

October 20, 2009



Review of Ontario Code Changes

The government of Ontario is proposing a package of diverse changes to the Building Code. The proposed changes are intended to support business and promote a greener Ontario. While the changes address a variety of objectives, many have a common theme in that they are generally clarifications, housekeeping, or simple improvements to the Building Code.

In reviewing these changes, I believe the following items may need attention or should be considered by the industry or manufacturers involved in heating and plumbing.

These are highlights of the major items and not comprehensive in anyway. The intent of this summary is to give a “head’s up” notice of items that the industry should pay attention to because the rules of the game are changing.

This summary report highlights important changes and some have been extracted for ease of reference. If the detail is missing it can be found in the original document.

Web link: <http://www.obc.mah.gov.on.ca/Page3117.aspx>

1.	1.3.1.1. Designated Structures Remove solar collectors and dish antennas from the list of designated structures.
2.	Table 1.3.1.2. Documents Referenced in the Building Code Several referenced standards listed in Table 1.3.1.2. have been updated. This includes plumbing standards such as CAN/CSA-B125-01 “Plumbing Fittings” and others.
3.	7.1.5.4. Separate Services Clarifies that multiple buildings on the same property served by a private water supply or a private sewer need not be separately connected to municipal services.
4.	7.2.5.13. Polyethylene/Aluminum/Polyethylene Composite Pipe and Fittings To permit PE/AL/PE pipe with 690 kPa or greater rated at 82°C for hot water uses.
5.	7.3.5.7. Spatial Separation To permit crossing of service piping and connections. Under normal conditions, water service pipe shall cross above drainage piping with sufficient vertical separation to allow for proper bedding and structural support of the water service pipe and drainage piping. Current Code requirements do not adequately address situations where drainage piping crosses over potable water supply piping because of site conditions.

6.	7.4.7.2. Size and Spacing of Cleanouts To clarify that manholes are not required within buildings.
7.	7.6.2.4. Backflow from Fire Protection Systems Clarify provisions for backflow prevention devices for solar domestic hot water systems.
8.	7.6.4.2. Plumbing Fixtures Mandate a maximum allowable flush cycle of 6 L for all water closets and 3.8 L for all urinals.
9.	8.2.2.3. Septic Tanks Reduce the minimum depth of septic tanks from 1200 mm to 1000 mm.

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