
The State Building Code is a collection of state laws and rules that apply a uniform set of standards to the construction and modification of buildings in order to enhance safety, energy efficiency, and accessibility.

What is the State Building Code?

Under [Minnesota Statutes, section 326B.121](#), the State Building Code, or the code, is the “standard that applies statewide for the construction, reconstruction, alteration, repair, and use of buildings and other structures.” It is the same throughout Minnesota and supersedes any county or municipal rules.

While there is a single State Building Code, it is composed of many smaller codes each focused on a particular technical area or type of structure, such as plumbing, electrical, elevators, accessibility, energy, or residences. A list of all of these codes is available on the Department of Labor and Industry website, <http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/codes-and-laws/2020-minnesota-state-building-codes>.

Most of the language of the code comes directly from national and international standards, such as the International Building Code, that are incorporated in whole or in part into the State Building Code via rulemaking.

Who administers and enforces the building code?

The code is administered by the state Department of Labor and Industry’s (DLI) Construction Codes and Licensing Division (CCLD) in conjunction with cities, townships, and counties throughout the state.

For public buildings, state-licensed facilities, and places of public accommodation, state officials at DLI enforce the code or delegate enforcement to local building officials. For definitions of these types of buildings see [Minnesota Statutes, sections 326B.103](#), subdivisions 11 and 13, and [326B.108](#).

For other types of buildings in counties and municipalities where the code has been formally adopted, enforcement is done by local building officials. For details on code enforcement in a specific area, see DLI’s code enforcement database, <http://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/jurisdiction/>.

For other types of buildings in jurisdictions that have not formally adopted the code, there may be no government entity actively monitoring code enforcement. Nevertheless, the code still applies to buildings in these areas. Further, compliance may be required by contracts with lending institutions or insurance providers.

How is the code changed?

The code is modified regularly by DLI, after consultation with committees of technical experts, in conjunction with semi-annual updates to national and international standards. The code may also be amended by the legislature.

How can the legislature affect the code?

The legislature can write laws that alter the code, either by adding new regulations or by changing how the existing codes will apply within Minnesota. For instance, because of legislative action, state law directs that the code cover several broad areas including elevators, electricity, plumbing, accessibility, manufactured homes, prefabricated homes, and industrialized and modular buildings.

Examples of recent legislative changes to the code include laws related to fire sprinklers, smoke detection, automatic garage door openers, radon control, and window fall prevention.

Does the code apply to agricultural buildings?

Agricultural buildings generally are not covered by the code. Agricultural buildings are those used only for agricultural purposes and situated on agricultural land. For more detailed information on exempt agricultural buildings, see [Minnesota Statutes, sections 326B.103](#), subdivision 3, and [273.13](#), subdivision 23.

Does the State Building Code include the State Fire Code?

The State Fire Code is a separate set of standards. The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the State Fire Marshal administer the State Fire Code. For additional information about the State Fire Code see the DPS website, <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/fire-code/Pages/default.aspx>.

Where can people find a copy of the building code?

The DLI website provides free digital copies of all parts of the State Building Code, as well as links for purchasing code books and for access to helpful fact sheets, <http://www.dli.mn.gov/business/codes-and-laws/2020-minnesota-state-building-codes>.

Who can answer code questions?

For questions about how the code might apply to a specific situation, the best sources for interpretation are local building officials or the CCLD.

Contact information for local officials can be found in the DLI database, <http://workplace.doli.state.mn.us/jurisdiction/>.

The CCLD's list of contact numbers by topic of question may be found on the DLI website, <http://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/our-areas-service/phone-and-email-directory>.



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