

2024 BUILDING CODE CHANGE REQUEST FORM

Guideline for Requesting Changes to the Building Code

Request a Code Change

Ontario's Building Code improves with each edition thanks to the contributions of building officials, designers, builders, contractors, product manufacturers, researchers, building owners and the public. Typical changes accommodate new materials, systems and building design, clarify requirements, or update references to standards.

The Building Code is a regulation made under the Building Code Act, 1992. Given the joint Federal/Provincial/Territorial code development process, ncchanges developed by the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes (CCBFC) for the model National Building Code (mNBC) and the model National Plumbing Code (mNPC) are considered for inclusion in Ontario's Building Code. Suggestions for changes to the Building Code made by members of the public may also be considered. Potential changes to the Building Code are generally developed following a public consultation process and review by a Building Code technical committee.

Suggestions to improve the Building Code may be submitted to the Building and Development Branch of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing. The following points should be considered in developing a request for a Building Code change:

Clarity

Code change requests should clearly identify the specific change being proposed, current Code provisions that would be affected by the change, and the rationale for proposing the change. Proposed language for new Code provisions is helpful.

Supporting Documentation

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Code change requests be accompanied by sufficient documentation to support the need for the change. Documentation may include research, testing results, statistics, case studies, etc.

Cost/Benefit Analysis

Code change requests should include information on implementation costs and the benefits likely to be achieved.

Assessment of Conformance

Code change requests may not be viable if there are no practical means of assessing conformance with the proposed new requirement. Requests should consider whether there are existing tools or models that can be used to assess the conformance of designs or construction with the requirements of the proposed Code change.

Requests also need to consider whether the implementation of Code changes would have implications for enforcement bodies.

Timing

Although requests for changes to the 2012 Building Code can be made at any time, it is likely that most changes will be considered for inclusion in the next edition the Building Code. However, “interim” Code changes to the 2012 Code are possible.

Objectives

The objectives of the Building Code’s requirements (“acceptable solutions”) are set out in Division A. Code change requests should link proposed changes to at least one of the Code’s stated objectives. The addition of a provision that cannot be linked to one of the currently stated objectives would require the addition of new objectives.

Focus on Generic/Widespread Issues

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The Building Code's standards are of general application and it is therefore impractical for the Building Code to deal with specific products or with situations that arise only rarely.

However, innovative products that are not yet covered by standards or mentioned in the Codes are not necessarily excluded from use. Current administrative procedures to enable the use of innovative products are listed in Division C, and include Alternative Solutions, the Building Code Commission, the Building Materials Evaluation Commission and Minister's Rulings.

Code Change Request Form

The attached form should accompany requested changes, although its use is not mandatory provided the criteria stated above are considered. Where the form does not provide sufficient space for the information you wish to include, you are encouraged to attach additional pages as necessary. Additional electronic copies of the Building Code change request form may be obtained from the Building Code website at: www.ontario.ca/buildingcode.

Building Code Development Process

Ontario's Building Code is based on the model National Building Code (mNBC) but includes some differences from the mNBC that are determined by Ontario-specific priorities such as high standards for energy efficiency and greenhouse gas reduction, additional sections to deal with specific building types and elements such as public pools and spas and rapid transit stations and Part 11 to address renovations to existing buildings.

New editions of Ontario's Building Code generally follow the cycle of the mNBC and may include technical and editorial changes throughout the Code. Proposed changes are typically posted on the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing web site for public consultation. Comments received through that public consultation process are considered by Technical Advisory Committees, including designers, builders, regulators and other expert Code users, before final recommendations are submitted to the Provincial Government for approval.

The Building Code may be amended at any time and each edition of the Code may be amended several times during the life of that edition. However, the Code is not amended each time an individual Code Change Request is submitted to the Ministry.

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All Code Change Requests are logged on receipt and may be considered as part of a general amendment package once sufficient proposals are received. Other amendments may address changes related to specific topics such as sprinkler requirements or barrier-free design.

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Present only one change request per form. Duplicate the form as necessary. You may attach additional pages or use any other format to submit your request as long as all of the information indicated below is included. If you are unable to submit your request via the website, please send the completed form to address below.

Personal information submitted on this form is collected under the authority of the Building Code Act, 1992 and will be used for the purpose of Building Code development. Please direct any questions about the collection of personal information to the following address:

**Manager, Code Development and Advisory Services
Building and Development Branch,
Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
777 Bay Street, 16th Floor
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2J3
Email: Codeinfo@ontario.ca**

I am submitting this on behalf of:	<input type="radio"/> Myself <input checked="" type="radio"/> Organization (By selecting organization you are confirming that you are authorized to submit this request on behalf of the organization)
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Organization Name	Ontario Onsite Wastewater Association
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Your Title	External Relations Committee Chair
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Your Name	Anne Egan
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Address	159 King Street, Suite 303
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City	Peterborough
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Province	ON
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Postal Code	K9J 2R8
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Telephone	1-855-905-6692
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Email	Anne.Egan@rjburnside.com
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Please state your role in relation to this request (check all that apply)	<div><input type="checkbox"/> Builder / Contractor</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Building Official / Principle Authority</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Building Owner / Manager</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Designer / Architect / Engineer</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Home Owner / General Public</div> <div><input type="checkbox"/> Supplier / Manufacturer</div> <div><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other</div>
State your role if "Other" is checked	Representative of a provincial not-for-profit association dedicated to promoting the benefit and value of onsite and decentralized wastewater management through education, improved standards of practice, and advocacy for sound policies.

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CODE CHANGE REQUEST	
Have you submitted this change to the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes as a proposed amendment to the model National Building or Plumbing Codes?	<input type="radio"/> YES <input checked="" type="radio"/> NO
Do you consent to share all information on this form with Building Code Review Committees and the Canadian Commission on Building and Fire Codes for the purposes of code development?	
I agree:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> YES <input type="radio"/> NO
Will your proposal increase/decrease harmonization with the National Construction Codes?	<input type="radio"/> Increase <input type="radio"/> Decrease <input type="radio"/> I do not know <input checked="" type="radio"/> N/A
Is your code change request:	<input checked="" type="radio"/> Changing an existing Building Code provision, appendix note, supplementary standard <input type="radio"/> Adding a new Building Code provision, appendix note, supplementary standard
Enter Code Reference of the Requested Change: Division, Part, Section, Subsection, Article, Sentence (Example: Div. B, 9.32.3.5.(1))	Div. B, 8.7.3.5. Leaching Chamber

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<p>REQUESTED CHANGE/ADDITION: What is your proposed wording for the change/addition? (Write existing code provision and show changes. Strikethrough for deletion and underlining for new text. Example: "...indoor <u>all</u> pools")</p>	<p>(3) <u>Except for <i>shallow buried trench</i></u>, Every pressurized <i>distribution pipe</i> within a <i>leaching chamber</i> shall</p> <p>(a) extend over the entire length of the <i>leaching chamber</i>,</p> <p>(b) be not less than 1 ½ in. trade <i>size</i>,</p> <p>(c) have orifices of at least 6 mm in diameter, spaced equally along the length of the pipe to provide even distribution of the <i>effluent</i>,</p> <p>(d) be supported,</p> <p>(e) be self-draining so as to prevent freezing of its contents, and</p> <p>(f) have cleanouts installed at the downstream end of each line of <i>leaching chamber</i> to allow for servicing of the system.</p> <p>Definitions <i>Chamber</i> means a structure in a <i>shallow buried trench</i> that is constructed with an open bottom and that contains a <i>distribution pipe</i>, <u>and may include a <i>leaching chamber</i></u>.</p>
<p>ISSUE/GENERAL BACKGROUND: Why should the existing provision be revised? If requesting an addition to the Building Code, why is it needed?</p>	<p>When leaching chambers were introduced into the Ontario Building Code (OBC), this included the requirements for pressurized distribution piping in leaching chambers.</p> <p>The requirements of 8.7.3.5. (b) and (c) conflict with the requirements for shallow buried trench distribution piping in 8.7.3.4.(4) (a) and (b), and require a larger minimum pipe size and orifice diameter than previous.</p> <p>The unintended consequence of the current wording in the OBC is that if the chamber used in Shallow Buried Trench (SBT) happens to be product that also meets the definition of leaching chamber, the minimum pipe diameter and orifice sizing in 8.7.3.5 would overrule the minimum requirements for SBTs in 8.7.3.4. It was not intended that 8.7.3.5.(b) and (c) should overwrite 8.7.3.4.(4) (a) and (b) when the leaching chamber is being used in a shallow buried trench application.</p> <p>Implications of doubling the orifice size and increasing the pipe diameter are significant in terms of the necessary pump size to pressurize the system and maintain the necessary residual head. What has typically been accomplished with a 0.5 horsepower (HP) motor, which is a readily available and cost effective pump, would now need a pump capable of producing 4 times the minimum flow rate. This could be up to 2 or 3 HP which is a significantly larger, and more expensive, pump.</p>

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JUSTIFICATION/ EXPLANATION: How does the requested change address the issue?	<p>By adding an exception clause that Clauses 8.7.3.5.(b) and (c) do not apply to SBTs, the pipe diameter and orifice sizing will be dictated by the application in which they are being used, i.e., if the pressurized distribution is being used in a leaching chamber that is not a shallow buried trench application the requirements of Article 8.7.3.5. would prevail. If the pressurized distribution piping is within a shallow buried trench, the requirements of Article 8.7.3.4 would prevail.</p>
OBJECTIVE(S): Which of the Building Code's objectives does the requested change address? (See Part 2 of Division A of the Building Code for the list of objectives.)	
COST(S): Will the change bring any added construction costs, including labour, and any other costs? (Please provide detailed information to support your proposal)	<p>This proposed change will reduce the cost of the system in terms of construction and operation by using smaller, more appropriate pumps and piping sizes in shallow buried trenches.</p>
BENEFIT(S): Will it provide benefits and/or savings? (Please provide detailed information to support your proposal)	
ENFORCEMENT: Are there any enforcement issues regarding this change/addition? Will its enforcement require an increase in resources?	<p>No.</p>

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ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS: Who will the change impact? How will the requested change/addition impact code users? (Example: building officials, home owners, designers, builders/contractors, engineers, architects, manufacturers, building/business owners, general public.)	Clarifying the conflict between code sections for leaching chambers versus shallow buried trenches will reduce confusion for building officials, contractors, designers, etc.
OTHER COMMENTS: For example, identify other Building Code requirements and other Regulations/Standards that might be impacted by the requested change/addition.	
ATTACH SUPPORTING MATERIAL: (Example: research, test results, statistics, case studies that supports the issues, justification, costs, benefits and other information referred above.)	[Choose File]
Submission Date	(automatically generated)
When you have completed the form, please click the "Preview" button. You will be given a chance to review your entry prior to submission. When you are satisfied with your responses, please press "Submit".	