

<p style="text-align: center;">DEPARTMENT OF LICENSES AND INSPECTIONS CODE BULLETIN OF INFORMATION B-2101</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CODE OF GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA TITLE 4 — BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND OCCUPANCY CODE</p>
<p>SUBJECT OF BULLETIN: IMPLEMENTATION OF 2021 INTERNATIONAL CODE ACCESSIBILITY PROVISIONS</p>	<p>REFERENCE CODE SECTION(S): PA UCC</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ISSUED BY</p>	<p>ISSUE DATE</p>
<p>NAME: Elizabeth Baldwin, P.E. Chief Code Official</p>	<p>December 24, 2021</p>

BACKGROUND:

In 1999, the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania passed the [Pennsylvania Construction Code Act](#) (Act 45 of 1999), mandating the adoption of a Uniform Construction Code (UCC) throughout the Commonwealth to protect life, health, property, and the environment; encourage standardization and economy in construction; and provide oversight of code-enforcing entities. Enforcement of the UCC began in 2004 and there have been multiple amendments to the Act addressing the adoption of successor codes and revisions by the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry.

Section 304 of the Act, Revised or Successor Codes, includes unique requirements relating to the adoption of accessibility provisions. In accordance with Section 304(a)(3), the accessibility provisions of the most recently published edition of the ICC codes must be adopted by December 31 of the year of issuance.

The Act also addresses the impact of code changes on permit applications. Section 304 (c)(4), Prior Permits, Contracts, and Construction, stipulates that where a design or construction contract was signed before the effective date of regulations for a subsequent Uniform Construction Code, the permit may be issued under the Uniform Construction Code in effect at the time the design or construction contract was signed if the permit is applied for within six months of the effective date of the regulation.

Design and construction contracts are typically developed and approved prior to permit application and often relate to the previous code in effect. To circumvent potential confusion and ease the transition to the new codes, the Department customarily allows a grace period wherein a designer may choose to have his or her project reviewed under the new code or a previous one.

The intent of this Code Bulletin is to identify the affected code sections and timeline for enforcement.

POLICY:

Effective January 1, 2022, the following construction code provisions related to accessibility are adopted:

International Building Code, 2021 edition

- 1009- Accessible Means of Egress
- Chapter 11 – Accessibility
- Appendix E – Supplementary Accessibility Requirements

ICC A117.1-2017 Standard and Commentary

International Plumbing Code, 2021 edition

- 403.4 – Signage
- 403.5 – Drinking Fountain Locations
- 404 – Accessible Plumbing Facilities
- 405.3.1 – Water Closets, Urinals, Lavatories and Bidets

International Swimming Pool & Spa Code, 2021 edition

- 307.1.4 – Accessibility

International Existing Building Code, 2021 edition

- 306 – Accessibility
- 1101.2 – Creation or Extension of Nonconformity
- 1508 – Accessibility
- Appendix B – Supplementary Accessibility Requirements for Existing Buildings & Facilities

Beginning January 1, 2022, accessibility compliance shall be reviewed in accordance with the code edition of the applicant's choice for all applications received up to and including June 30, 2022. The submitted plans may indicate design in accordance with the accessibility provisions of the 2018 or 2021 International Code. If the accessibility standard is not specified, the review shall be performed under the 2018 standard.

Applications submitted on and after July 1, 2022, shall be reviewed in accordance with the accessibility provisions of the 2021 International Code.