

# PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE BULLETIN

TOPIC:	Adoption of the New British Columbia Building and Fire Codes (BC Codes 2024)
PRACTICE AREA:	General
DISCIPLINE:	All related disciplines
DOCUMENT #:	PPB-2024-GEN-01
REVISION #:	1.0
DATE:	March 8, 2024

This practice bulletin is being issued to registrants of the Applied Science Technologists and Technicians of BC to provide clarity on the practice requirements for all registrants of related professions which their project or work requirements fall under the BC Building Code and the BC Fire Code.

Registrants must adhere to these requirements in addition to the Professional Governance Act, ASTTBC Bylaws, applicable industry codes, standards, and ASTTBC practice guidance documents when carrying out work and professional services.

## **Background Information:**

The Province adopted the British Columbia Building, including Book II Plumbing Systems, and Fire Codes ("BC Codes 2024) in late 2023.

The BC Codes 2024 come into effect on March 8, 2024, and will apply to all building permits applied for on or after that date. Buildings with permits in place under the BC Codes 2018 will generally not be affected by the new BC Codes.

The new codes are based on National Codes 2020 with BC-specific variations to address geographical, climate, local government needs, industry practices, and other provincial priorities.

Some of the changes for the BC Building Code 2024 include:

- Accessibility requirements such as power-operated doors in all building entrances, universal washrooms, elevator requirements, wheelchair spaces in event facilities, etc.
- Cooling requirements for living spaces,
- Permitting the use of mass-timber buildings, in harmonization with the National Building Code 2020,
- Radon safety requirements for radon-extraction system rough-ins.

There are also a number of changes that are deferred and will be effective **MARCH 10, 2025**, including:

- New requirements for adaptable dwellings to meet occupants' needs for age-in-place, injury or illness needs,
- Reinforcement of bathroom walls to allow for future installation of grab bars,
- And early adopting national provisions to improve earthquake design changes for housing and small buildings with high seismic hazard values.

### **Practice Directive:**

All registrants will comply with the conditions and requirements under the new BC Building Code and BC Fire Code.

Registrants will coordinate with the appropriate authorities having jurisdiction, associated professionals, and others to ensure their projects conform with the applicable code edition.

The BC Codes 2024 are available for free online access at the following weblink: <https://www.bccodes.ca/index.html>.

### **Reference Documents:**

- BC Codes 2024 including:
  - British Columbia Building Code 2024
  - BC Plumbing Code 2024
  - BC Fire Code 2024
- Weblink: [Building Codes and Standards - Province of British Columbia \(gov.bc.ca\)](https://www.gov.bc.ca/building-codes-standards)

### **Revision History**

Revision Number	Date of Publication	Filename	Description of Changes
1.0	March 8, 2024	PPB-2024-GEN-001	Published to ASTTBC website