

Ontario's Building Code Technical Bulletin: Highlights of Amendments to Part 9 of Ontario's 2012 Building Code

Ontario Regulation 88/19, amending Ontario's 2012 Building Code, was filed on May 2, 2019.

This bulletin provides general information on certain amendments that have been made to Part 9 of Division B in the Building Code (Housing and Small Buildings), including the relevant new or affected sections of the Building Code.

Unless otherwise noted, the in-effect date for the amendments described below is January 1, 2020.

For the full range of changes, code users are advised to consult the official source documents, including:

- The Building Code Act, 1992; and
- The 2012 Building Code (O. Reg. 332/12) as amended, and
- Ontario Regulation 88/19

The above documents are available on the [Government of Ontario's e-laws site](#).

Structural Sufficiency of Glass (9.6.1.3.)

Changes have been made that removes the reference to an outdated CGSB standard and provides additional options for the design of glass to either Part 4 or to new Part 9 prescriptive tables based on various 1-in-50 hourly wind pressures and building location.

Dimensions for Runs and Rectangular Treads (9.8.4.2.)

Note: All amendments related to stairs, guards and handrails provisions will come into force on January 1, 2022.

The run dimension of stairs serving single dwelling units have been increased.

Stairs, Steps, Ramps, Landings, Handrails and Guards:
Spiral Stairs (9.8.4.5A)

Note: All amendments related to stairs, guards and handrails provisions will come into force on January 1, 2022.

A new article has been added that permits spiral stairs in buildings under certain conditions.

Stairs, Steps, Ramps, Landings, Handrails and Guards:
Handrails (9.8.7.)

Note: All amendments related to stairs, guards and handrails provisions will come into force on January 1, 2022.

New requirements have been added that increase the maximum height of a handrail and clarify ergonomic design provisions.

New Residential Fire Warning Systems (ULC-S 540)
(9.10.19.1. and 9.10.19.8.)

A provision has been added to address the use and installation of residential fire warning systems.

Sound Transmission (9.11.1.1.)

A new Apparent Sound Transmission Class rating has been introduced to take into account flanking sound transmission as an alternative method in addition to the Sound Transmission Class (STC) rating.

This includes three compliance paths, one of which is new and an enhanced prescriptive method that uses existing STC ratings and additional prescriptive requirements to reduce noise transferred through flanking wall and floor assemblies.

Referenced Standards for Roofing, Dampproofing, and Waterproofing Materials and Installation (9.13.2., 9.13.3. and 9.26.2.)

Several out of date standards have been replaced with current and more applicable standards, covering a variety of material types and applications.

Dampproofing of Floors on Ground (9.13.2.6.)

The existing requirements for dampproofing of floors on ground have been revised and expanded to provide additional dampproofing options.

Wood Roof Trusses (9.23.13.11.)

Existing roof truss design requirements have been updated to reflect current truss manufacturing processes.

Purpose of Roofing (9.26.1.1.)

The terms “roof” and “roofing” have been defined for the purposes of Section 9.26.

Venting of Laundry – Drying Equipment (9.32.1.1.(5) and 9.32.1.4.)

A new article has been added that provides a Part 9 alternative method for the venting of laundry drying equipment.

Garages and Carports: Foundation Required (9.35.3.1.(2))

A new requirement has been added prescribing the types of foundations that may be used for small 1 storey detached garages less than 55 m² in floor area that are not of masonry or masonry veneer construction.

Garages and Carports: Small Garages (9.35.3.3.(1))

A new requirement has been amended to exempt small garages from complying with the foundation drainage requirements where the finished ground level is at or near the elevation of the garage floor.

Electric Vehicle Charging (9.34.4.)

Note: Amendments related to electric vehicle charging requirements in the Building Code came into effect on the date the regulation was filed – May 2, 2019

The current electric vehicle charging requirements pertaining to houses have been deleted.