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October 2024

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## Introduction

Welcome to the October 2024 OSFM Engineering Newsletter. This Newsletter is meant to update our readers on the most recent Building Code Council meeting results and the status of the 2024 North Carolina Building Code adoption and implementation status.

Please see TABLE 1: NC 2024 CODE PROGRESSION TRACKING in the Reminders and other Resources section of the Newsletter for more information on the progression of the various code volumes.

## Current Topics

### 2024 North Carolina State Building Code

As per a vote by the North Carolina Building Code Council at their 9/10/24 meeting, the 2023 NFPA 70 (2023 NC Electrical Code, 2024 NC Residential Code and 2024 NC Administrative Code and Policies will be mandatorily effective 1/1/25. The 2017 NFPA 70 (2017 NC Electrical Code) is effective for buildings and structures included within the scope of the 2018 NC Residential Code through 12/31/24. The 2020 NFPA 70 (2020 NC Electrical Code) is effective for buildings and structures not included within the scope of the 2018 NC Residential Code through 12/31/24. The 2018 NC Administrative Code and Policies is effective through 12/31/24.

Also, the 2024 NC Building Code, NC Existing Building Code, NC Fire Code, NC Mechanical Code, NC Fuel Gas Code and NC Plumbing Code will be effective for use on 1/1/25 and mandatorily effective on 7/1/25. A 6-month overlap period was granted to continue using the 2018 NC Building Code, NC Existing Building Code, NC Fire Code, NC Mechanical Code, NC Fuel Gas Code and NC Plumbing Code is effective until 6/30/25. During the 6-month overlap period, use of the 2018 NC Building Code, NC Existing Building Code, NC Fire Code, NC Mechanical Code, NC Fuel Gas Code and NC Plumbing Code in their entirety for project permits or use of the 2024 NC Building Code, NC Existing Building Code, NC Fire Code, NC Mechanical Code, NC Fuel Gas Code and NC Plumbing Code in their entirety for project permits is permitted.

The 2024 NC Energy Conservation Code is under legislative review for review in the NC General Assembly long-session in 2025 and so the 2018 NC Energy Conservation Code will remain effective until further notice.

A letter from the North Carolina Building Code Council will be issued to public as soon as possible outlining this information.

It is anticipated books being available in November from the publisher once that process is completed.

Below are links to the Rules Review Commission of the NC Office of Administrative Hearings approved 2024 State building Codes. These approved documents can be used now as alternate material, design or methods under 2018 NC Administrative Code and Policies, Section 105.

2024 NC Administrative Code and Policies: <https://www.oah.nc.gov/012024-bcc-admin-code-final-revised-rule/open>

2024 NC Building Code: <https://www.oah.nc.gov/2024-bcc-final-revised-rules/open>

2023 NC Electrical Code: <https://www.oah.nc.gov/bcc-electrical-code-final-revised-rules/open>

2024 NC Existing Building Code: <https://www.oah.nc.gov/bcc-existing-code-final-revised-rules/open>

2024 NC Fire Code: <https://www.oah.nc.gov/bcc-fire-code-final-revised-rule/open>

2024 NC Fuel Gas Code: <https://www.oah.nc.gov/bcc-fuel-gas-final-revised-rules/open>

2024 NC Mechanical Code: <https://www.oah.nc.gov/formatted-review-aid-2024-nc-mechanical-conservation-code/open>

2024 NC Plumbing Code: <https://www.oah.nc.gov/2024bcc-plumbing-code-final-revised-rules/open>

## New url for Engineering Newsletter

Of note, the mailing list whereby we send out the Engineering Newsletter has changed servers, and the url was changed from:

[NCDOI\\_Engineering@lists.ncmail.net](mailto:NCDOI_Engineering@lists.ncmail.net)

to

[NCDOI\\_Engineering@ml.nc.gov](mailto:NCDOI_Engineering@ml.nc.gov)

While this should have been relatively seamless to subscribers, there were reports of people receiving multiple automated e-mails for uncaught bounce notifications; these should dissipate after the migration is in effect for a few weeks now.

## A2L Refrigerants

There are no technical updates on the industry switchover to A2L refrigerants since the June 2024 A2L newsletter edition, available on the NC OSFM website.

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/engineering-newsletter-june-2024-a2l-edition>

Please note that, regardless of final deadlines for installation of non-A2L air conditioning systems, manufacturers are, and have been, switching over production to A2L refrigerant-containing equipment for some time now, so there are no guarantees non-A2L systems will be commercially available for any given project.

## Recurring Articles

### Building Code Council – September Quarterly Meeting (September 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024)

A regularly scheduled quarterly BCC meeting was held on September 10th, 2024. The full agenda can be read at the links listed below. The links will take you to the BCC Meetings webpage and the reader must then click on the .pdf file to open the agenda file.

BCC Meeting Agenda-September 10th, 2024

<https://www.ncosfm.gov/9-10-2024-agenda-final>

The full review of the approved code amendments is left to the reader, but **the titles of each D-item** are bulleted below. Remember these are not final until they are through the Rules Review process. The approved December D-items, if approved by Rules Review Commission, will be effective January 1, 2025 for items pertaining to the Commercial Building Code.

BCC Proposed Amendments-September 10<sup>th</sup> 2024

- **Item D – 1** Request from Phillip Scott of BFPE International to amend the 2024 NC Fire Code, Section 510.1 Emergency responder communication coverage in new buildings, Exception #4 as follows (240319 Item B-1): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **Tabled to December 2024 meeting. Item D-1 requires a fiscal note to be approved by the NC Office of State Budget Management per the 8/15/2024 Page 11 of 13 requirements of N.C.G.S 143-138(a1)(1). A fiscal note has not been provided by the proponent by the date of the agenda printing, 8/15/2024.**
- **Item D – 2** Request from Adam Smith representing Carolina’s Association of RV Parks and Campgrounds to amend the 2023 NC Electrical Code, Section 210.8 Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter Protection for Personnel, (F) Outdoor Outlets as follows (240319 Item B-2): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **Denied. Of note, a following petition has been submitted by OSFM staff to achieve the intended goal of this petition.**

- **Item D – 3** Request from David Rittlinger representing staff to amend the 2024 edition of the North Carolina Administrative Code and Policies, Table 202.5 and Appendix C as follows (240319 Item B-4): (Remainder not shown for brevity) – **Adopted and sent to the Rules Review Commission for their consideration**

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## Department Notes

### Engineering Department

Barry Gupton, P.E. has retired. It is difficult to summarize what Barry has done for the building codes and building construction professions over his 35+ years of work at NCDOT/NCOSFM, but we have provided his work bio in an attempt to quantify it.

Barry graduated from North Carolina State University in 1981 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering, and he went to work as a Project Engineer for a commercial Modular building manufacturer from 1981 through 1989 specializing in steel, concrete, and footing design.

Barry worked with the Engineering Division of the North Carolina Department of Insurance since 1989, starting in the Modular Construction Section. He served as Code Consultant and supervisor of the Private Plan Review Section. He then served as manager of the Code Services Group that includes the NC Building Code Council Staff, Interpretations Section and Plan Review Section. He also served as Rules Coordinator for and Secretary to the NCBC.

Barry most recently served as Technical Services Manager of the Manufactured Building Group that includes Manufactured Homes as well as Commercial and Residential Modular construction and served as Secretary to the NC Manufactured Housing Board.

Barry worked directly or indirectly with many code officials across the state and nation through his work as the NCBA secretary/treasurer for many years, and provided help and guidance to countless builders, citizens, and code officials. We wish Barry well in his retirement.

### ***As of October 2024, here is the staff list and respective responsibilities for the NC Building Code:***

- Pak Yip: Building Code (non-accessibility)
- Charlie Johnson: Fire Code (includes Chapter 9 of the NCBC)  
919-647-0094 [charlie.johnson@ncdoi.gov](mailto:charlie.johnson@ncdoi.gov)
- Currently vacant: Residential Code  
Contact Dan Dittman (919-647-0012) or Pak Yip (919-647-0007)
- Pam Schooler: **Existing Building Code**  
919-647-0011: [pam.schooler@ncdoi.gov](mailto:pam.schooler@ncdoi.gov)
- Tara Barthelmess: **Accessibility**  
919-647-0014 [tara.barthelmess@ncdoi.gov](mailto:tara.barthelmess@ncdoi.gov)

- C. Maggie Bowers: **Plumbing** Code  
919-647-0062 [maggie.bowers@ncdoi.gov](mailto:maggie.bowers@ncdoi.gov)  
(please note the 919-647-0062 number was reassigned from Danny Thomas, Electrical Division, to Maggie)
- Kate Whalen: **Mechanical** and **Fuel Gas** Code  
919-647-0033 [kathryn.whalen@ncdoi.gov](mailto:kathryn.whalen@ncdoi.gov)
- Dan Dittman: **Energy** Code  
919-647-0012 [dan.dittman@ncdoi.gov](mailto:dan.dittman@ncdoi.gov)

### **State Electrical Division Contacts**

- Joe Starling: State **Electrical** Engineer  
919-397-6159 [joseph.starling@ncdoi.gov](mailto:joseph.starling@ncdoi.gov)
- Danny Thomas: Electrical Code Consultant & State Electrical Inspector  
919-500-9492 [daniel.thomas@ncdoi.gov](mailto:daniel.thomas@ncdoi.gov)
- Ben Wesley: Chief Electrical Code Consultant & State Electrical Inspector  
919-532-4175 [ben.wesley@ncdoi.gov](mailto:ben.wesley@ncdoi.gov)

In addition, the following topics will be addressed by:

- **Division Chief-Codes & Inspections: David Rittlinger** - contact for Statutes, Appeals, Council items (other than meeting minutes and agenda), Engineer Elements and Components,
- **David Rittlinger:** BCC meeting minutes and agenda, Rules Review Commission, Formal interpretations, Administrative Code (non-statute)  
919-647-0008 [david.rittlinger@ncdoi.gov](mailto:david.rittlinger@ncdoi.gov)
- **Sam Whittington:** Investigator, Complaints  
919-647-0028 [sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov](mailto:sam.whittington@ncdoi.gov)
- **Jeff Griffin:** Investigator, Complaints  
919-647-0102 [jeff.griffin@ncdoi.gov](mailto:jeff.griffin@ncdoi.gov)
- **Bonnie Bentley:** Investigator, Complaints  
919-647-0105 [bonnie.bentley@ncdoi.gov](mailto:bonnie.bentley@ncdoi.gov)

### **New Code Interpretations, Guidance Papers, and Appeals Posted**

Since the prior full newsletter (Jun 2024), the following web interpretations, guidance papers, or appeals have been posted. Since we are six-years into the present code cycle, there have not been many web interpretations required as of late. However, there have been three formal interpretations made and posted since the prior full newsletter.

#### **Formal Interpretations**

20240805 OSFM 2018 NCPC 702.1 702.4 1102.2 and 1102.7

20240715 Mountain Sun Building and Design 2018 NCRC R317.1 Location required

2024-0705 Nicholas Lutzweiler 2018 NCBC 1705.1.2 redacted of personal information at the request of Mr. Lutzweiler

### **Reminders and other Resources**

#### **Tentative 2024 NC Code Development Calendar:**

The code volumes publication is in various stages, and several are fully accepted and at the publisher getting ready for first editions. See the following link for any future meetings:

As of this writing, (October 2024) all code volumes have been approved by the Rules Review Commission (RRC). The 2024 NC Energy Conservation Code (NCECC) is on hold pending a legislative review in the long session in 2025 unless executive or legislative action is taken in advance. The 2018 NCECC with NC amendments will remain in effect until further notice.

**TABLE 1: NC 2024 CODE PROGRESSION TRACKING**

Here is a status as of 9/27/24 of the 2024 NC Building Codes publication schedule and the RRC approval process.

<b>Code Volume</b>	<b>Status</b>
Administrative Code	2024 NC Administrative Code and Policies: Approved at the 1/31/24 RRC meeting. ICC is currently publishing the first draft.
NC Electrical Code	2023 NC Electrical Code: Approved at the 2/28/24 RRC meeting.
Plumbing Code	2024 NC Plumbing Code: Approved at the 2/22/24 RRC meeting. Within draft publication review phase.
Residential Code	2024 NC Residential Code: Approved at the 2/22/24 RRC meeting. Within draft publication review phase.
Mechanical Code	2024 NC Mechanical Code: Approved at the 4/30/24 RRC meeting. Within draft publication review phase.
Fuel Gas Code	2024 NC Fuel Gas Code: Approved at the 4/30/24 RRC meeting. Within draft publication review phase.
Existing Building Code	2024 NC Existing Building Code: Approved at the 6/26/24 RRC meeting. Within draft publication review phase.
Building Code	2024 NC Building Code: Approved at the 6/26/24 RRC meeting. Within draft publication review phase.
Fire Prevention Code	2024 NC Fire Code: Approved at the 6/26/24 RRC meeting. Within draft publication review phase.
Energy Code (not for 1-and-2 family dwellings)	2024 NC Energy Conservation Code: Approved at the 4/30/24 RRC meeting with the exception of Section R402 Building Thermal Envelope. More than 10 letters of objection were received by the RRC so this code is under legislative review in the 2025 long session. The effective date of this is unknown at this time.

Remember, the Residential standing committee had introduced (in the March 2023 meeting) a submittal that would keep the Chapter 11 (Energy), Chapters 12-23 (Mechanical) and Chapter 24 (Fuel Gas) the same as the 2018 version of the NC Residential Code. As noted in the previous newsletter, NCGS Session Law 2023-108 prohibits further action on several of the code volumes and combinations of code volumes that were being considered by the Building Code Council. The list of codes in Table 1 reflect the limitations of the statutes.

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End of Newsletter