

How does the Fire Code affect me?

It Could save your life or someone else's

O. Reg. 213/07: FIRE CODE



The Importance of Complying with the Ontario Fire Code

1

Protect Lives: The Ontario Fire Code includes requirements for safe evacuations through the use of fire alarms, fire extinguishers, and fire safety plans.

2

Prevent Fires: To reduce the potential for fire incidents.

3

Reduce Fire Damage: The Ontario Fire Code contains requirements for the construction of buildings to help lessen fire damage.

4

Protect the Environment: As many materials can lead to hazards and damage to the environment, the Ontario Fire Code includes requirements for the disposal of said materials.





WHY - Do I need to
know about it?



Ontario Fire Code Changes Effective 1 Jan 2026

Why has the Fire Code changed:

- Harmonizing Changes that more closely align the technical requirements of the Ontario Fire Code (OFC) with the National Fire Code of Canada 2020 (NFC) while also harmonizing the Ontario Building Code (OBC) the OFC with the National Construction Codes.

LARGE FARM BUILDINGS



Quick Definitions of Terms

Farm building means a building or part thereof that contains an agricultural occupancy.

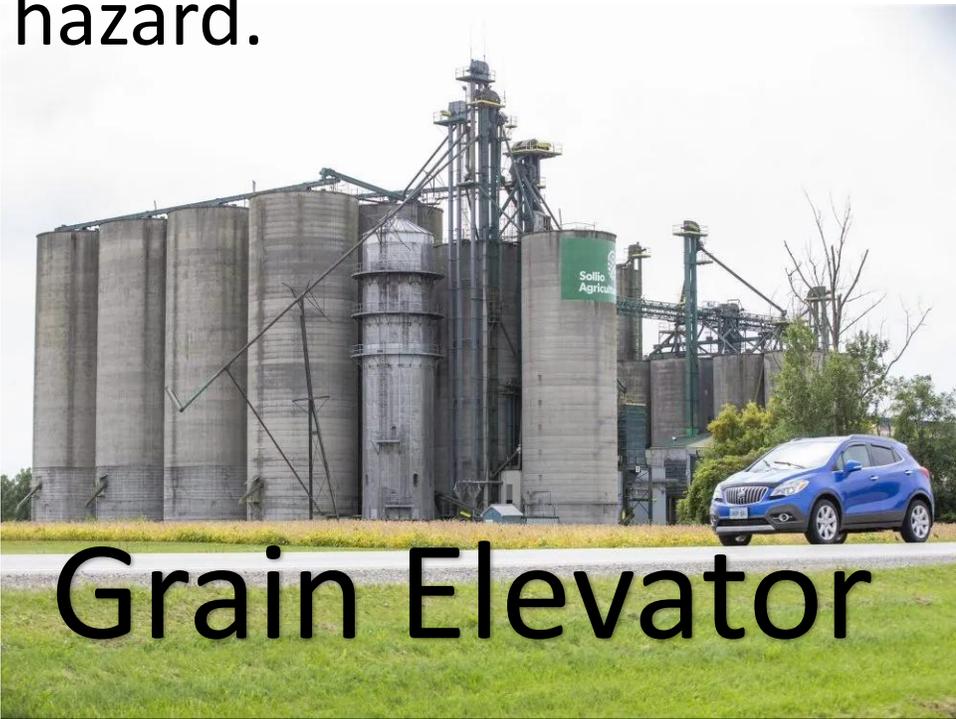
Agricultural occupancy means the occupancy of a building or part thereof that is located on land that is associated with and devoted to the practice of farming and is used for the purpose of producing crops, raising farm animals or preparing, marketing, storing or processing agricultural products.

Agricultural occupancy with no human occupants means an agricultural occupancy that is not intended to be occupied by persons under normal use and is generally used for the storage of agricultural materials and by-products



Quick Definitions of Terms

High-hazard agricultural occupancy means an agricultural occupancy containing sufficient quantities of highly combustible and flammable or explosive materials which, because of their inherent characteristics, constitute a special fire hazard.



Grain Elevator



New Requirements for Large Farm Buildings



Where compliance required



1.3.1.2. (1) A farm building shall comply with Part 2 and Part 6 of Division B if it is



(a) more than 600 m² in building area or more than 3 storeys in building height, and



(b) constructed on or after January 1, 2025 to meet the requirements of the Building Code, as it read on or after that day, that apply to farm buildings.

600 m² = 6458.35 sq ft.



Existing Requirements for Farm Buildings

Existing farm buildings will continue to be exempt from the requirements of the Fire Code.



Exemption

1.3.1.1. (1) Subject to Sentence (2), a farm building with an occupant load of not more than one person per 40 m² of floor area during normal use and other premises on a farm used for farming purposes are exempt from the requirements of this Code.

$$40 \text{ m}^2 = 430.56 \text{ sq ft.}$$



Existing Requirements for Farm Buildings

Exemption Continued

(2) Where a floor area or portion of a floor area within a farm building contains a hazardous extraction operation involving cannabis, the floor area or portion of the floor area shall comply with Articles 2.7.1.1. and 2.7.2.2., Section 2.8, Part 4, Article 5.1.4.2. and Subsection 5.14.11. of Division B.

Where compliance required

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Farm Building Requirements Include: Prohibited combinations of occupancies

Residential occupancies now permitted in some agricultural occupancies

New Articles

2.1.2.4. A **farm building** containing a **major occupancy** that is classified as an **agricultural occupancy** shall not contain an **assembly occupancy** intended for the production and viewing of the performing arts, an assembly occupancy of the arena type, a **care occupancy**, a **care and treatment occupancy** or a **detention occupancy**.

2.1.2.5. A **farm building** containing a **major occupancy** that is classified as a **high-hazard agricultural occupancy** or an **agricultural occupancy with no human occupants** shall not contain an **assembly occupancy** or a **residential occupancy**.



Farm Building Requirements

Include:

Fire Safety plans for agricultural occupancies required to have a fire alarm system.

Fire Safety Plans

2.8.1.1.(1)(I) an agricultural occupancy where the building is required by the Building Code to have a fire alarm system.



Fire Safety Plans

2.8.1.1.(1)(l) an agricultural occupancy where the building is required by the Building Code to have a fire alarm system.

OBC-Specifics

ONTARIO BUILDING CODE 2024

2.2.3. Fire Alarm and Detection Systems

2.2.3.1. Determination of Requirement for a Fire Alarm System

- (1) A fire alarm system complying with Sentence (2) shall be installed in a *building* that is not *sprinklered* throughout and that
 - (a) contains a Group G, Division 1 *major occupancy* with an *occupant load* more than 25, or
 - (b) contains a Group G, Division 2 or 3 *major occupancy*
 - (i) with an *occupant load* more than 150,
 - (ii) in a *building* more than 1 *storey* in *building height*, or
 - (iii) in a *building* with a *basement* used for a purpose other than the housing of service equipment.
- (2) Except as otherwise provided in this Section, the fire alarm system required by Sentence (1) shall comply with Articles 3.2.4.2., 3.2.4.4., 3.2.4.5. and 3.2.4.17. and Sentences 3.2.4.9.(1) and (4).



Additional Farm Building Requirements in OFC 2.17

Subsection 2.17.1. Fire Hazards and Control

Electrical systems

2.17.1.1. Temporary electrical equipment and wiring, including cord-connected electrical equipment, used in wet or corrosive environments in farm buildings shall not be used where it presents a fire hazard.

Mechanical equipment

2.17.1.2. Mechanical equipment used in wet or corrosive environments in farm buildings shall be maintained so as not to constitute a fire hazard.



Additional Farm Building Requirements in OFC 2.17

Warning Signs

- 2.17.2.1. (1) A sign indicating the danger of potentially hazardous concentrations of flammable or toxic gases or vapours shall be installed at each access to a liquid manure storage tank or below-floor manure transfer chamber.
- (2) A sign indicating the danger of silo gas shall be installed adjacent to each chute or ladder on a tower silo.
- (3) A sign indicating the danger of entrapment shall be installed at each access to a grain storage structure or bottom-unloading tower silo.
- (4) A sign indicating the danger of stored pesticides shall be installed at each entrance to a pesticide storage area.
- (5) A sign indicating the danger of unsafe oxygen levels shall be installed at each entrance to a controlled-atmosphere storage area.



Additional Farm Building Requirements in OFC 2.17

Control of gases and vapours

2.17.3.1. (1) Rooms or parts of farm buildings used for the storage of products capable of releasing flammable gases or vapours under normal ambient conditions shall be provided with a ventilation system in accordance with the Building Code to exhaust such gases or vapours outdoors to an area where the gases and vapours will not return to the farm building.

(2) A ventilation system required by Sentence (1) shall be maintained in operating condition.

Below-floor storage areas for liquid manure

2.17.3.2. (1) Except as provided in Sentence (2), farm buildings housing livestock with a below-floor storage area for liquid manure shall be provided with a ventilation system conforming to the Building Code.

(2) The requirements of Sentence (1) are waived when

- (a) the farm building is not occupied, and
- (b) the liquid manure has been removed from the storage area or reduced to the extent that it does not constitute a fire hazard.

(3) A ventilation system required by Sentence (1) shall be maintained in operating condition.



Other changes that may affect Farm Buildings

- Requirements to improve fire safety for boarding, lodging and rooming houses

9.3 Boarding, Lodging and Rooming Houses

9.3.1.1. (1) This Section applies to boarding houses, lodging houses, rooming houses and private rest homes in which residents do not require care or treatment because of age, mental or physical limitations, where



Other changes that may affect Farm Buildings



(a) the building height does not exceed 3 storeys and the building area does not exceed 600 m²,

(b) lodging is provided for **more than four** persons in return for remuneration or the provision of services or both, and

(c) lodging rooms do not have both bathrooms and kitchen facilities for the exclusive use of individual occupants.



Requirements to improve fire safety for boarding, lodging and rooming houses

Interior finishes

9.3.3.11.

(1) The flame-spread rating of interior wall and ceiling finishes within a means of egress shall not exceed 200.

(2) Despite Sentence (1), the flame-spread rating of interior wall and ceiling finishes of corridors and stairways shall not exceed 150.

(3) Doors within corridors and stairways referred to in Sentence (2) are permitted to have a flame-spread rating of up to 200.



Requirements to improve fire safety for boarding, lodging and rooming houses

Smoke alarms in sleeping rooms

9.3.4.5. (1) A smoke alarm shall be installed in each sleeping room.



Requirements to improve fire safety for boarding, lodging and rooming houses:

Portable extinguishers

9.3.5.1. (1) Despite the provisions of Subsection 6.2.6., at least one 2A rated portable extinguisher shall be provided on each floor.

(2) At least one 5B:C rated portable extinguisher shall be installed in each kitchen where shared cooking facilities exist.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS



MAKE A PLAN



BUILD A KIT



BE INFORMED

Questions ?



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