



townhall.virginia.gov

Exempt Action: Final Regulation Agency Background Document

Agency name	Board of Housing and Community Development (BHCD)
Virginia Administrative Code (VAC) Chapter citation(s)	13 VAC5-63
VAC Chapter title(s)	Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC)
Action title	Update the USBC
Final agency action date	August 28, 2023
Date this document prepared	September 2023

This information is required for executive branch review pursuant to Executive Order 19 (2022) (EO 19), any instructions or procedures issued by the Office of Regulatory Management (ORM) or the Department of Planning and Budget (DPB) pursuant to EO 19. In addition, this information is required by the Virginia Registrar of Regulations pursuant to the Virginia Register Act (§ 2.2-4100 et seq. of the Code of Virginia). Regulations must conform to the Regulations for Filing and Publishing Agency Regulations (1 VAC 7-10), and the *Form and Style Requirements for the Virginia Register of Regulations and Virginia Administrative Code*.

Brief Summary

Provide a brief summary (preferably no more than 2 or 3 paragraphs) of this regulatory change (i.e., new regulation, amendments to an existing regulation, or repeal of an existing regulation). Alert the reader to all substantive matters. If applicable, generally describe the existing regulation.

The Uniform Statewide Building Code (USBC) is a regulation governing the construction, maintenance and rehabilitation of new and existing building and structures. The USBC uses nationally recognized model building codes and standards produced by the International Code Council (ICC) and other standard-writing groups as the basis for the technical provisions of the regulation. Every three years, new editions of the model codes become available. At that time, the BHCD initiates a regulatory action to incorporate the newest editions of the model codes into the regulation as well as accepting proposals for changes to the regulation from affected stakeholders and the public. The Department of Housing and Community Development staff maintains mailing lists for workgroups involving different subject areas of regulation and conducts workgroup meetings attended by stakeholder group participants to develop consensus recommendations, when possible, concerning proposals which have been submitted. The Department uses an online program incorporating the provisions of the regulation and the model codes and standards to facilitate the submittal of proposals. A public hearing is held during the workgroup meeting stage of the process and a comment period established. Once workgroup meetings are completed, the BHCD has a

series of meetings to consider each proposal and those proposals approved are incorporated into the proposed regulation. After the publishing of the proposed regulation, the BHCD establishes a comment period and an additional public hearing is held. The BHCD then meets to consider public comments and to consider the final regulation to complete the regulatory process.

There were no substantive changes to the USBC between the proposed and final regulations.

Mandate and Impetus

Identify the mandate for this regulatory change and any other impetus that specifically prompted its initiation (e.g., new or modified mandate, internal staff review, petition for rulemaking, periodic review, or board decision). For purposes of executive branch review, “mandate” has the same meaning as defined in the ORM procedures, “a directive from the General Assembly, the federal government, or a court that requires that a regulation be promulgated, amended, or repealed in whole or part.”

The promulgation of the USBC is required per section 36-98 of the Code of Virginia. Further, Section 36-99 indicates that modifications and provisions of the USBC should have due regard for, “generally accepted standards as recommended by nationally recognized organizations”. The USBC uses nationally recognized model building codes and standards produced by the International Code Council (ICC) and other standard-writing groups as the basis for the technical provisions of the regulation. Every three years, new editions of the model codes become available. At that time, the BHCD initiates a regulatory action to incorporate the newest editions of the model codes into the regulation as well as accepting proposals for changes to the regulation from affected stakeholder groups and the public.

Statement of Final Agency Action

Provide a statement of the final action taken by the agency including: 1) the date the action was taken; 2) the name of the agency taking the action; and 3) the title of the regulation.

The Board of Housing and Community Development adopted final regulations for the Uniform Statewide Building Code August 28, 2023.