



Code Outreach Program – Codes History

This edition of the Code Outreach program is intended to provide a timeline summary of code adoption in New York State.

Building codes have typically developed in response to a building failure and the loss of life and property. Peter Stuyvesant, Governor of New Amsterdam (which later became New York City), is credited with enacting in 1647 the first fire prevention code in the United States. In 1867, the *Tenement House Act* was enacted in response to overcrowding and unsafe and unsanitary housing conditions in New York City. It was superseded in 1929 by the *Multiple Dwelling Law*, and in 1952 by the *Multiple Residence Law*. Some communities chose to adopt a variety of national model codes and others didn’t have an adopted code, leading to inconsistent enforcement. Historic codes might be found in the [Law Libraries](#) and the [New York State Library](#).

The International Code Council and Merger of Major Codes Organizations

The International Code Council (ICC) was formed in 1994 and incorporated in 2003 by three legacy organizations: the *Building Officials and Code Administrators* (BOCA), the *Southern Building Code Congress* (SBCCI), and the *International Conference of Building Officials* (ICBO), thus creating the first truly national code.

Model (optional) New York State Codes

With the purpose of providing consistent standards, NY State promulgated the *State Building Construction Code Applicable to One- and Two-Family Dwellings*, effective on November 1, 1951, with Subchapter B applicable to multiple dwellings in 1954, Subchapter C applicable to General Building Construction in 1956, and the plumbing provisions of Subchapter P in 1958. These were updated and expanded during the following 25 years. These early State building codes were not mandatory but were adopted by municipalities that chose to enact a resolution.

The Uniform Code

The first version of the *Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code* (Uniform Code) took effect on January 1st, 1984. The Uniform Code is applicable in all parts of the State, except New York City (which has its own building/construction codes). Since 2003 the Uniform Code has been based on a family of model code books published by a recognized publisher (current publisher is ICC), with New York State-specific amendments. The table below shows recent updates to the Uniform Code. Occasionally, a new provision is added to the Uniform Code between code cycles as a stand-alone rule making. For more information see the [DBSC](#) site and [TB-2014](#).

The Energy Code

The New York State Energy Law became effective on July 26, 1976. It required the formulation of the first mandatory statewide Energy Code, which became effective on January 1st, 1979. Since 2002, the Energy Code has been based on the ICC’s Energy Conservation Code (IECC) with NYS modifications. In general, residential buildings are required to comply with the “residential provisions” in the IECC, and commercial buildings with the “commercial provisions” of the IECC, or with ASHRAE 90.1.

Transition Periods

Typically, a 90-day transition period is provided between code adoption cycles, as indicated in the table below. During this period, applicants may choose to submit construction permit applications based on either the newly adopted or the previous version of the code.

Effective Date	Transition Period	Uniform Code
1/1/1984		First mandatory* Uniform Code in NYS. (Green Book) *Except for New York City, as noted above.
1/1/2003	7/2/2002 – 1/1/2003	2003 update to the Uniform Code, based on 2000 ICC codes
1/1/2008	10/3/2007 – 1/1/2008	2007 update to the Uniform Code, based on 2003 ICC codes
12/28/2010	9/29/2010 – 12/28/2010	2010 update to the Uniform Code , based on 2006 ICC codes
10/3/2016	4/6/2016 – 10/3/2016	2016 update adopting the 2015 International Codes with 2016 Uniform Code Supplement , specific printing dates as indicated on Section 101.1 of the Supplement.
10/31/2017		2017 update to the Uniform Code, replacing the 2016 Supplement with a 2017 Supplement
Effective Date	Energy Code	
1/1/1979	First mandatory State Energy Conservation Construction Code	
4/1/1987	New York State Energy Conservation Construction Code (ECCC) (Update)	
3/1/1991	New York State ECCC (Update)	
7/3/2002	2002 ECCC of NYS, based on 2002 IECC	
1/1/2008	2007 ECCC of NYS, based on 2003 IECC/ ASHRAE 90.1-2001	
4/9/2008	2007 ECCC of NYS - Commercial update, based on 2003 ICC/ ASHRAE 90.1-2004	
12/28/2010	2010 ECCC of NYS, based on 2009 IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2007	
1/1/2015	2014 ECCC of NYS - Commercial update, based on 2012IECC/ASHRAE 90.1-2010	
10/3/2016	2015 International Energy Conservation Code / ASHRAE 90.1-2013 and 2016 Supplement to the NYS Energy Conservation Construction Code	

Please look for our next edition of the Code Outreach Program at the beginning of next month.

In-Service Training

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DBSC - A Division of Department of State
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If you have questions pertaining to the Code Outreach Program, email us at COP.codes@dos.ny.gov
If you have questions pertaining to the Uniform Code or Energy Code, email our technical support group at: codes@dos.ny.gov.
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