

Notification

BC Building and Fire Code 2023

Notification regarding the adoption of the National Model Codes 2020

Topic: Large Farm Buildings and Farm Building Equipment

Code change number: BCBC2023-N-V-01-FB

Code reference: National Model Codes 2020 – Part 2 of Division B of the National Building Code and Section 2.14. of Division B of the National Fire Code

Description

The Province of B.C. has determined that further analysis is required prior to adoption of the National Building Code (NBC) 2020 and the National Fire Code (NFC) 2020 requirements for large farm buildings (Group G occupancies) and farm building equipment.

Justification

The Province of B.C. reviewed the technical changes to the National Model Codes. Significant changes in the NBC include technical requirements for large farm buildings that address fire protection, occupant safety, structural design, heating, ventilating, and air-conditioning. Significant changes to the NFC include technical requirements that now apply to the installation of new fuel storage tanks for farm use, inspection, testing, and maintenance for all farm building equipment including existing fuel storage tanks, and restrictions on the use of farm buildings for purposes other than farming. These code changes were developed to reflect the evolving agricultural sector in Canada.

Consultation to complete an impact analysis with interested parties is expected to begin in 2024 after the 2023 Codes come into effect.