		
<b>Division B Part 7 - Emergency Systems in High Buildings - No Changes</b>		



<b>Division C - Administrative Provisions</b>
<b>2010 to 2020</b>
<b>Division C Part 1 - General - No Changes</b>
<b>2010 to 2020</b>
<b>Division C Part 2 - Administrative Provisions - No Changes</b>

<b>Fire Safety Inspections (2014) Regulation</b>		
2010 to 2020		
<b>Code Reference</b>	<b>Summary of Change</b>	
1(1)	Buildings that must be inspected table	Revised 2020- substitute residential care occupancy with home-type care occupancy.
		Revised 2020- substitute 'private school' with 'independent school'.
1(3)	Home-type Care Occupancy	Revised 2020- add home-type care occupancy.
	Home-type Care Occupancy	Revised 2020- include new care agency for facilities operated by indigenous service provider.