

Notice

New Alberta codes editions

National Building Code – 2023 Alberta Edition (NBC(AE))

National Fire Code – 2023 Alberta Edition (NFC(AE))

National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2020 (NECB)

Reminder - Coming into Force

The National Building Code - 2023 Alberta Edition, National Fire Code - 2023 Alberta Edition and the National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2020 will **come into force on May 1, 2024**.

The National Building Code - 2023 Alberta Edition and the National Fire Code - 2023 Alberta Edition are now available online and in downloadable form for free from the National Research Council [here](#). Paper copies are available for order at a reduced price from the National Research Council's [Virtual Store](#). The National Energy Code of Canada for Buildings 2020 was previously made available for free online and downloadable from the same site.

Alberta has jurisdiction over safety codes, as do all Canadian provinces and territories. The Alberta government worked closely with industry, municipal associations and technical experts across the province to determine if Alberta needed to modify anything from the 2020 national code publications. The government also works with Alberta's Safety Codes Council to review safety codes and standards proposed for adoption and receives input and advice from the Council to help ensure the codes are appropriate for Alberta.

While Alberta is a signatory to the Construction Codes Reconciliation Agreement to reduce barriers to trade and support harmonized codes across Canada, the provincially focused review ensured the upcoming changes to Alberta code editions best support the needs of Albertans.

Key changes to the Alberta editions of the building, fire and energy codes

- Farm buildings will continue to be exempt from Alberta's editions of the building, energy efficiency and fire codes.
- Alberta is adopting tier 1 as the minimum province-wide standard for building energy efficiency for housing and small buildings under Part 9 of the Alberta edition of the National Building Code and tier 1 for energy efficiency for other buildings in the National Energy Code for Buildings 2020. These codes allow provinces and territories to choose from five tiers or levels for energy efficiency performance at a pace best suited for their jurisdiction and in recognition of their specific sources of energy.

Transition Period

Municipal Affairs recognizes that municipalities require flexibility to appropriately manage the transition period for the administration of new code requirements. Industry also benefits from additional time to become familiar with the new code changes. There is a transition period to allow municipalities and other authorities having jurisdiction the time to prepare for the new code changes and allow

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construction in progress with a valid permit to continue under the previous code edition. For this code transition period, Municipal Affairs has provided additional flexibility and time for when building projects can continue under the previous codes prior to the May 1, 2024 coming into force date.

Municipalities and other authorities having jurisdiction may restrict building permit applications to the National Building Code – 2019 Alberta Edition, National Fire Code – 2019 Alberta Edition and National Energy Code for Buildings 2017 and other administration activities until May 1, 2024.

After May 1, 2024, the following transition conditions apply:

1. If building construction is in progress with a valid permit issued under the 2019 building and fire code editions, the NECB 2017 or previous codes by the authority having jurisdiction, construction is allowed to proceed under the code in force at the time of construction. Unless an unsafe condition exists in the opinion of the authority having jurisdiction, construction in progress is not required to be updated to the 2023 building and fire code provisions or to the NECB 2020.
2. Construction may continue under the 2019 building and fire code editions and the NECB 2017 for work for which a building permit application is made to the authority having jurisdiction prior to May 1, 2024. A person may choose to construct to the 2023 building and fire code editions and the NECB 2020 earlier if the authority having jurisdiction allows. Under the *Safety Codes Act*, municipalities have the authority to carry out their powers and duties as an accredited municipality including the administration of their permit system. Check with your local accredited municipality respecting permit review and approval during the transition period.
3. The project may continue under the 2019 building code edition and the NECB 2017 if the authority having jurisdiction is satisfied the preparation of plans and specifications was substantially completed prior to May 1, 2024.
4. For factory-built buildings (modular homes) which are under a certification process administered by an organization accredited by the Standards Council of Canada, construction may continue under the 2019 building code edition and the NECB 2017 where construction started prior to May 1, 2024.

The builder will be required to provide the homeowner and permit issuer with appropriate documentation proving the construction start date occurred prior to May 1, 2024. In cases where the home is not substantially completed in the manufacturer's facility, the manufacturer's record of start date will be used.

Municipal Affairs and the Safety Codes Council will continue to provide additional information, bulletins and education sessions related to applications of the codes. Key changes from the previous codes and differences between the national and Alberta editions are posted at <https://www.safetycodes.ab.ca/training-and-certification/code-updates/>

For further information contact Municipal Affairs
Email: safety.services@gov.ab.ca Phone: 1-866-421-6929

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