

# CHAPTER 2

## STATE BUILDING CODE

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### **A. ADOPTED CODES and STANDARDS**

The 2015 International Building Code adopted on July 1, 2016 as the State Building Code and enforced by the Division of Construction Management (DCM) includes the following:

<u>Companion Codes</u>	<u>Date of Adoption</u>
• <i>2015 International Existing Building Code</i>	July 1, 2016
• <i>2015 International Plumbing Code</i>	July 1, 2016
• <i>2015 International Mechanical Code</i>	July 1, 2016
• <i>2015 International Fuel Gas Code</i>	July 1, 2016
• <i>2015 International Fire Code</i>	July 1, 2016
• <i>2014 National Electrical Code (NFPA 70)</i>	July 1, 2016
• <i>2013 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (NFPA 72)</i>	July 1, 2016
• <i>2014 ICC/NSSA-500 Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters</i>	July 1, 2016
• <i>ANSI/ASHRAE/IESNA Standard 90.1-2013 Energy Standard for Buildings Except Low-Rise Residential</i>	July 1, 2016
• <i>2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design</i>	April 18, 2011
<p>The requirements of the 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design supersede the accessibility requirements contained in the International Building Code and ANSI A117.1.</p>	

## **B. OFFICIAL RECOMMENDATIONS**

The DCM adopts by reference, as official recommendations rather than as mandated regulations, Chapter 5 of the Architectural and Transportation Barrier Compliance Board (ATBCB) publication; "Recommendations for Accessibility Standards for Children's Environments."

## **C. FUTURE REVISIONS to the STATE BUILDING CODE**

Future revisions to the State Building Code will be made in accordance with procedures of the Alabama Administrative Procedures Act. The public will be notified of the DCM's intended action in the Alabama Administrative Monthly, published by the Legislative Reference Service, Administrative Procedure Division. The public will be given the opportunity to present their views and opinions to the Director for consideration. Upon satisfaction of these procedures, page 1 of this chapter will be updated containing the revised State Building Code.

## **D. OBTAINING COPIES of the ADOPTED CODES**

Information regarding the costs and availability of the adopted codes may be obtained as follows:

1. International Codes

International Code Council  
500 New Jersey Avenue, NW  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20001 Telephone No: 1-888-422-7233  
Free online access: <https://codes.iccsafe.org/search/map>

2. National Electrical Code

Secretary, Standards Council  
National Fire Protection Association  
1 Batterymarch Park  
Quincy, MA 02169 Telephone No: 1-800-344-3555  
Free online access: <https://www.nfpa.org/NEC/About-the-NEC/Free-online-access-to-the-NEC-and-other-electrical-standards>

3. 2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design

U.S. Department of Justice,  
Disability Rights Division  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530 Telephone No. 1-202-307-0663  
Free online access:  
<https://www.ada.gov/regs2010/2010ADAStandards/2010ADAstandards.htm>

AND  
Recommendations for Accessibility Standards for Children's Environments  
Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board  
1331 F Street, N.W., Suite 1000  
Washington, DC 20004-1111 Telephone No. 1-800-872-2253  
Free online access: <https://www.access-board.gov/guidelines-and-standards/buildings-and-sites/about-the-ada-standards/background/ada-accessibility-guidelines-for-building-elements-designed-for-children-s-use>

## **E. JURISDICTION of the STATE BUILDING CODE**

With the exceptions of the energy conservation standards and the accessibility standards adopted in the State Building Code, the State Building Code is applicable to construction in Alabama defined as:

**STATE BUILDINGS AND CONSTRUCTION:** All buildings and other structures erected or acquired by or on behalf of the state of Alabama or any of its agencies or instrumentalities.

**SCHOOLS:** Any building or other structure erected or acquired by the public schools of Alabama and also shall mean any private building in which 25 or more persons are congregated regularly for the purpose of instruction in any branch of knowledge.

**HOTELS/MOTELS:** Any public inn or lodging house of 15 or more bedrooms, in which transient guests are lodged for pay.

**MOVIE THEATERS:** Any building in which moving pictures or digital video files are featured regularly for charge of admission.

**ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS** of the State Building Code apply to all buildings constructed or remodeled with state appropriated funds or funds from any other instrumentality of the state.

**ACCESSIBILITY STANDARDS:** The DCM's responsibility to review plans and specifications for compliance with accessibility standards applies only to buildings and facilities used by the public which are constructed in whole or in part by the use of state, county, or municipal funds, or the funds of any political subdivision of the state. See Title 21-4-6 for jurisdiction shared with the State Fire Marshal.

## **F. PRECEDENCE of CODES**

1. In case of conflict between the State Building Code, local codes, or other codes, the most stringent requirements shall prevail where more than one authority having jurisdiction occurs.

2. All hotels, motels, food preparation facilities, private water systems, and sewage disposal systems must also meet requirements of, and be approved by, the County Health Department of jurisdiction, prior to beginning construction.

## **G. RESPONSIBILITY for COMPLIANCE**

The compliance of plans and specifications with code requirements is the responsibility of the primary design professional, and approval of these documents by the Technical Staff does not relieve the primary design professional of this responsibility.

## **H. DCM CODE SUPPLEMENTS**

To minimize frequent problems on public construction and improvement projects, from time to time the DCM adopts specific design and construction requirements or recommendations to supplement the State Building Code. The following requirements and recommendations are adopted:

### **1. DCM Code Supplement No.1: Labeling of Fire Doors and Frames**

All door openings in fire resistive walls and partitions requiring a rating shall be protected by assemblies which include doors, frames, hardware, closing devices, anchorage, sills, etc., installed in accordance with the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 80, Standard for "Fire Doors and Fire Windows" and the State Building Code.

To further clarify the basic requirements and/or the correct method of labeling that will be acceptable to the Alabama Division of Construction Management, the labels shall include the following:

- a. **Accessibility:** Each component shall bear a label located so as to be accessible after installation.
- b. **Permanence:** Each component shall bear a label of a type of material and be so attached that the life of the label and the attachment thereof can reasonably be expected to equal the life of the component to which it is attached. Labels shall be raised or embossed on metal labels or stamped into metal frames. Plastic or paper labels are unacceptable.
- c. **Legibility:** The label design shall be such that it can be visible and legible at all times and must be clean of any paint or other coverage making the label illegible.
- d. **Fire Resistance:** All approved labels on doors and on frames shall include thereon the fire resistance rating in hours and/or minutes for which the door or frame is labeled. Labels on frames with transoms or sidelights must identify that the opening assembly includes same.

- e. **Other Requirements:** The labels or stamps applied to frames must be provided by a manufacturer that has been approved by a laboratory or organization to provide testing and follow-up services for fire-rated opening assemblies.

2. **DCM Code Supplement No. 2: Labeling of Storm Shelter Doors, Windows, Shutters and Impact Protective Systems**

All openings in storm shelter enclosures requiring a rating shall be protected by assemblies which include doors, frames, hardware, closing devices, windows, shutters, louvers, anchorage, sills, etc., installed in accordance with ICC 500, ICC/NSSA Standard for the Design and Construction of Storm Shelters.

To further clarify the basic requirements and/or the correct method of labeling that will be acceptable to the Alabama Division of Construction Management, the labels shall include the following:

- a. **Accessibility:** Each component shall bear a label located so as to be accessible after installation.
- b. **Permanence:** Each component shall bear a label of a type of material and be so attached that the life of the label and the attachment thereof can reasonably be expected to equal the life of the component to which it is attached. Labels shall be raised or embossed on metal labels or stamped into metal frames. Plastic or paper labels are unacceptable.
- c. **Legibility:** The label design shall be such that it can be visible and legible at all times and must be clean of any paint or other coverage making the label illegible.
- d. **Fire Resistance:** See DCM Code Supplement No. 1.
- e. **Other Requirements:** The labels or stamps applied to frames, etc., must be provided by a manufacturer that has had their products tested in accordance with ICC 500 Chapter 8. Product specimens shall have passed the testing requirements of ICC 500 Chapter 8 as conducted by a third party, nationally recognized accredited and approved testing laboratory. The testing laboratory shall maintain ongoing periodic inspections of the products it has tested to confirm continued compliance.