

CHAPTER 2

DEFINITIONS

User note:

About this chapter: Codes, by their very nature, are technical documents. Every word, term and punctuation mark can add to or change the meaning of a technical requirement. It is necessary to maintain a consensus on the specific meaning of each term contained in the code. Chapter 2 performs this function by stating clearly what specific terms mean for the purpose of the code.

SECTION 201 GENERAL

201.1 Scope. Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this code, have the meanings shown in this chapter.

201.2 Interchangeability. Words used in the present tense include the future; words stated in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter; the singular number includes the plural and the plural, the singular.

201.3 Terms defined in other codes. Where terms are not defined in this code and are defined in the other International Codes, such terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in those codes.

201.4 Terms not defined. Where terms are not defined through the methods authorized by this chapter, such terms shall have ordinarily accepted meanings such as the context implies.

SECTION 202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

[A] **ADDITION.** An extension or increase in floor area, number of stories, or height of a building or structure.

[W] **ADULT FAMILY HOME.** A dwelling, licensed by the State of Washington Department of Social and Health Services, in which a person or persons provide personal care, special care, room and board to more than one but not more than six adults who are not related by blood or marriage to the person or persons providing the services. An existing adult family home may provide services to up to eight adults upon approval from the Department of Social and Health Services in accordance with RCW 70.128.066.

[A] **ALTERATION.** Any construction or renovation to an *existing structure* other than a *repair* or *addition*.

[A] **APPROVED.** Acceptable to the *code official*.

[A] **BUILDING.** Any structure utilized or intended for supporting or sheltering any occupancy.

[S][A] **CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY.** ~~((Any of the following shall be considered as a change of occupancy where the current *International Building Code* requires a greater degree of safety, accessibility, structural strength, fire protection, means of egress, ventilation or sanitation than is existing in the current building or structure:))~~ A change in the use of a building or a portion of a building that results in any of the following:

1. Any change in the occupancy classification, ~~((of a building or structure.))~~
2. Any change ~~((in the purpose of, or a change in the level of activity within, a building or structure))~~ from one group to another group within an occupancy classification.
3. A change of use within a group for which there is a change in application of the requirements of this code.

[S] ~~(([A] CHANGE OF USE. A change in the use of a building or a portion of a building, within the same group classification, for which there is a change in application of the code requirements.))~~

[S][A] **CODE OFFICIAL.** The ~~((officer or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of this code))~~ Director of the Department of Construction and Inspections and authorized representatives.

[S] **DAMAGE RATIO.** The ratio between the cost of work and the estimated replacement cost of the building, expressed as a percentage.

[S] ~~(([BS] DANGEROUS. Any building, structure or portion thereof that meets any of the conditions described below shall be deemed dangerous:))~~

1. ~~The building or structure has collapsed, has partially collapsed, has moved off its foundation or lacks the necessary support of the ground.~~

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2. There exists a significant risk of collapse, detachment or dislodgement of any portion, member, appurtenance or ornamentation of the building or structure under permanent, routine or frequent loads; under actual loads already in effect; or under snow, wind, rain, flood, earthquake or other environmental loads when such loads are imminent.)

[A] DEFERRED SUBMITTAL. Those portions of the design that are not submitted at the time of the application and that are to be submitted to the *code official* within a specified period.

[S] (~~[BS] DISPROPORTIONATE EARTHQUAKE DAMAGE.~~ A condition of earthquake-related damage where both of the following occur:

1. The 0.3-second spectral acceleration at the building site as estimated by the United States Geological Survey for the earthquake in question is less than 40 percent of the mapped acceleration parameter SS.
2. The vertical elements of the lateral force-resisting system have suffered damage such that the lateral load-carrying capacity of any story in any horizontal direction has been reduced by more than 10 percent from its predamage condition.)

[BE] EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE OPENING. An operable exterior window, door or other similar device that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency.

EQUIPMENT OR FIXTURE. Any plumbing, heating, electrical, ventilating, air conditioning, refrigerating and fire protection equipment; and elevators, dumbwaiters, escalators, boilers, pressure vessels and other mechanical facilities; or installations that are related to building services. Equipment or fixture shall not include manufacturing, production or process equipment, but shall include connections from building service to process equipment.

[S][A] EXISTING BUILDING, EXISTING STRUCTURE. A building or structure erected prior to the date of adoption of ~~(the appropriate)~~ this code, or one for which a ~~(legal building permit)~~ valid Certificate of Occupancy has been issued, or one that has passed a final inspection.

[S] (~~[A] EXISTING STRUCTURE.~~ A structure erected prior to the date of adoption of the appropriate code, or one for which a legal building permit has been issued.)

[BF] EXTERIOR WALL COVERING. A material or assembly of materials applied on the exterior side of exterior walls for the purpose of providing a weather-resisting barrier, insulation or for aesthetics, including but not limited to, veneers, siding, exterior insulation and finish systems, architectural trim and embellishments, such as cornices, soffits, facias, gutters and leaders.

[BF] EXTERIOR WALL ENVELOPE. A system or assembly of exterior wall components, including exterior wall finish materials, that provides protection of the building structural members, including framing and sheathing materials, and conditioned interior space from the detrimental effects of the exterior environment.

[A] FACILITY. All or any portion of buildings, structures, site improvements, elements and pedestrian or vehicular routes located on a site.

[BS] FLOOD HAZARD AREA. The greater of the following two areas:

1. The area within a flood plain subject to a 1-percent or greater chance of flooding in any year.
2. The area designated as a *flood hazard area* on a community's flood hazard map, or otherwise legally designated.

[S] (~~[A] HISTORIC BUILDING.~~ Any building or structure that is one or more of the following:

1. Listed, or certified as eligible for listing, by the State Historic Preservation Officer or the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places, in the National Register of Historic Places.
2. Designated as historic under an applicable state or local law.
3. Certified as a contributing resource within a National Register, state-designated or locally designated historic district.)

[S] LANDMARK. A building or structure that is subject to a requirement to obtain a certificate of approval from the City Landmarks Preservation Board before altering or making significant changes to specific features or characteristics, that has been nominated for designation and the City Landmarks Preservation Board has not issued a determination regarding designation, that has been designated for preservation by the City Landmarks Preservation Board, that has been designated for preservation by the State of Washington, that has been listed or determined eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places, or that is located in a landmark or special review district subject to a requirement to obtain a certificate of approval before making a change to the external appearance of a structure.

[S] LIFE SAFETY PERFORMANCE LEVEL. A post-earthquake damage state that includes damage to structural elements, but the building retains a margin against partial or total collapse. Injuries may occur, but the overall risk of life-threatening injury as a result of structural damage is expected to be low.

[BF] NONCOMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL. A material that, under the conditions anticipated, will not ignite or burn when subjected to fire or heat. Materials that pass ASTM E136 are considered *noncombustible materials*.

PRIMARY FUNCTION. A *primary function* is a major activity for which the *facility* is intended. Areas that contain a *primary function* include, but are not limited to, the customer services lobby of a bank, the dining area of a cafeteria, the meeting rooms in a conference center, as well as offices and other work areas in which the activities of the public accommodation or other private entity using the *facility* are carried out. Mechanical rooms, boiler rooms, supply storage rooms, employee lounges or locker rooms, janitorial closets, entrances, corridors and restrooms are not areas containing a *primary function*.

[A] REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL IN RESPONSIBLE CHARGE. A registered design professional engaged by the owner or the owner's authorized agent to review and coordinate certain aspects of the project, as determined by the *code official*, for compatibility with the design of the building or structure, including submittal documents prepared by others, *deferred submittal* documents and phased submittal documents.

REHABILITATION. Any work, as described by the categories of work defined herein, undertaken in an *existing building*.

[A] RELOCATABLE BUILDING. A partially or completely assembled building constructed and designed to be reused multiple times and transported to different building sites.

[A] REPAIR. The reconstruction, replacement or renewal of any part of an *existing building* for the purpose of its maintenance or to correct damage.

[BS] REROOFING. The process of recovering or replacing an existing roof covering. See “*Roof recover*” and “*Roof replacement*.”

[S] RETROFITTED UNREINFORCED MASONRY (URM) BUILDING. A *URM building* that meets a minimally acceptable level of life safety risk from earthquakes by demonstrating compliance with Section 304.5.1.

Note: *Retrofitted URM buildings are eligible for a status change in the City of Seattle URM database.*

[BS] RISK CATEGORY. A categorization of buildings and other structures for determination of flood, wind, snow, ice and earthquake loads based on the risk associated with unacceptable performance, as provided in Section 1604.5 of the *International Building Code*.

[BS] ROOF COATING. A fluid-applied adhered coating used for roof maintenance, *roof repair* or as a component of a roof covering system or roof assembly.

[BS] ROOF RECOVER. The process of installing an additional roof covering over a prepared existing roof covering without removing the existing roof covering.

[BS] ROOF REPAIR. Reconstruction or renewal of any part of an existing roof for the purpose of correcting damage or restoring the predamage condition.

[BS] ROOF REPLACEMENT. The process of removing the existing roof covering, repairing any damaged substrate and installing a new roof covering.

[BS] SEISMIC FORCES. The loads, forces and requirements prescribed herein, related to the response of the building to earthquake motions, to be used in the analysis and design of the structure and its components. Seismic forces are considered either full or reduced, as provided in Chapter 3.

[S] SUBSTANTIAL ALTERATION. See Section 311.1.

[BS] SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE. For the purpose of determining compliance with the flood provisions of this code, damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

[S][BS] SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT. ((For the purpose of determining compliance with the flood provisions of this code, any)) Any repair, alteration, addition or improvement of a building or structure, the cost of which, in any five-year period, equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure, before the improvement or repair is started. If the structure has sustained *substantial damage*, any repairs are considered *substantial improvement* regardless of the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either of the following:

1. Any project for improvement of a building required to correct existing health, sanitary or safety code violations identified by the *code official* and that is the minimum necessary to ensure safe living conditions.
2. Any *alteration* of a ((historic)) *landmark* structure, provided that the *alteration* will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a ((historic)) *landmark* structure.

[S] (([BS] SUBSTANTIAL STRUCTURAL ALTERATION. An *alteration* in which the gravity load-carrying structural elements altered within a 5-year period support more than 30 percent of the total floor and roof area of the building or structure. The areas to be counted toward the 30 percent shall include mezzanines, penthouses, and in-filled courts and shafts tributary to the altered structural elements.))

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[S] ~~((BS) SUBSTANTIAL STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. A condition where any of the following apply:~~

- ~~1. The vertical elements of the lateral force-resisting system have suffered damage such that the lateral load-carrying capacity of any story in any horizontal direction has been reduced by more than 33 percent from its predamage condition.~~
- ~~2. The capacity of any vertical component carrying gravity load, or any group of such components, that has a tributary area more than 30 percent of the total area of the structure's floor(s) and roof(s) has been reduced more than 20 percent from its predamage condition, and the remaining capacity of such affected elements, with respect to all dead and live loads, is less than 75 percent of that required by the *International Building Code* for new buildings of similar structure, purpose and location.~~
- ~~3. The capacity of any structural component carrying snow load, or any group of such components, that supports more than 30 percent of the roof area of similar construction has been reduced more than 20 percent from its predamage condition, and the remaining capacity with respect to dead, live and snow loads is less than 75 percent of that required by the *International Building Code* for new buildings of similar structure, purpose and location.~~

TECHNICALLY INFEASIBLE. An *alteration* of a *facility* that has little likelihood of being accomplished because the existing structural conditions require the removal or *alteration* of a load-bearing member that is an essential part of the structural frame, or because other existing physical or site constraints prohibit modification or addition of elements, spaces or features which are in full and strict compliance with the minimum requirements for new construction and which are necessary to provide accessibility.

[S] ~~UNSAFE. ((Buildings, structures or equipment that are unsanitary, or that are deficient due to inadequate means of egress facilities, inadequate light and ventilation, or that constitute a fire hazard, or in which the structure or individual structural members meet the definition of "Dangerous," or that are otherwise dangerous to human life or the public welfare, or that involve illegal or improper occupancy or inadequate maintenance shall be deemed *unsafe*. A vacant structure that is not secured against entry shall be deemed *unsafe*.) Structurally unsound, provided with inadequate egress, constituting a fire hazard, or otherwise dangerous to human life, or constituting a hazard to safety, health or public welfare.~~

[S] **UNREINFORCED MASONRY (URM).** Includes burned clay, concrete or sand-lime brick, hollow clay block, or hollow clay tile.

[S] **UNREINFORCED MASONRY (URM) BUILDING.** A building where one or more *URM* walls provide the primary support for vertical loads from floors or roofs and the *URM* walls rely on the tensile strength of masonry units, mortar and grout in resisting design loads.

Note: *URM buildings* were generally constructed prior to 1945 and unlawful after adoption of the 1973 Uniform Building Code on May 7, 1977.

[S] **WORK AREA.** That portion or portions of a building consisting of all reconfigured spaces as indicated on the construction documents. Work area excludes other portions of the building where incidental work entailed by the intended work must be performed and portions of the building where work not initially intended by the owner is specifically required by this code. The boundary of the work area includes all spaces not physically separated from rooms or spaces where work is being performed.