

Wisconsin Building Codes 101

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The first state-wide commercial building code in Wisconsin was effective October 15, 1914.

- The Industrial Commission of Wisconsin, BUILDING CODE, Section 1.
- New Building and Additions.
- Order 5000.
- This code shall apply to all buildings and additions (except those exempted in order 5006) for which contracts have not been let before October 15, 1914.

CHAPTER 101
DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY AND PROFESSIONAL
SERVICES —
REGULATION OF INDUSTRY, BUILDINGS AND
SAFETY

<http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/statutes/statutes/101.pdf>

SUBCHAPTER I

REGULATION OF INDUSTRY:

GENERAL PROVISIONS

- **101.01 Definitions.** In this chapter, the following words and phrases have the designated meanings unless a different meaning is expressly provided:

"Place of employment"

- **(11)** "Place of employment" includes every place, whether indoors or out or underground and the premises appurtenant thereto where either temporarily or permanently any industry, trade, or business is carried on, or where any process or operation, directly or indirectly related to any industry, trade, or business, is carried on, and where any person is, directly or indirectly, employed by another for direct or indirect gain or profit, but does not include any place where persons are employed in private domestic service which does not involve the use of mechanical power or in farming.

"Place of employment"

- "Farming" includes those activities specified in s. [102.04 \(3\)](#), and also includes the transportation of farm products, supplies, or equipment directly to the farm by the operator of the farm or employees for use thereon, if such activities are directly or indirectly for the purpose of producing commodities for market, or as an accessory to such production.

"Place of employment"

When used with relation to building codes, "place of employment" does not include any of the following:

- (a) An adult family home, as defined in s. [50.01 \(1\)](#).
- (b) Except for the purposes of s. [101.11](#), a previously constructed building used as a community-based residential facility, as defined in s. [50.01 \(1g\)](#), which serves 20 or fewer residents who are not related to the operator or administrator.
- (c) A home-based business, as defined by the department by rule.
- (d) A not-for-profit facility with the primary purpose of housing or rehabilitating abandoned, injured, or sick wildlife.

"Public building"

- **(12)** "Public building" means any structure, including exterior parts of such building, such as a porch, exterior platform, or steps providing means of ingress or egress, used in whole or in part as a place of resort, assemblage, lodging, trade, traffic, occupancy, or use by the public or by 3 or more tenants.

"Public building"

When used in relation to building codes, "public building" does not include any of the following:

- (a) An adult family home, as defined in s. [50.01 \(1\)](#).
- (b) Except for the purposes of s. [101.11](#), a previously constructed building used as a community-based residential facility, as defined in s. [50.01 \(1g\)](#), which serves 20 or fewer residents who are not related to the operator or administrator.
- (c) A home-based business, as defined by the department by rule.
- (d) A not-for-profit facility with the primary purpose of housing or rehabilitating abandoned, injured, or sick wildlife.

Commercial Building Code Council

- **101.023 Commercial building code council duties.**
- The [uniform] commercial building code council shall review the rules relating to constructing, altering, adding to, repairing, and maintaining public buildings and buildings that are places of employment.
- The council shall consider and make recommendations to the department pertaining to these rules and any other matters related to constructing, altering, adding to, repairing, and maintaining public buildings and buildings that are places of employment.
- In preparing rules under this chapter that relate to public buildings and to buildings that are places of employment, the department shall consult with the commercial building code council.

Commercial Building Code Council

<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/CommercialBuilding/Default.aspx>

Commercial Buildings – Administrative Code

<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/RulesStatutes/TradesProgram.aspx>

SPS 361.05

Adoption of the International Codes

- **(1)** IBC. The (*International Building Code*) – 2015, subject to the modifications specified in this chapter and ch. [SPS 362](#) is incorporated by reference into chs. [SPS 361](#) to [366](#). IBC.
- **(2)** IECC. The (*International Energy Conservation Code*) –2015, subject to the modifications specified in this chapter and ch. [SPS 363](#) is incorporated by reference into chs. [SPS 361](#) to [366](#).
- **(3)** IMC. The (*International Mechanical Code*) – 2015, subject to the modifications specified in this chapter and ch. [SPS 364](#) is incorporated by reference into chs. [SPS 361](#) to [366](#).

SPS 361.05

Adoption of the International Codes

- **(4)** IFGC. The (*International Fuel Gas Code*) – 2015, subject to the modifications specified in this chapter and ch. [SPS 365](#) is incorporated by reference into chs. [SPS 361](#) to [366](#). IFGC.
- **(5)** IEBC. The (*International Existing Building Code*) – 2015, subject to the modifications specified in this chapter and ch. [SPS 366](#) is incorporated by reference into chs. [SPS 361](#) to [366](#). IEBC.

International Code Council

www.iccsafe.org

Commercial Buildings - Code Archive

[HTTPS://DSPS.WI.GOV/PAGES/PROGRAMS/CODEARCHIVES.ASPX](https://dsps.wi.gov/pages/programs/codearchives.aspx)

Buildings Constructed Prior to 1914

January 2, 1956

SPS 375.001 Buildings affected by these orders.

(1) These orders shall apply to all buildings and structures erected prior to the effective date of the first building code (October 9, 1914) except:

(a) Private residences, and outbuildings in connection therewith such as barns, garages, etc.

(b) Flat buildings used as the residence of 2 families only, provided not more than 2 persons are accommodated who are not members of the family.

Buildings Constructed Prior to 1914

January 2, 1956

SPS 375 – SPS 379

[HTTP://DOCS.LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV/CODE/ADMIN_CODE/SPS/SAFETY_AND_BUILDINGS_AND_ENVIRONMENT/375_379/375.PDF](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sp/safety_and_buildings_and_environment/375_379/375.pdf)

[HTTP://DOCS.LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV/CODE/ADMIN_CODE/SPS/SAFETY_AND_BUILDINGS_AND_ENVIRONMENT/375_379/376.PDF](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sp/safety_and_buildings_and_environment/375_379/376.pdf)

[HTTP://DOCS.LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV/CODE/ADMIN_CODE/SPS/SAFETY_AND_BUILDINGS_AND_ENVIRONMENT/375_379/377.PDF](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sp/safety_and_buildings_and_environment/375_379/377.pdf)

[HTTP://DOCS.LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV/CODE/ADMIN_CODE/SPS/SAFETY_AND_BUILDINGS_AND_ENVIRONMENT/375_379/378.PDF](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sp/safety_and_buildings_and_environment/375_379/378.pdf)

[HTTP://DOCS.LEGIS.WISCONSIN.GOV/CODE/ADMIN_CODE/SPS/SAFETY_AND_BUILDINGS_AND_ENVIRONMENT/375_379/379.PDF](http://docs.legis.wisconsin.gov/code/admin_code/sp/safety_and_buildings_and_environment/375_379/379.pdf)

The first state-wide Uniform Dwelling Code in Wisconsin was effective December 1, 1978 for energy conservation and June 1, 1980 for the balance of the code requirements.

SUBCHAPTER II

ONE- AND 2-FAMILY DWELLING CODE

- **101.60 Purpose.**
- The purpose of this subchapter is to establish statewide construction standards and inspection procedures for one- and 2-family dwellings and to promote interstate uniformity in construction standards by authorizing the department to enter into reciprocal agreements with other states which have equivalent standards.

SUBCHAPTER II

ONE- AND 2-FAMILY DWELLING CODE

- **101.72 Uniform dwelling code council.**
- The uniform dwelling code council shall review the standards and rules for modular homes for dwellings and recommend a statewide modular home code for adoption by the department which shall include rules providing for the conservation of energy in the construction and maintenance of dwellings.
- Such rules shall take into account the costs to home buyers of specific code provisions in relation to the benefits derived therefrom.

SUBCHAPTER II

ONE- AND 2-FAMILY DWELLING CODE

- **101.72 Uniform dwelling code council.**
- Upon its own initiative or at the request of the department, the council shall consider and make recommendations to the department pertaining to rules and any other matters related to this subchapter.

<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/BoardsCouncils/UniformDwelling/Default.aspx>

One and two Family (UDC) - Administrative Code

<https://dsps.wi.gov/Pages/RulesStatutes/TradesProgram.aspx>