

# Property Maintenance Code of Dover Township

*Adopted by Dover Township Ordinance 2007-05*



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## **CHAPTER 1 – ADMINISTRATION**

### **SECTION 101 GENERAL**

#### **101.1 Title**

These regulations shall be known as the Property Maintenance Code of Dover Township, hereinafter referred to as "this code."

#### **101.2 Scope**

The provisions of this code shall apply to all existing residential and nonresidential structures and all existing premises and constitute minimum requirements and standards for premises, structures, equipment and facilities for light, ventilation, space, heating, sanitation, protection from the elements, life safety, safety from fire and other hazards, and for safe and sanitary maintenance, the responsibility of owners.

#### **101.3 Intent**

This code shall be construed to secure its expressed intent, which is to ensure public health, safety and welfare in so far as they are affected by the continued occupancy and maintenance of structures and premises. Existing structures and premises that do not comply with these provisions shall be altered or repaired to provide a minimum level of health and safety as required herein.

#### **101.4 Severability**

If a section, subsection, sentence, clause or phrase of this code is, for any reason, held to be unconstitutional, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this code.

### **SECTION 102 – APPLICABILITY**

#### **102.1 General**

The provisions of this code shall apply to all matters affecting or relating to structures and premises, as set forth in Section 101. Where, in a specific case, different sections of this code specify different requirements, the most restrictive shall govern.

#### **102.2 Maintenance**

Equipment, systems, devices and safeguards required by this code or a previous regulation or code under which the structure or premises was constructed, altered or repaired shall be maintained in good working order. No owner, operator or occupant shall cause any service, facility, equipment or utility which is required under this section to be removed from or shut off from or discontinued for any occupied dwelling, except for such temporary interruption as necessary while repairs or alterations are in progress. The requirements of this code are not intended to provide the basis for removal or abrogation of fire protection and safety systems and devices in existing structures. Except as otherwise specified herein, the owner or the owner's designated agent shall be responsible for the maintenance of buildings, structures and premises.

### **102.3 Application of other codes**

Repairs, additions or alterations to a structure, or changes of occupancy, shall be done in accordance with the procedures and provisions of the *International Building Code, International Fuel Gas Code, International Mechanical Code and the ICC Electrical Code*.

### **102.4 Existing remedies**

The provisions in this code shall not be construed to abolish or impair existing remedies of the jurisdiction or its officers or agencies relating to the removal or demolition of any structure which is dangerous, unsafe and unsanitary.

### **102.5 Workmanship**

Repairs, maintenance work, alterations and premises, and for administration, enforcement and penalty or installations which are caused directly or indirectly by the enforcement of this code shall be executed and installed in a workmanlike manner and installed in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions.

### **102.6 Historic buildings**

The provisions of this code shall not be mandatory for existing buildings or structures designated as historic buildings when such buildings or structures are judged by the code official to be safe and in the public interest of health, safety and welfare.

### **102.7 Referenced codes and standards - DELETED**

### **102.8 Requirements not covered by code**

Requirements necessary for the strength, stability or proper operation of an existing fixture, structure or equipment, or for the public safety, health and general welfare not specifically covered by this code, shall be determined by the code official.

## **SECTION 103 - DEPARTMENT OF PROPERTY MAINTENANCE INSPECTION**

### **103.1 General**

The official in charge of property maintenance inspections, administration and enforcement shall be known as the building code official. All references to the "code official" in this Part shall mean the "building code official."

### **103.2 Appointment**

The code official shall be appointed by the Board of Supervisors of Dover Township, and serves at the pleasure of the Board

### **103.3 Deputies - DELETED**

#### **103.4 Liability**

The code official, officer or employee charged with the enforcement of this code, while acting for the jurisdiction, shall not thereby be rendered liable personally, and is hereby relieved from all personal liability for any damage accruing to persons or property as a result of an act required or permitted in the discharge of official duties.

Any suit instituted against any officer or employee because of an act performed by that officer or employee in the lawful discharge of duties and under the provisions of this code shall be defended by the legal representative of the jurisdiction until the final termination of the proceedings. The code official or any subordinate shall not be liable for costs in an action, suit or proceeding that is instituted in pursuance of the provisions of this code and any officer of the department of maintenance inspection acting in good faith and without malice, shall be free from liability for acts performed under any of its provisions or by reason of any act or omission in the performance of official duties in connection therewith.

#### **103.5 Fees**

The fees for activities and services performed pursuant to this code shall be set by resolution by the Board of Supervisors of Dover Township.

## **SECTION 104 - DUTIES AND POWERS OF THE CODE OFFICIAL**

### **104.1 General**

The code official shall enforce the provisions of this code.

### **104.2 Rule-making authority - DELETED**

### **104.3 Inspections**

The code official shall make all of the required inspections, or shall accept reports of inspection by approved agencies or individuals. All reports of such inspections shall be in writing and be certified by a responsible officer of such approved agency or by the responsible individual. The code official is authorized to engage such expert opinion as deemed necessary to report upon unusual technical issues that arise, subject to the approval of the appointing authority.

#### **104.4 Right of entry**

The code official is authorized to enter the structure or premises at reasonable times to inspect subject to constitutional restrictions on unreasonable searches and seizures. If entry is refused or not obtained, the code official is authorized to pursue recourse as provided by law.

#### **104.5 Identification**

The code official shall carry proper identification when inspecting structures or premises in the performance of duties under this code.

#### **104.6 Notices and orders.**

The code official shall issue all necessary notices or orders to ensure compliance with this code.

#### **104.7 Department records**

The code official shall keep official records of all business and activities of the department specified in the provisions of this code. Such records shall be retained in the official records as long as the building or structure to which such records relate remains in existence, unless otherwise provided for by other regulations.

### **SECTION 105 - APPROVAL**

#### **105.1 Modifications**

Whenever there are practical difficulties involved in carrying out the provisions of this code, the code official shall have the authority to grant modifications for individual cases, provided the code official shall first find that special individual reason makes the strict letter of this code impractical and the modification is in compliance with the intent and purpose of this code and that such modification does not lessen health, life and fire safety requirements. The details of action granting modifications shall be recorded and entered in the department files.

#### **105.2 Alternative materials, methods and equipment**

The provisions of this code are not intended to prevent the installation of any material or to prohibit any method of construction not specifically prescribed by this code, provided that any such alternative has been approved. An alternative material or method of construction shall be approved where the code official finds that the proposed design is satisfactory and complies with the intent of the provisions of this code, and that the material, method or work offered is, for the purpose intended, at least the equivalent of that prescribed in this code in quality, strength, effectiveness, fire resistance, durability and safety.

#### **105.3 Required testing**

Whenever there is insufficient evidence of compliance with the provisions of this code, or evidence that a material or method does not conform to the requirements of this code, or in order to substantiate claims for alternative materials or methods, the code official shall have the authority to require tests to be made as evidence of compliance at no expense to the jurisdiction.

### **105.3.1 Test methods**

Test methods shall be as specified in this code or by other recognized test standards. In the absence of recognized and accepted test methods, the code official shall be permitted to approve appropriate testing procedures performed by an approved agency.

### **105.3.2 Test reports**

Reports of tests shall be retained by the code official for the period required for retention of public records.

### **105.4 Material and equipment reuse**

Materials, equipment and devices shall not be reused unless such elements are in good repair or have been reconditioned and tested when necessary, placed in good and proper working condition and approved.

## **SECTION 106 - VIOLATIONS**

### **106.1 Unlawful acts**

It shall be unlawful for a person, firm or corporation to be in conflict with or in violation of any of the provisions of this code.

### **106.2 Notice of violation**

The code official shall serve notice of violation or order in accordance with Section 107.

### **106.3 Prosecution of violation**

Any person failing to comply with a notice of violation or order served in accordance with section 107 shall be deemed guilty of a summary offense, and the violation shall be deemed a strict liability offense. If the notice of violation is not complied with, the code official shall institute the appropriate proceeding at law or inequity to restrain, correct or abate such violation, or require the removal or termination of the unlawful occupancy of the structure in violation of the provisions of this code or of the order or direction made pursuant thereto. Any action taken by the authority having jurisdiction on such premises shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

### **106.4 Violation penalties**

Any owner, occupant, tenant or person who violates or permits the violation of any provision of this code shall commit a summary criminal offense, and upon conviction by a District Justice, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 plus costs, and imprisonment to the extent allowed by law for summary offenses for each violation. Each day of a violation, and each separate violation of this code, shall be considered a separate violation.

### **106.5 Abatement of violation**

The imposition of the penalties herein prescribed shall not preclude the legal officer of the jurisdiction from instituting appropriate action to restrain, correct or abate a violation, or to prevent illegal occupancy of a building, structure or premises, or to stop an illegal act, conduct, business or utilization of the building, structure or premises.

## **SECTION 107 - NOTICES AND ORDERS**

### **107.1 Notice to person responsible**

Whenever the code official determines that there has been a violation of this code or has grounds to believe that a violation has occurred, notice shall be given in the manner prescribed in Sections 107.2 and 107.3 to the person responsible for the violation as specified in this code. Notices for condemnation procedures shall also comply with Section 108.3.

### **107.2 Form**

Such notice prescribed in Section 107.1 shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. Be in writing.
2. Include a description of the real estate sufficient for identification.
3. Include a statement of the violation or violations and why the notice is being issued.
4. Include a correction order allowing a reasonable time to make the repairs and improvements required to bring the dwelling unit or structure into compliance with the provisions of this code.
5. Failure to make the required repairs and improvements within the time specified may result in the institution of summary criminal proceedings before the District Justice, and upon conviction by a District Justice, shall be subject to a fine not to exceed \$1,000.00 plus costs, and imprisonment to the extent allowed by law for summary offenses for each violation. Each day of a violation, and each separate violation of the code, shall be considered a separate violation.

### **107.3 Method of service**

Such notice shall be deemed to be properly served if a copy thereof is:

1. Delivered personally
2. Sent by certified or first-class mail addressed to the last known address: or
3. If the notice is returned showing that the letter was not delivered, a copy thereof shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice.

### **107.4 Penalties**

Penalties for noncompliance with orders and notices shall be as set forth in Section 106.4.

### **107.5 Transfer of ownership**

It shall be unlawful for the owner of any dwelling unit or structure who has received a compliance order or upon whom a notice of violation has been served to sell, transfer mortgage, lease or otherwise dispose of such dwelling unit or structure to another until the provisions of the compliance order or notice of violation have been complied with, or until such owner shall first furnish the grantee, transferee, mortgagee or lessee a true copy of any compliance order or notice of violation issued by the code official and shall furnish to the code official a signed and notarized statement from the grantee, transferee, mortgagee or lessee, acknowledging the receipt of such compliance order or notice of violation and fully accepting the responsibility without condition for making the corrections or repairs required by such compliance order or notice of violation.

## **SECTION 108 - UNSAFE STRUCTURES AND EQUIPMENT**

### **108.1 General**

When a structure or equipment is found by the code official to be unsafe, or when a structure is found unfit for human occupancy, or is found unlawful, such structure shall be condemned pursuant to the provisions of this code.

#### **108.1.1 Unsafe structures**

An unsafe structure is one that is found to be dangerous to the life, health, property or safety of the public or the occupants of the structure by not providing minimum safeguards to protect or warn occupants in the event of fire or because such structure contains unsafe equipment or is so damaged, decayed, dilapidated, structurally unsafe or of such faulty construction or unstable foundation, that partial or complete collapse is possible.

#### **108.1.2 Unsafe equipment**

Unsafe equipment includes any boiler, heating equipment, elevator, moving stairway, electrical wiring or device, flammable liquid containers or other equipment on the premises or within the structure which is in such disrepair or condition that such equipment is a hazard to life, health, property or safety of the public or occupants of the premises or structure.

#### **108.1.3 Structure unfit for human occupancy**

A structure is unfit for human occupancy whenever the code official finds that such Structure is unsafe, unlawful or, because of the degree to which the Structure is in disrepair or lacks maintenance, is unsanitary, vermin or rat infested, contains filth and contamination or lacks ventilation, illumination sanitary or heating facilities or other essential equipment required by this code or because the location of the structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants of the structure or to the public.

#### **108.1.4 Unlawful structure**

An unlawful structure is one found in whole or in part to be occupied by more persons than permitted under this code, or was erected, altered or occupied contrary to law.

### **108.2 Closing of vacant structures**

If the structure is vacant and unfit for human habitation and occupancy, and is not in danger of structural collapse, the code official is authorized to post a placard of condemnation on the premises and order the structure closed up so as not to be an attractive nuisance. Upon failure of the owner to close up the premises within the time specified in the order, the code official shall cause the premises to be closed and secured through any available public agency or by contract or arrangement by private persons and the cost thereof shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate and may be collected by any other legal resource.

### **108.3 Notice**

Whenever the code official has condemned a structure or equipment under the provisions of this section, notice shall be posted in a conspicuous place in or about the structure affected by such notice and served on the owner or the person or persons responsible for the structure or equipment in accordance with Section 107.3. If the notice pertains to equipment, it shall be placed on the condemned equipment. The notice shall be in the form prescribed in Section 107.2.

### **108.4 Placarding**

Upon failure of the owner or person responsible to comply with the notice provisions within the time given, the code official shall post on the premises or on defective equipment a placard bearing the word "Condemned" and a statement of the penalties provided for occupying the premises, operating the equipment or removing the placard.

#### **108.4.1 Placard removal**

The code official shall remove the condemnation placard whenever the defect or defects upon which the condemnation and placarding action were based have been eliminated. Any person who defaces or removes a condemnation placard without the approval of the code official shall be subject to the penalties provided by this code.

### **108.5 Prohibited occupancy**

Any occupied structure condemned and placarded by the code official shall be vacated as ordered by the code official. Any person who shall occupy a placarded premises or shall operate placarded equipment, and any owner or any person responsible for the premises who shall let anyone occupy a placarded premises or operate placarded equipment shall be liable for the penalties provided by this code.

## **SECTION 109 – EMERGENCY MEASURES**

### **109.1 Imminent danger**

When, in the opinion of the code official, there is imminent danger of failure or collapse of a building or structure which endangers life, or when any structure or part of a structure has fallen and life is endangered by the occupation of the structure, or when there is actual or potential danger to the building occupants or those in the proximity of any structure because of explosives, explosive fumes or vapors or the presence of toxic fumes, gases or materials, or operation of defective or dangerous equipment, the code official is hereby authorized and empowered to order and require the occupants to vacate the premises forthwith. The code official shall cause to be posted at each entrance to such structure a notice reading as follows: "This Structure Is Unsafe and Its Occupancy Has Been Prohibited by the Code Official." It shall be unlawful for any person to enter such structure except for the purpose of securing the structure, making the required repairs, removing the hazardous condition or of demolishing the same.

### **109.2 Temporary safeguards**

Notwithstanding other provisions of this code, whenever, in the opinion of the code official, there is imminent danger due to an unsafe condition, the code official shall order the necessary work to be done, including the boarding up of openings, to render such structure temporarily safe whether or not the legal procedure herein described has been instituted and shall cause such other action to be taken as the code official deems necessary to meet such emergency.

### **109.3 Closing streets**

When necessary for public safety, the code official shall temporarily close structures and close, or order the authority having jurisdiction to close, sidewalks, streets, public ways and places adjacent to unsafe structures and prohibit the same from being utilized.

### **109.4 Emergency repairs**

For the purposes of this section, the code official shall employ the necessary labor and materials to perform the required work as expeditiously as possible.

### **109.5 Costs of emergency repairs**

Costs incurred in the performance of emergency work shall be paid by the jurisdiction. The legal counsel of the jurisdiction shall institute appropriate action against the owner of the premises where the unsafe structure is or was located for the recovery of such costs.

### **109.6 Deleted**

## **SECTION 110 - DEMOLITION**

### **110.1 General**

The code official shall order the owner of any premises upon which is located any structure, which in the code official's judgment is so old, dilapidated or has become so out of repair as to be dangerous, unsafe, insanitary or otherwise unfit for human habitation or occupancy, and such that it is unreasonable to repair the structure, to demolish and remove such structure or if such structure is capable of being made safe by repairs, to repair and make safe and sanitary or to demolish and remove at the owner's option, or where there has been a cessation of normal construction of any structure for a period of more than two years to demolish and remove such structure.

### **110.2 Notices and orders**

All notices and orders shall comply with Section 107.

### **110.3 Failure to comply**

If the owner of a premises fails to comply with a demolition order within the time prescribed, code official shall cause the structure to be demolished and removed, either through an available public agency or by contract or arrangement with private persons and the cost of such demolition and removal shall be charged against the real estate upon which the structure is located and shall be a lien upon such real estate.

### **110.4 Salvage materials**

When any structure has been ordered demolished and removed, the governing body or other designated officer under said contract or arrangement aforesaid shall have the right to sell the salvage and valuable materials at the highest price obtainable. The net proceeds of such sale, after deducting the expenses of such demolition and removal, shall be promptly remitted with a report of such sale or transaction, including the items of expense and the amounts deducted for the person who is entitled thereto, subject to any order of a court. If such a surplus does not remain to be turned over the report shall so state.

## **CHAPTER 2 - DEFINITIONS**

### **SECTION 201 - GENERAL**

#### **201.1 Scope**

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

#### **201.2 Interchangeability**

Words stated 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 *International Building Code*, *International Fire Code*, *International Zoning Code*, *International Plumbing Code*, *International Mechanical Code* or the *ICC Electrical Code*, such terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them as stated in those codes.

#### **201.4 Terms not defined**

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

#### **201.5 Parts**

Whenever the words "dwelling unit," "dwelling," "premises," "building," "rooming house," "rooming unit," "housekeeping unit" or "story" are stated in this code, they shall be construed as though they were followed by the words "or any part thereof."

### **SECTION 202 - GENERAL DEFINITIONS**

APPROVED. Approved by the code official.

BASEMENT. That portion of a building which is partly or completely below grade.

BATHROOM. A room containing plumbing fixtures including a bathtub or shower.

BEDROOM. Any room or space used or intended to be used for sleeping purposes in either a dwelling or sleeping unit.

CODE OFFICIAL. The official who is charged with the administration and enforcement of this code, or any duly authorized representative.

CONDEMN. To adjudge unfit for occupancy.

DWELLING UNIT. A single unit providing complete independent living facilities for one or more persons, including permanent provisions for living, sleeping, eating, cooking and sanitation.

**EASEMENT.** That portion of land or property reserved for present or future use by a person or agency other than the legal fee owner(s) of the property. The easement shall be permitted to be for use under, on or above a said lot or lots.

**EXTERIOR PROPERTY.** The open space on the premises and on adjoining property under the control of owners or operators of such premises.

**EXTERMINATION.** The control and elimination of insects, rats or other pests by eliminating their harborage places; by removing or making inaccessible materials that serve as their food: by poison spraying, fumigating, trapping or by any other approved pest elimination methods.

**GARBAGE.** The animal or vegetable waste resulting from the handling, preparation, cooking and consumption of food.

**GUARD.** A building component or a system of building components located at or near the open sides of elevated walking surfaces that minimizes the possibility of a fall from the walking surface to a lower level.

**HABITABLE SPACE.** Space in a structure for living, sleeping, eating or cooking. Bathrooms, toilet rooms, closets, halls, storage or utility spaces, and similar areas are not considered habitable spaces.

**HOUSEKEEPING UNIT.** A room or group of rooms forming a single habitable space equipped and intended to be used for living, sleeping, cooking and eating which does not contain, within such a unit, a toilet, lavatory and bathtub or shower.

**IMMINENT DANGER.** A condition which could cause serious or life-threatening injury or death at any time.

**INFESTATION.** The presence, within or contiguous to, a structure or premises of insects, rats, vermin or other pests.

**INOPERABLE MOTOR VEHICLE.** A vehicle which cannot be driven upon the public streets for reason including but not limited to being unlicensed, wrecked, abandoned, in a state of disrepair, or incapable of being moved under its own power.

**LABELED.** Devices, equipment, appliances, or materials to which has been affixed a label, seal, symbol or other identifying mark of a nationally recognized testing laboratory, inspection agency or other organization concerned with product evaluation that maintains periodic inspection of the production of the above-labeled items and by whose label the manufacturer attests to compliance with applicable nationally recognized standards.

**LET FOR OCCUPANCY OR LET.** To permit, provide or offer possession or occupancy of a dwelling, dwelling unit, rooming unit, building, premise or structure by a person who is or is not the legal owner of record thereof, pursuant to a written or unwritten lease, agreement or license. or pursuant to a recorded or unrecorded agreement of contract for the sale of land.

**OCCUPANCY.** The purpose for which a building or portion thereof is utilized or occupied.

**OCCUPANT.** Any individual living or sleeping in a building or having possession of a space within a building.

**OPENABLE AREA.** That part of a window, skylight or door which is available for unobstructed ventilation and which opens directly to the outdoors.

**OPERATOR.** Any person who has charge, care or control of a structure or premises which is let or offered for occupancy.

**OWNER.** Any person, agent, operator, firm or corporation having a legal or equitable interest in the property; or recorded in the official records of the state, county or municipality as holding title to the property: or otherwise having control of the property, including the guardian of the estate of any such person, and the executor or administrator of the estate of such person if ordered to take possession of real property by a court.

**PERSON.** An individual, corporation, partnership or any other group acting as a unit.

**PREMISES.** A lot, plot or parcel of land, easement or public way, including any structures thereon.

**PUBLIC WAY.** Any street, alley or similar parcel of land essentially unobstructed from the ground to the sky, which is deeded, dedicated or otherwise permanently appropriated to the public for public use.

**ROOMING HOUSE.** A building arranged or occupied for lodging, with or without meals, for compensation and not occupied as a one- or two-family dwelling.

**ROOMING UNIT.** Any room or group of room's forming a single habitable unit occupied or intended to be occupied for sleeping or living, but not for cooking purposes.

**RUBBISH.** Combustible and noncombustible waste material, except garbage; the term shall include the residue from burning wood, coal, coke and other combustible materials, paper, rags, cartons, boxes, wood, excelsior, rubber, leather, tree branches, yard trimmings, tin cans, metals, motor vehicle parts, mineral matter, glass, crockery and dust and other similar materials.

**SLEEPING UNIT.** A room or space in which people sleep, which can also include permanent provisions for living, eating and either sanitation or kitchen facilities but not both. Such rooms and spaces that are also part of a dwelling unit are not sleeping units.

**STRICT LIABILITY OFFENSE.** An offense in which the prosecution in a legal proceeding is not required to prove criminal intent as a part of its case. It is enough to prove that the defendant either did an act which was prohibited, or failed to do an act which the defendant was legally required to do.

**STRUCTURE.** That which is built or constructed or a portion thereof.

**TENANT.** A person, corporation, partnership or group, whether or not the legal owner of record, occupying a building or portion thereof as a unit.

**TOILET ROOM.** A room containing a water closet or urinal but not a bathtub or shower.

**VENTILATION.** The natural or mechanical process of supplying conditioned or unconditioned air to, or removing such air from, any space.

**WORKMANLIKE.** Executed in a skilled manner; e.g.. generally plumb, level, square, in line. undamaged and without marring adjacent work.

**YARD.** An open space on the same lot with a structure.

## **CHAPTER 3 - GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **SECTION 301 - GENERAL**

#### **301.1 Scope**

The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum conditions and the responsibilities of persons for maintenance of structures, equipment and exterior property.

#### **301.2 Responsibility**

The owner of the premises shall maintain the structures and exterior property in compliance with these requirements except as otherwise provided for in this code. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy premises which are not in a sanitary and safe condition and which do not comply with the requirements of this chapter. Occupants of a dwelling unit, rooming unit or housekeeping unit are responsible for keeping in a clean, sanitary and safe condition that part of the dwelling unit, rooming unit, housekeeping unit or premises which they occupy and control.

#### **301.3 Vacant structures and land**

All vacant structures and premises thereof or vacant land shall be maintained in a clean, safe, secure and sanitary condition as provided herein so as not to cause a blighting problem or adversely affect the public health or safety.

### **SECTION 302 - EXTERIOR PROPERTY AREAS**

#### **302.1 Sanitation**

All exterior property and premises shall be maintained in a clean, safe and sanitary condition. The occupant shall keep that part of the exterior property which such occupant occupies or controls in a clean and sanitary condition.

#### **302.2 Grading and drainage**

All premises shall be graded and maintained to prevent the erosion of soil and to prevent the accumulation of stagnant water thereon, or within any structure located thereon.

**Exception:** Approved retention areas and reservoirs.

#### **302.3 Sidewalks and driveways**

All sidewalks, walkways, stairs, driveways, parking spaces and similar areas shall be kept in a proper state of repair, and maintained free from hazardous conditions.

### **302.4 Weeds**

All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of twelve (12) inches. All noxious weeds shall be prohibited. Weeds shall be defined as all grasses, annual plants and vegetation, other than trees or shrubs provided however this term shall not include cultivated flowers and gardens. Upon failure of the owner or agent having charge of a property to cut and destroy weeds after service of a notice of violation, they shall be subject to prosecution in accordance with Section 106.3 and as prescribed by the authority having jurisdiction. Upon failure to comply with the notice of violation, any duly authorized employee of the jurisdiction or contractor hired by the jurisdiction shall be authorized to enter upon the property in violation and cut and destroy the weeds growing thereon, and the costs of such removal shall be paid by the owner or agent responsible for the property.

### **302.5 Rodent harborage**

All structures and exterior property shall be kept free from rodent harborage and infestation. Where rodents are found, they shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes which will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to eliminate rodent harborage and prevent infestation.

### **302.6 Deleted**

### **302.7 Accessory structures**

All accessory structures, including detached garages, fences and walls, shall be maintained structurally sound and in good repair.

### **302.8 Motor vehicles**

Except as provided for in other regulations, no inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicle shall be parked, kept or stored on any premises, and no vehicle shall at any time be in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled. Painting of vehicles is prohibited unless conducted inside an approved spray booth.

**Exception:** A vehicle of any type is permitted to undergo major overhaul, including body work, provided that such work is performed inside a structure or similarly enclosed area designed and approved for such purposes.

### **302.9 Defacement of property**

No person shall willfully or wantonly damage, mutilate or deface any exterior surface of any structure or building on any private or public property by placing thereon any marking, carving or graffiti.

It shall be the responsibility of the owner to restore said surface to an approved state of maintenance and repair.

## **SECTION 303 - SWIMMING POOLS, SPAS AND HOT TUBS**

### **303.1 Swimming pools**

Swimming pools shall be maintained in a clean and sanitary condition, and in good repair.

### **303.2 Enclosures**

Private swimming pools, hot tubs and spas containing water more than 24 inches (610 mm) in depth shall be completely surrounded by a fence or barrier at least 48 inches (1219 mm) in height above the finished ground level measured on the side of the barrier away from the pool. Gates and doors in such barriers shall be self-closing and self-latching. Where the self-latching device is less than 54 inches (1372 mm) above the bottom of the gate, the release mechanism shall be located on the pool side of the gate. Self-closing and self-latching gates shall be maintained such that the gate will positively close and latch when released from an open position of 6 inches (152 mm) from the gatepost. No existing pool enclosure shall be removed, replaced or changed in a manner that reduces its effectiveness as a safety barrier.

**Exception:** Spas or hot tubs with a safety cover that complies with ASTM F 1346 shall be exempt from the provisions of this section.

## **SECTION 304 - EXTERIOR STRUCTURE**

### **304.1 General**

The exterior of a structure shall be maintained in good repair, structurally sound and sanitary so as not to pose a threat to the public health, safety or welfare.

### **304.2 Deleted**

### **304.3 Premises identification**

Premises shall have approved address numbers placed in a position to be plainly legible and visible from the street or road fronting the property. These numbers shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall be Arabic numerals or alphabet letters. When placed on a building, numbers shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102mm) high with a minimum stroke width of 0.5 inch (12.7mm).

#### **304.4 Structural members**

All structural members shall be maintained free from deterioration, and shall be capable of safely supporting the imposed dead and live loads.

#### **304.5 Foundation walls**

All foundation walls shall be maintained plumb and free from open cracks and breaks and shall be kept in such condition so as to prevent the entry of rodents and other pests

#### **304.6 Exterior walls**

All exterior walls shall be free from holes, breaks, and loose or rotting materials and maintained weatherproof and properly surface coated where required to prevent deterioration.

#### **304.7 Roofs and drainage**

The roof and flashing shall be sound, tight and not have defects that admit rain. Roof drainage shall be adequate to prevent dampness or deterioration in the walls or interior portion of the structure. Roof drains, gutters and downspouts shall be maintained in good repair and free from obstructions. Roof water shall not be discharged in a manner that creates a public nuisance.

#### **304.8 Decorative features**

All cornices, belt courses, corbels terra cotta trim, wall facings and similar decorative features shall be maintained in good repair with proper anchorage and in a safe condition.

#### **304.9 Overhang extensions**

All overhang extensions including, but not limited to canopies, marquees, signs, metal awnings, fire escapes, standpipes and exhaust ducts shall be maintained in good repair and be properly anchored so as to be kept in a sound condition. When required, all exposed surfaces of metal or wood shall be from the elements and against decay or rust by periodic application of weather-coating materials such as paint or similar surface treatment.

#### **304.10 Stairways, decks, porches and balconies**

Every exterior stairway, deck, porch and balcony and all appurtenances attached thereto shall be maintained structurally sound, in good repair, with proper anchorage and capable of supporting the imposed loads.

**304.11 Chimneys and towers**

All chimneys, cooling towers, smoke stacks, and similar appurtenances shall be maintained structurally safe and sound, and in good repair.

**304.12 Handrails and guards**

Every handrail and guard shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.

**304.13 Deleted****304.14 Deleted****304.15 Deleted****304.16 Deleted****304.17 Deleted****304.18 Deleted****SECTION 305 - INTERIOR STRUCTURE****305.1 General**

Every owner of a structure containing a rooming house, housekeeping units, a hotel, a dormitory, two or more dwelling units or two or more nonresidential occupancies, shall maintain, in a clean and sanitary condition, the shared or public areas of the structure and exterior property.

**305.2 Structural members**

All structural members shall be maintained structurally sound, and be capable of supporting the imposed loads.

**305.3 Deleted****305.4 Stairs and walking surfaces**

Every stair, ramp, landing, balcony, porch, deck or other walking surface shall be maintained

**305.5 Handrails and guards**

Every handrail and guard shall be firmly fastened and capable of supporting normally imposed loads and shall be maintained in good condition.

**305.6 Deleted**

## **SECTION 306 - HANDRAILS AND GUARDRAILS**

### **306.1 General**

Every exterior and interior flight of stairs having more than four risers shall have a handrail on one side of the stair and every open portion of a stair, landing, balcony, porch, deck, ramp or other walking surface which is more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the floor or grade below shall have guards. Handrails shall not be less than 30 inches (762 mm) high or more than 42 inches (1067 mm) high measured vertically above the nosing of the tread or above the finished floor of the landing or walking surfaces. Guards shall not be less than 30 inches (762 mm) high above the floor of the landing, balcony, porch, deck, or ramp or other walking surface.

**Exception:** Guards shall not be required where exempted by the adopted building code.

## **SECTION 307 - RUBBISH AND GARBAGE**

### **307.1 Accumulation of rubbish or garbage**

All exterior property and premises, and the interior of every structure, shall be free from any accumulation of rubbish or garbage.

### **307.2 Disposal of rubbish**

Every occupant of a structure shall dispose of all rubbish in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such rubbish in approved containers.

#### **307.2.1 Rubbish storage facilities**

The owner of every occupied premises shall supply approved covered containers for rubbish, and the owner of the premises shall be responsible for the removal of rubbish.

#### **307.2.2 Refrigerators**

Refrigerators and similar equipment not in operation shall not be discarded, abandoned or stored on exterior premises.

### **307.3 Disposal of garbage**

Every occupant of a structure shall dispose of garbage in a clean and sanitary manner by placing such garbage in an approved garbage disposal facility or approved garbage containers.

#### **307.3.1 - Deleted**

#### **307.3.2 - Deleted**

## **SECTION 308 - EXTERMINATION**

### **308.1 Infestation**

All structures shall be kept free from insect and rodent infestation. All structures in which insects or rodents are found shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes that will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to prevent reinfestation.

### **308.2 Owner**

The owner of any structure shall be responsible for extermination within the structure prior to renting or leasing the structure.

### **308.3 Single occupant**

The occupant of a one-family dwelling or of a single tenant nonresidential structure shall be responsible for extermination on the premises.

### **308.4 Multiple occupancy**

The owner of a structure containing two or more dwelling units, a multiple occupancy, a rooming house or a nonresidential structure shall be responsible for extermination in the public or shared areas of the structure and exterior property. If infestation is caused by failure of an occupant to prevent such infestation in the area occupied, the occupant shall be responsible for extermination.

### **308.5 Occupant**

The occupant of any structure shall be responsible for the continued rodent and pest-free condition of the structure.

**Exception:** Where the infestations are caused by defects in the structure, the owner shall be responsible for extermination.

## **CHAPTER 5 - PLUMBING FACILITIES AND FIXTURE REQUIREMENTS**

### **SECTION 501 - GENERAL**

#### **501.1 Scope**

The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum plumbing systems, facilities and plumbing fixtures to be provided.

#### **501.2 Responsibility**

The owner of the structure shall provide and maintain such plumbing facilities and plumbing fixtures in compliance with these requirements. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy any structure or premises which does not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

### **SECTION 502 - REQUIRED FACILITIES**

#### **502.1 Deleted**

#### **502.2 Rooming houses**

At least one water closet, lavatory and bathtub or shower shall be supplied for each four rooming units.

#### **502.3 Hotels**

Where private water closets, lavatories and baths are not provided, one water closet, one lavatory and one bathtub or shower having access from a public hallway shall be provided for each ten occupants.

#### **502.4 Employees' facilities**

A minimum of one water closet, one lavatory and one drinking facility shall be available to employees.

##### **502.4.1 Drinking facilities**

Drinking facilities shall be a drinking fountain, water cooler, bottled water cooler or disposable cups next to a sink or water dispenser. Drinking facilities shall not be located in toilet rooms or bathrooms.

#### **503.1 Deleted**

#### **503.2 Deleted**

#### **503.3 Deleted**

#### **503.4 Deleted**

### **SECTION 504 - DELETED**

## **SECTION 505 - WATER SYSTEM**

### **505.1 General**

Every sink, lavatory, bathtub or shower, drinking fountain, water closet or other plumbing fixture shall be properly connected to either a public water system or to an approved private water system. All kitchen sinks, lavatories, laundry facilities, bathtubs and showers shall be supplied with hot or tempered and cold running water in accordance with the *International Plumbing Code*.

### **505.2 Contamination**

The public water supply shall be maintained free from contamination, and all water inlets for plumbing fixtures shall be located above the flood-level rim of the fixture. Shampoo basin faucets, janitor sink faucets and other hose bibs or faucets to which hoses are attached and left in place, shall be protected by an approved atmospheric-type vacuum breaker or an approved permanently attached hose connection vacuum breaker.

### **505.3 Supply**

The water supply system shall be installed and maintained to provide a supply of water to plumbing fixtures, devices and appurtenances in sufficient volume and at pressures adequate to enable the fixtures to function properly, safely, and free from defects and leaks.

### **505.4 Water heating facilities**

Water heating facilities shall be properly installed, maintained and capable of providing an adequate amount of water to be drawn at every required sink, lavatory, bathtub, shower and laundry facility at a temperature of not less than 110°F (43°C). A gas-burning water heater shall not be located in any bathroom, toilet room, bedroom or other occupied room normally kept closed, unless adequate combustion air is provided. An approved combination temperature and pressure-relief valve and relief valve discharge pipe shall be properly installed and maintained on water heaters.

## **SECTION 506 - SANITARY DRAINAGE SYSTEM**

### **506.1 General**

All plumbing fixtures shall be properly connected to either a public sewer system or to an approved private sewage disposal system.

### **506.2 Maintenance**

Every plumbing stack, vent, waste and sewer line shall function properly and be kept free from obstructions, leaks and defects.

## **SECTION 507 - STORM DRAINAGE**

### **507.1 General**

Drainage of roofs and paved areas, yards and courts, and other open areas on the premises shall not be discharged in a manner that creates a public nuisance.

## **CHAPTER 6 - MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL REQUIREMENTS**

### **SECTION 601 - GENERAL**

#### **601.1 Scope**

The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum mechanical and electrical facilities and equipment to be provided.

#### **601.2 Responsibility**

The owner of the structure shall provide and maintain mechanical and electrical facilities and equipment in compliance with these requirements. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy any premises which does not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

### **SECTION 602 - HEATING FACILITIES**

#### **602.1 Facilities required**

Heating facilities shall be provided in structures as required by this section.

#### **602.2 Residential occupancies**

Dwellings shall be provided with heating facilities capable of maintaining a room temperature of 65°F (20°C) in all habitable rooms, bathrooms and toilet rooms based on the winter outdoor design temperature for the locality indicated in Appendix D of the International Plumbing Code. Cooking appliances shall not be used to provide space heating to meet the requirements of this section.

#### **602.3 Heat supply**

Every owner and operator of any building who rents, leases or lets one or more dwelling units or sleeping units on terms, either expressed or implied to furnish heat to the occupants thereof shall supply heat during the period from October 15<sup>th</sup> to April 15<sup>th</sup> to maintain a temperature of not less than 68°F (20°C) in all habitable rooms, bathrooms, and toilet rooms.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. When the outdoor temperature is below the winter outdoor design temperature for the locality, maintenance of the minimum room temperature shall not be required provided that the heating system is operating at its full design capacity. The winter outdoor design temperature for the locality shall be as indicated in Appendix D of the *International Plumbing Code*.
2. In areas where the average monthly temperature is above 30°F (-1°C) a minimum temperature of 65°F (18°C) shall be maintained.

## **602.4 Deleted**

### **602.5 Room temperature measurement**

The required room temperatures shall be measured 3 feet (914 mm) above the floor near the center of the room and 2 feet (610 mm) inward from the center of each exterior wall.

## **SECTION 603 - MECHANICAL EQUIPMENT**

### **603.1 Mechanical appliances**

All mechanical appliances, fireplaces, solid fuel-burning appliances, cooking appliances and water heating appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe working condition, and shall be capable of performing the intended function.

### **603.2 Removal of combustion products**

All fuel-burning equipment and appliances shall be connected to an approved chimney or vent.

**Exception:** Fuel-burning equipment and appliances which are labeled for unvented operation.

### **603.3 Clearances**

All required clearances to combustible materials shall be maintained.

### **603.4 Safety controls**

All safety controls for fuel-burning equipment shall be maintained in effective operation.

### **603.5 Combustion air**

A supply of air for complete combustion of the fuel and for ventilation of the space containing the fuel-burning equipment shall be provided for the fuel-burning equipment.

### **603.6 Energy conservation devices**

Devices intended to reduce fuel consumption by attachment to a fuel-burning appliance purpose and the installation is specifically approved.

## **SECTION 604 - ELECTRICAL FACILITIES**

### **604.1 Facilities required**

Every occupied building shall be provided with an electrical system in compliance with the requirements of this section and Section 605.

### **604.2 Service**

The size and usage of appliances and equipment shall serve as a basis for determining the need for additional facilities in accordance with the ICC Electric Code. Dwelling units shall be served by a three-wire, 120/240 volt single-phase electrical service having a rating of not less than 60 amperes.

### **604.3 Electrical system hazards**

Where it is found that the electrical system in a structure constitutes a hazard to the occupants or the structure by reason of inadequate service, improper fusing, insufficient receptacle and lighting outlets, improper wiring or installation, deterioration or damage, or for similar reasons the code official shall require the defects to be corrected to eliminate the hazard.

## **SECTION 605 - ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT**

### **605.1 Installation**

All electrical equipment, wiring and appliances shall be properly installed and maintained in a safe and approved manner.

### **605.2 Deleted**

### **605.3 Luminaires**

All public areas, including but not limited to: halls, stairways toilet room, kitchen, bathroom, laundry room, boiler room and furnace room shall contain at least one electric luminaire.

## **SECTION 606 - ELEVATORS, ESCALATORS AND DUMBWAITERS**

### **606.1 General**

Elevators, dumbwaiters and escalators shall be maintained in accordance with ASME A17.1. The most current certification of inspection shall be on display at all times within the elevator or attached to the escalator or dumbwaiter or the certificate shall be available for public inspection in the office of the building operator. The inspection and tests shall be performed at not less than the periodical intervals listed in ASME A17.1. Appendix N, except where otherwise specified by the authority having jurisdiction.

### **606.2 Elevators**

In buildings equipped with passenger elevators, at least one elevator shall be maintained in operation at all times when the building is occupied.

**Exception:** Buildings equipped with only one elevator shall be permitted to have the elevator temporarily out of service for testing or servicing.

## **SECTION 607 - DUCT SYSTEMS**

### **607.1 General**

Duct systems shall be maintained free of obstructions and shall be capable of performing the required function.

## **CHAPTER 7 - FIRE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS**

### **SECTION 701 - GENERAL**

#### **701.1 Scope**

The provisions of this chapter shall govern the minimum conditions and standards for fire safety relating to structures and exterior premises, including fire safety facilities and equipment to be provided.

#### **701.2 Responsibility**

The owner of the premises shall provide and maintain such fire safety facilities and equipment in compliance with these requirements. A person shall not occupy as owner-occupant or permit another person to occupy any premises that do not comply with the requirements of this chapter.

### **SECTION 702 - MEANS OF EGRESS**

#### **702.1 General**

A safe, continuous and unobstructed path of travel shall be provided from any point in a building or structure to the public way. Means of egress shall comply with the *International Fire Code*.

#### **702.2 Aisles**

The required width of aisles in accordance with the *International Fire Code* shall be unobstructed.

#### **702.3 Locked doors**

All means of egress doors shall be readily openable from the side from which egress is to be made without the need for keys, special knowledge and effort, except where the door hardware conforms to that permitted by the *International Building Code*.

#### **702.4 Emergency escape openings**

Required emergency escape openings shall be maintained in accordance with the code in effect at the time of construction, and the following. Required emergency escape and rescue openings shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys or tools. Bars, grilles, grates or similar devices are permitted to be placed over emergency escape and rescue openings provided the minimum net clear opening complies with the code that was in effect at the time of construction and such devices shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of key, tool, or force greater than that which is required for normal operations of the escape and rescue opening.

### **SECTION 703 - FIRE-RESISTANCE RATINGS**

#### **703.1 Fire-resistance-rated assemblies**

The required fire resistance rating of fire-resistance-rated walls, fire stops, shaft enclosures, partitions and floors shall be maintained.

### **703.2 Opening protectives**

Required opening protectives shall be maintained in an operative condition. All fire and smokestop doors shall be maintained in operable condition. Fire doors and smoke barrier doors shall not be blocked or obstructed or otherwise made inoperable.

## **SECTION 704 - FIRE PROTECTION SYSTEMS**

### **704.1 General**

All system, devices and equipment to detect a fire, actuate an alarm, or suppress or control a fire or any combination thereof shall be maintained in an operable condition at all times in accordance with the *International Fire Code*.

### **704.2 Smoke alarms**

Single or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed and maintained in Groups R-2, R-3, R-4 and in dwellings not regulated in Group R occupancies, regardless of occupant load at all of the following locations:

1. On the ceiling or wall outside of each separate sleeping area in the immediate vicinity of bedrooms.
2. In each room used for sleeping purposes.
3. In each story within a dwelling unit, including basements and cellars but not including crawl spaces and uninhabitable attics. In dwellings or dwelling units with split levels and without an intervening door between the adjacent levels, a smoke alarm installed on the upper level shall suffice for the adjacent lower level provided that the lower level is less than one full story below the upper level.

Single or multiple-station smoke alarms shall be installed in other groups in accordance with the *International Fire Code*.

### **704.3 Power source**

In Group R occupancies and in dwellings not regulated as Group R occupancies, single-station smoke alarms shall receive their primary power from the building wiring provided that such wiring is served from a commercial source and shall be equipped with a battery backup. Smoke alarms shall emit a signal when the batteries are low. Wiring shall be permanent and without a disconnecting switch other than as required for overcurrent protection.

**Exception:** Smoke alarms are permitted to be solely battery operated in buildings where no construction is taking place, buildings that are not served from a commercial power source and in existing areas of buildings undergoing alterations or repairs that do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for building wiring without the removal of interior finishes.

### **704.4 Interconnection**

Where more than one smoke alarm is required to be installed within an individual dwelling unit in Group R-2, R-3, R-4 and in dwellings not regulated as Group R occupancies, the smoke alarms shall be interconnected in such a manner that the activation of one alarm will activate all of the alarms in the individual unit. The alarm shall be clearly audible in all bedrooms over background noise levels with all intervening doors closed.

**Exceptions:**

1. Interconnection is not required in buildings which are not undergoing alterations, repairs, or construction of any kind.
2. Smoke alarms in existing areas are not required to be interconnected where alterations or repairs do not result in the removal of interior wall or ceiling finishes exposing the structure, unless there is an attic, crawl space or basement available which could provide access for interconnection without the removal of interior finishes.