



# New Hampshire Building Officials Association

*Established in 1965*

*c/o NH Municipal Association  
25 Triangle Park Drive  
Concord, New Hampshire 03301  
603-224-7447*

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## The updated NH State Building Code is in effect as of July 1, 2024

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NH code officials, on August 2, 2024 Governor Sununu signed into law House Bill 1059, which updated the NH State Building Code ([RSA 155-A](#)) to the 2021 editions with NH amendments. Note, the Energy Code remains the 2018 edition. The following code updates, retroactively, went into effect July 1, 2024 however, are not required to be fully enforced until January 1, 2025.

The Updated NH State Building and Fire Codes:

2021 International Building Code  
2021 International Residential Code  
2021 International Plumbing Code  
2021 International Mechanical Code  
2021 International Existing Building Code  
**2018 International Energy Conservation Code**  
2021 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code  
2020 National Electrical Code, NFPA 70  
2021 Fire Code, NFPA 1  
2021 Life Safety Code, NFPA 101

### Amendments to the NH State Building and Fire Codes:

Several of the adopted codes have amendments to address specific New Hampshire concerns. Many of these amendments have been carried-over from the 2018 codes. These amendments can be found on the [Building Code Review Board](#) (BCRB) website.

The New Hampshire Building Officials Association, Board of Governors supports a statewide uniform building code. We also understand and appreciate that updating of codes can bring changes that may affect projects in your communities, especially those that may take many months or years to finalize.

New Hampshire Building Officials Association offers the following guidance to all NH code officials on how to transition to and implement the 2021 International Codes and the 2021 NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 as the New Hampshire State Building and Fire Codes.

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## Guidance to Manage Implementation of the 2018 Codes

NH RSA 155-A:2(II) contains a specific provision where "*at the election of the applicant*" they can choose to finish designing and construct buildings to the prior 2018 building codes or the adopted 2021 building codes for up to 6-months after the 2021 codes are in effect.

### **Suggested Implementation Management:**

1. Develop a plan early how you will manage the transition to the 2021 codes over the next six months
  - a. How will you manage projects that are in process with your planning board?
  - b. How will you manage projects that are already in final design stages to the 2015 codes?
  - c. How will you manage phased projects that have already begun construction and may continue for a year or more?

Due to a variety of considerations with larger construction projects that are in design for many months or projects already in review processes with planning boards or building departments, those projects are granted a 6-month phase-in period. Projects already in process can continue to be reviewed, permits issued and inspections conducted in accordance with the 2018 codes, provided the final "For Construction" plans are approved prior to January 1, 2025.

2. For projects which permits are issued prior to July 1, 2024 or under this phase-in period refer to IBC 107.3.2 or IRC 106.3.2 that addresses previous approvals.
3. Begin early educating design professionals, contractors and homeowners about the transition to the 2021 codes and how your department will manage the transition. Suggested sources are
  - a. Posting in public places or public information boards
  - b. Public access TV if provided
  - c. Community and department websites
  - d. Press release to local or regional papers
  - e. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc)
4. Coordinate the transition with other code officials in your community, such as your fire department, if in a separate office.
5. Coordinate the transition with your community land use boards.
6. Communicate and build relationships with any professional trade organizations such as your local Home Builders Association chapter, Chamber of Commerce, etc.

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As your president of NHBOA I am proud of all the efforts put forth by many of our members, our partners in the fire service and the many stake holders in the construction industry that again made this code adoption cycle relatively smooth. Everyone involved remained respectful, accepted compromise when it was necessary and we were able to address the concerns of our state legislators.

Should any of you have additional questions please do not hesitate to reach out to me or any one of your board members for more information.

Also, please feel free to share this information with other code officials that may not belong to NHBOA.

Respectfully,

*William A. McKinney*

President

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