

Manitoba Building Code Updates

Accessibility



Background

- Effective **January 1, 2024**, Manitoba will be adopting the 2020 edition of the National Building Code of Canada (NBC) published by the National Research Council (NRC).
- In coordination with Manitoba's Canadian Free Trade Agreement (CFTA) partners, the national model codes are now freely available online through the NRC's website:
<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/certifications-evaluations-standards/codes-canada/codes-canada-publications>.
- The 2020 NBC is adopted with amendments under the Manitoba Building Code (MBC) regulation which is available on the Manitoba Laws website:
<https://web2.gov.mb.ca/laws/regs/annual/2023/078.php?lang=en>

2020 NBC – Accessibility

- The 2015 and 2020 editions of the NBC substantially updated and reorganized accessibility requirements with 66 sets of technical changes representing the first major update since the 1980s.
- While the 2020 NBC accessibility requirements are not identical to Manitoba's previous amendments, the changes substantially update accessibility requirements to accommodate building use for a broad range of mobility devices and persons aging in place, as well as harmonize with the CSA B651, Accessible Design for the Built Environment standard.

2020 NBC – Accessibility

- To address the differences between Manitoba’s previous requirements and the NBC, updated regulations adopt the 2020 NBC requirements but carry over three amendments which:
 - expand the use of visual signal devices;
 - require handrails on both sides of stairways and ramps; and
 - address application of some requirements to existing buildings.

Code Development

Under CFTA commitments Manitoba adopts the national model construction codes and is limited in its ability to make amendments.

Anyone interested in contributing to the national code development process can visit:

<https://ccbfc-cccbpi.ca/en/get-involved/>

The NRC also offers an e-mail newsletter and alert subscription service for those who want to stay notified about changes at the national level:

<https://nrc.canada.ca/en/subscribe/>