

Chapter Ind 50  
SCOPE OF BUILDING CODE

Ind 50.001	Purpose of code	Ind 50.04	Local regulations
Ind 50.002	Application	Ind 50.10	Approval of plans and specifications
Ind 50.01	Alterations	Ind 50.11	Evidence of approval
Ind 50.02	Change of use	Ind 50.12	Approval of materials, methods and devices
Ind 50.03	Exemption from code requirements		

**Ind 50.001 Purpose of code.** The purpose of this code is to promote the health, safety and welfare of the public by establishing performance minimums contained therein for design, construction, alteration, use and occupancy of buildings and parts thereof.

*Note 1:* The purpose as stated can be traced to the terms used in the "Safe Place statutes" of the state of Wisconsin, chapter 101, Wis. Stats.

*Note 2:* This code is intended for the protection of the public and not intended as a design manual, a text book nor a construction manual.

**History:** Cr. Register, December, 1970, No. 180, eff. 1-1-71.

**Ind 50.002 Application.** (1) **NEW BUILDINGS AND ADDITIONS.** This code shall apply to all new buildings, structures, and also to additions to existing buildings and structures, except as in Wis. Adm. Code, section Ind 50.03.

(2) **EXISTING BUILDINGS.** Buildings and structures erected prior to the effective date of the first building code (October 9, 1914) shall comply with the general orders on existing buildings, issued by the department of industry, labor and human relations.

**History:** 1-2-56; renum. from Ind 50.001 to be Ind 50.002, Register, December, 1970, No. 180, eff. 1-1-71.

**Ind 50.01 Alterations.** This code shall apply to all alterations in any building or structure which affects the structural strength, fire hazard, exits or lighting of any new or existing building or structure. This code does not apply to ordinary non-structural changes or minor repairs necessary for the maintenance of any building or structure.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63.

**Ind 50.02 Change of use.** (1) When the use of a building or structure is changed and the requirements for the new use are more stringent than those for the previous use then such building or structure shall be made to comply with the requirements for the new use as provided in this code.

(2) If, upon an inspection of a building or structure, it is found that its use was changed since the effective date of the first building code (October 9, 1914) and that it does not comply with the requirements of the building code in effect at the time of such change, it shall then be made to comply with the code requirements in effect at the time of change in use.

**Ind 50.03 Exemption from code requirements.** This code does not apply to the following buildings:

(1) Dwellings, and outbuildings in connection therewith, such as barns and private garages.

(2) Apartment buildings used exclusively as the residence of not more than 2 families.

(3) Buildings used exclusively for agricultural purposes which are not within the limits of a city or an incorporated village.

Register, February, 1971, No. 182  
Building and heating, ventilating  
and air conditioning code

(4) Temporary buildings or sheds used exclusively for construction purposes, not exceeding 2 stories in height, and not used for living quarters.

**Ind 50.04 Local regulations.** This code shall not limit the power of cities, villages and towns to make, or enforce, additional or more stringent regulations, provided the same do not conflict with this code or with any other rule of the department of industry, labor and human relations.

#### Enforcement

**Ind 50.10 Approval of plans and specifications.** (1) Complete plans and specifications for all buildings and structures in the following classifications shall be submitted to the department of industry, labor and human relations for approval before letting contracts or commencing work.

- (a) Theaters and assembly halls.
- (b) Schools and other places of instruction.
- (c) Apartment buildings, hotels and places of detention.
- (d) Hazardous occupancies.
- (e) Factories, office and mercantile buildings.

**Note:** Every building, structure, fill, or development placed or maintained within any flood plain is required to satisfy local or state regulations according to section 87.30, Wis. Stats.

Every architect and every engineer submitting plans for the construction of any structure using public funds shall, prior to the letting of final bids on such structures, submit a written report, indicating whether such structures meets or does not meet federal fallout shelter engineering standards, to the contracting agency according to section 101.085, Wis. Stats.

(2) The submission of plans and specifications for factories, office and mercantile buildings containing less than 25,000 cubic feet total volume is waived, providing they have no floor or roof spans greater than 30 feet and are not more than 2 stories high. Buildings for which the submission of plans and specifications is waived shall comply with the requirements of this code.

(3) All plans shall be submitted in triplicate and work shall not be started until plans are approved. Complete foundation and footing plans may be submitted for approval prior to submitting the building plans if the plot plan, itemized structural loads, complete foundation or footing design calculations and schematic floor plans are included showing exits, windows and other pertinent information. The following data shall be a part of or shall accompany all plans submitted for approval. Items (h) and (i) need not accompany foundation and footing plans submitted prior to final building plans.

(a) The location and grades of adjoining streets, alleys, lot lines and any other buildings on the same lot or property.

- (b) Name of owner.
- (c) Intended use or uses of all rooms, and the number of persons to be accommodated therein.
- (d) Assumed bearing value of soil.
- (e) Assumed live loads.
- (f) Assumed dead loads, itemized.
- (g) Assumed unit stresses for structural materials.
- (h) Stress diagrams for all trusses.

## Scope

(i) Typical calculations for slabs, beams, girders and columns.

(j) Diagram indicating bracing and stability of the structure and components in rigid frames and other open type buildings.

**Note:** Diagrams are intended to apply to the appropriate final designs of buildings regardless of materials of construction. For job bracing of buildings see Wis. Adm. Code chapter 35, Safety in Construction.

(k) Schematic diagrams showing exiting arrangements.

**Note:** Diagrams should show normal paths of egress based on intended use of any area of the building.

(1) Known special hazards to occupants shall be noted, e.g. flammable and combustible liquids, explosives, toxic gases and chemicals, and radioactive materials.

(4) Complete structural calculations shall be furnished upon request of the department of industry, labor and human relations or other authorized approving official. All plans and specifications shall be sealed or stamped by a registered architect or registered professional engineer except that plans for buildings having a total volume of less than 50,000 cubic feet shall be signed by the designer.

(5) This section shall apply to additions and alterations, as well as to new buildings, and shall also apply to all cases where there is a change of occupancy or use of a building.

(6) In cities where plans are examined, and building permits are issued, by a city building official in a manner approved by the department of industry, labor and human relations, additional approval by the department of industry, labor and human relations is not required.

(7) This section shall not apply to sanitary appliances, such as water supply and sewage disposal systems, chemical and septic toilets and similar equipment which shall be submitted for approval and installed in accordance with the regulations of the state board of health.

(8) After being approved, plans and specifications shall not be changed in any respect which may involve any provisions of this code, except with the written consent of the approving official.

(a) The approval of a plan or specification is not to be construed as the assumption of any responsibility for the design.

**History:** 1-2-56; am. Register, December, 1962, No. 84, eff. 1-1-63; r. and recr. (3), Register, February, 1967, No. 134, eff. 3-1-67; cr. (3) (j), (k), and (l), Register, February, 1971, No. 182, eff. 3-1-71.

**Ind 50.11 Evidence of approval.** The architect, professional engineer, builder or owner shall keep at the building one set of plans bearing the stamp of approval.

**Ind 50.12 Approval of materials, methods and devices.** All materials, methods of construction and devices designed for use in the construction, alteration or equipment of buildings or structures under this code and not specifically mentioned in this code shall not be so used until approved in writing by the department of industry, labor and human relations, except sanitary appliances, which shall be approved in accordance with the state plumbing code issued by the state board of health. The data, tests and other evidence necessary to prove the merits of such material, method of construction or device shall be determined by the department of industry, labor and human relations.

Register, February, 1971, No. 182  
Building and heating, ventilating  
and air conditioning code