



# Building Standards and Codes

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## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

**Code Effective Date:** May 12, 2020<sup>1</sup>  
**Source Document:** 19 NYCRR Parts 1220 – 1227 Uniform Code<sup>2</sup>  
**Topic:** 19 NYCRR Changes to the 2020 Codes

A common misconception among code users is that the code is found solely in the “code books.” There are parts of the code that are contained solely in 19 NYCRR. There are also specific sections of the code books that are amended or modified by 19 NYCRR. 19 NYCRR must be examined first, prior to reviewing a publication incorporated by reference, including the NYS specific books.

Below is a list of the code provisions that currently reside in 19 NYCRR for the 2020 Uniform Code. This is not intended to summarize the entirety of 19 NYCRR, but instead provide a list of the amendments to specific code provisions of the 2020 Uniform Code. Please check 19 NYCRR regularly for additional information and new provisions. Click [here](#) to access 19 NYCRR.

### 19 NYCRR §1220.3 Changes to the Text of the 2020 RCNYS

(a) Footnote “o” of Table R301.2(1) of the 2020 RCNYS shall be:

[NY] The ground snow loads to be used in determining the design snow loads for roofs are given in Figure R301.2(6) for sites at elevations up to 1,000 feet. Sites at elevations above 1,000 feet shall have their ground snow load increased from the mapped value by 2 psf for every 100 feet above 1,000 feet.

(b) Table N1102.1.2 (R402.1.2) of the 2020 RCNYS shall be:

[NY] TABLE N1102.1.2 (R402.1.2)  
INSULATION AND FENESTRATION REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT<sup>a</sup>

CLIMATE ZONE	FENESTRATION U-FACTOR <sup>b</sup>	SKYLIGHT <sup>b</sup> U-FACTOR	GLAZED FENESTRATION SHGC <sup>b, e</sup>	CEILING R-VALUE	WOOD FRAME WALL R-VALUE	MASS WALL R-VALUE <sup>i</sup>	FLOOR R-VALUE	BASEMENT <sup>c</sup> WALL R-VALUE	SLAB <sup>d</sup> R-VALUE & DEPTH	CRAWL SPACE <sup>c</sup> WALL R-VALUE
4	0.32	0.55	0.40	49	20 or 13+5 <sup>h</sup>	8/13	19	10 /13	10, 2 ft	10/13
5	0.30	0.55	NR	49	20 or 13+5 <sup>h</sup>	13/17	30 <sup>e</sup>	15/19	10, 2 ft	15/19
6 Option 1	0.30	0.55	NR	49	20+5 <sup>h</sup> or 13+10 <sup>h</sup>	15/20	30 <sup>e</sup>	15/19	10, 4 ft	15/19
6 Option 2	0.28	0.55	NR	60	23 cavity	19/21	30 <sup>e</sup>	15/19	10, 4 ft	15/19

NR = Not Required.

For SI: 1 foot = 304.8 mm.

a. *R-values* are minimums. *U-factors* and SHGC are maximums. Where insulation is installed in a cavity that is less than the label or design thickness of the insulation, the installed *R-value* of the insulation shall be not less than the *R-value* specified in the table.

<sup>1</sup> The “Code Effective Date” for this Technical Bulletin is May 12, 2020, which is the effective date of the 2020 update of the New York State Uniform Fire Prevention and Building Code (the Uniform Code).

<sup>2</sup> The Uniform Code is contained in Title 19 of the Official Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations of the State of New York (19 NYCRR) Parts 1220 through 1227 and the publications incorporated by reference into those Parts, including, but not limited to NYS specific code books which are based on the 2018 International Code Council books.

- b. The fenestration *U*-factor column excludes skylights. The SHGC column applies to all glazed fenestration.
- c. "10/13" means R-10 continuous insulation on the interior or exterior of the home or R-13 cavity insulation on the interior of the basement wall. "15/19" means R-15 continuous insulation on the interior or exterior of the home or R-19 cavity insulation at the interior of the basement wall. Alternatively, compliance with "15/19" shall be R-13 cavity insulation on the interior of the basement wall plus R-5 continuous insulation on the interior or exterior of the home.
- d. R-5 insulation shall be provided under the full slab area of a *heated slab* in addition to the required slab edge insulation *R-value* for slabs, as indicated in the table. The slab edge insulation for *heated slabs* shall not be required to extend below the slab.
- e. Reserved.
- f. Reserved.
- g. Alternatively, insulation sufficient to fill the framing cavity and providing not less than an *R-value* of R-19.
- h. The first value is cavity insulation, the second value is continuous insulation. Therefore, as an example, "13+5" means R-13 cavity insulation plus R-5 continuous insulation.
- i. Mass walls shall be in accordance with Section R402.2.5. The second *R-value* applies where more than half of the insulation is on the interior of the mass wall.

(c) Section M2201.7 of the 2020 RCNYS shall be:

**M2201.7 Tanks abandoned or removed.** Tank abandonment and removal shall be in accordance with the Fire Code of New York State and Appendix J of this code.

(d) Section P2603.5.1 of the 2020 RCNYS shall be:

**P2603.5.1 Sewer Depth:** Building sewers that connect to private sewage disposal systems shall be installed not less than the depth below finished grade determined by the authority having jurisdiction at the point of septic tank connection. Building sewers shall be installed not less than the depth below grade determined by the authority having jurisdiction.

(e) 2020 RCNYS Appendix J.

(1) Section AJ101.1.1 of Appendix J of the 2020 RCNYS shall be renumbered as Section AJ101.2.1

(2) Section AJ101.1.2 of Appendix J of the 2020 RCNYS shall be renumbered as Section AJ101.2.2.

(3) Section AJ102.8 of Appendix J of the 2020 RCNYS shall be added as follows:

**AJ102.8. Abandonment or removal of heating oil storage tanks.**

The abandonment or removal of heating oil storage tanks and related piping shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. The entire contents of the heating oil storage tank and related piping shall be emptied, cleaned, and purged of all vapor. The contents of the heating oil storage tank and related piping shall be removed from the premises and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state or federal rules and regulations.
2. The suction, inlet, gauge, vapor return, and vapor lines shall be disconnected.
3. All fill piping and other related piping shall either be permanently removed or filled with concrete. All other remaining piping shall be capped or plugged.  
Exception: Piping that is reused for the installation of a new heating oil storage tank and meets the applicable requirements for the new installation.
4. If abandoned in place, underground heating oil storage tanks shall be filled completely with an approved inert solid material. Above-ground heating oil storage tanks may either be filled with an approved inert solid material or if not filled with an approved inert solid material then the vent line shall remain open and intact. A record of tank size, location, and date of abandonment shall be retained by the property owner.
5. If removed, heating oil storage tanks shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, or federal rules and regulations.
6. An inspection by the building official or by an approved inspector is required to be made of the abandonment or removal of the heating oil storage tank. If an approved inspector performs such inspection, no approval of such abandonment or removal shall be granted by the building official unless written proof of the heating oil storage tank's oil fill pipe having been removed or filled with concrete in accordance with this section and the applicable provisions of the Uniform Code has been provided by the property owner to the building official.
7. When conversion to an alternate fuel has taken place and prior to the commencement of the new home heating service, property owners shall provide written notice to their home heating oil supplier or suppliers informing them of such conversion and instructing them to discontinue deliveries.

(4) Section AJ201.1 of Appendix J of the 2020 RCNYS shall include the following additional definition:

**HEATING OIL STORAGE TANK.** A tank used for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where stored.

(5) Section AJ401.8.4 of Appendix J of the 2020 RCNYS shall be added as follows:

**[NY] AJ401.8.4 Carbon monoxide alarms.** When repairs of fuel-fired appliances and equipment, solid-fuel burning appliances and equipment, or fireplaces and chimneys occur, the individual dwelling unit shall be provided with carbon monoxide alarms as required for new dwellings.

**Exception:** In other than bed and breakfast dwellings, carbon monoxide alarms shall be permitted to be battery operated when installed in buildings without commercial power or an on-site electrical power system, or in buildings where existing interior wall or ceiling finishes are not removed to expose the structure. Carbon monoxide alarms shall not be required to be interconnected where battery operated alarms are permitted.

(6) Section AJ404.3.4 of Appendix J of the 2020 RCNYS shall be renumbered as Section AJ401.9.3 and shall be:

**[NY] AJ401.9.3 Other uncovered structural elements.** Where in the course of conducting repairs other uncovered structural elements are found to be unsound or otherwise structurally deficient, such elements shall be made to conform to the requirements of Section AJ401.9.2.2.2.

(7) Section AJ404.3.5 of Appendix J of the 2020 RCNYS shall be renumbered as AJ401.9.4.

## **19 NYCRR §1221.3 Changes to the Text of the 2020 BCNYS**

(a) 2020 BCNYS Chapter 35 (Referenced Standards).

(1) The entry in Chapter 35 of the 2020 BCNYS for the publication entitled “Diaphragm Design of Metal-clad, Wood-frame Rectangular Buildings” in the list of referenced standards published by the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE) shall be:

EP 484.3 DEC 2017: Diaphragm Design of Metal-clad, Wood-frame Rectangular Buildings. (Section of this document that references this standard: 2306.1).

(2) The address for the publisher Steel Joist Institute in Chapter 35 of the 2020 BCNYS shall be: 140 West Evans Street, Suite 203, Florence, SC 29501.

(3) The entry in Chapter 35 of the 2020 BCNYS for the publication entitled “Structural Standards for Antenna Supporting Structures and Antennas” in the list of referenced standards published by the Telecommunications Industry Association (TIA) shall be:

TIA 222-H-2017: Structural Standards for Antenna Supporting Structures, Antennas and Small Wind Turbine Support Structures, second printing – June 25, 2018. (Sections of this document that references this standard: 1609.1.1, 3108.1, 3108.2)

## **19 NYCRR §1225.3 Changes to the Text of the 2020 FCNYS**

(a) Section 202 of the 2020 FCNYS shall include the following additional definition:

**HEATING OIL STORAGE TANK.** A tank used for storing heating oil for consumptive use on the premises where stored.

(b) Section 5704.2.16 of the 2020 FCNYS shall be:

**5704.2.16 Abandonment or removal of heating oil storage tanks.** The abandonment or removal of heating oil storage tanks and related piping shall be in accordance with all of the following:

1. The entire contents of the heating oil storage tank and related piping shall be emptied, cleaned, and purged of all vapor. The contents of the heating oil storage tank and related piping shall be removed from the premises and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state or federal rules and regulations.
2. The suction, inlet, gauge, vapor return, and vapor lines shall be disconnected.
3. All fill piping and other related piping shall either be permanently removed or filled with concrete. All other remaining piping shall be capped or plugged.

Exception: Piping that is reused for the installation of a new heating oil storage tank and meets the applicable requirements for the new installation.
4. If abandoned in place, underground heating oil storage tanks shall be filled completely with an approved inert solid material. Above-ground heating oil storage tanks may either be filled with an approved inert solid

material or if not filled with an approved inert solid material then the vent line shall remain open and intact. A record of tank size, location, and date of abandonment shall be retained by the property owner.

5. If removed, heating oil storage tanks shall be disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, or federal rules and regulations.
6. An inspection by the building official or by an approved inspector is required to be made of the abandonment or removal of the heating oil storage tank. If an approved inspector performs such inspection, no approval of such abandonment or removal shall be granted by the building official unless written proof of the heating oil storage tank's oil fill pipe having been removed or filled with concrete in accordance with this section and the applicable provisions of the Uniform Code has been provided by the property owner to the building official.
7. When conversion to an alternate fuel has taken place and prior to the commencement of the new home heating service, property owners shall provide written notice to their home heating oil supplier or suppliers informing them of such conversion and instructing them to discontinue deliveries.

## **19 NYCRR §1226.3 Changes to the Text of the 2020 PMCNYS**

- (a) Section 404 of the 2020 PMCNYS shall include the following additional Section 404.9:

**404.9 Tiny Houses.** The provisions of Section 404 shall not apply to tiny houses constructed in accordance with the Residential Code of New York State and Appendix Q of the Residential Code of New York State.

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