

CHAPTER 2

DEFINITIONS

SECTION 201 GENERAL

201.1 Scope. Unless otherwise expressly stated, the following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this code, have the meanings shown in this chapter.

201.2 Interchangeability. Words used in the present tense include the future; words stated in the masculine gender include the feminine and neuter; the singular number includes the plural and the plural, the singular.

201.3 Terms defined in other codes. Where terms are not defined in this code and are defined in the other *Florida Building Code* or the *Florida Fire Prevention Code*. Such terms shall have the meanings ascribed to them in those codes.

201.4 Terms not defined. Where terms are not defined through the methods authorized by this chapter, such terms shall have the meanings as defined in Webster's *Third New International Dictionary of the English Language, Unabridged*.

SECTION 202 GENERAL DEFINITIONS

ADDITION. An extension or increase in floor area, number of stories, or height of a building or structure.

ALTERATION. Any construction or renovation to an existing structure other than a *repair* or *addition*. Alterations are classified as Level 1, Level 2, and Level 3.

CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY. A change in the purpose or level of activity within a building that involves a change in application of the requirements of this code.

CODE OFFICIAL. The officer or other designated authority charged with the administration and enforcement of this code.

CONVENTIONAL LIGHT-FRAME CONSTRUCTION.

Limitations. Buildings are permitted to be constructed in accordance with the provisions of conventional light frame construction, subject to the following limitations:

1. Buildings shall be limited to a maximum of three stories above grade.

Exception: Solid blocked cripple walls not exceeding 14 inches (356 mm) in height need not be considered a story.

2. Bearing wall floor-to-floor heights shall not exceed 10 feet (3048 mm).
3. Loads as determined in Chapter 16 of the *Florida Building Code, Building* shall not exceed the following:
 - 3.1. Average dead loads shall not exceed 15 psf (718 N/m²) for roofs and exterior walls, floors and partitions.

- 3.2. Live loads shall not exceed 40 psf (1916 N/m²) for floors.

4. Wind speeds shall not exceed 115 mph (161 km/hr)(3-second gust).

5. Roof trusses and rafters shall not span more than 40 feet (12 192 mm) between points of vertical support.

DANGEROUS. Any building, structure or portion thereof that meets any of the conditions described below shall be deemed *dangerous*:

1. The building or structure has collapsed, partially collapsed, moved off its foundation or lacks the support of ground necessary to support it.
2. There exists a significant risk of collapse, detachment or dislodgment of any portion, member, appurtenance or ornamentation of the building or structure under service loads.

EQUIPMENT OR FIXTURE. Any plumbing, heating, electrical, ventilating, air conditioning, refrigerating, and fire protection equipment, and elevators, dumb waiters, escalators, boilers, pressure vessels and other mechanical facilities or installations that are related to building services. Equipment or fixture shall not include manufacturing, production, or process equipment, but shall include connections from building service to process equipment.

EXISTING BUILDING. A building or structure or portion of a building or structure which has been previously legally occupied or used for its intended purpose.

EXISTING STRUCTURES (for flood hazard areas). See Section 1612.2 of the *Florida Building Code, Building*.

[B] FLOOD HAZARD AREA. The greater of the following two areas:

1. The area within a flood plain subject to a 1-percent or greater chance of flooding in any year.
2. The area designated as a *flood hazard area* on a community's flood hazard map, or otherwise legally designated.

HISTORIC BUILDING. See Section 1102.

INCIDENTAL USE AREA. In cases where use is incidental to some other occupancy, the section of this code governing the occupancy shall apply.

LOAD BEARING ELEMENT. Any column, girder, beam, joist, truss, rafter, wall, floor or roof sheathing that supports any vertical load in *addition* to its own weight or any lateral load.

LOCAL FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT ORDINANCE. An ordinance or regulation adopted pursuant to the authority granted to local governments by Title 44 Code of Federal Regulations, Sections 59 and 60 for participation in the National Flood Insurance Program.

NONCOMBUSTIBLE MATERIAL. A material that, under the conditions anticipated, will not ignite or burn when subjected to fire or heat. Materials that pass ASTM E 136 are considered noncombustible materials.

PRIMARY FUNCTION. A *primary function* is a major activity for which the facility is intended. Areas that contain a *primary function* include, but are not limited to, the customer services lobby of a bank, the dining area of a cafeteria, the meeting rooms in a conference center, as well as offices and other work areas in which the activities of the public accommodation or other private entity using the facility are carried out. Mechanical rooms, boiler rooms, supply storage rooms, employee lounges or locker rooms, janitorial closets, entrances, corridors and restrooms are not areas containing a *primary function*.

REGISTERED DESIGN PROFESSIONAL IN RESPONSIBLE CHARGE. A registered design professional engaged by the owner to review and coordinate certain aspects of the project, as determined by the *code official*, for compatibility with the design of the building or structure, including submittal documents prepared by others, deferred submittal documents and phased submittal documents.

REHABILITATION. Any work, as described by the categories of work defined herein, undertaken in an *existing building*.

REHABILITATION, SEISMIC. Reserved.

REPAIR. The patching, restoration and/or minor replacement of materials, elements, components, equipment and/or fixtures for the purposes of maintaining such materials, elements, components, equipment and/or fixtures in good or sound condition.

RETROFIT. The voluntary process of strengthening or improving buildings or structures, or individual components of buildings or structures, for the purpose of making existing conditions better serve the purpose for which they were originally intended or the purpose that current building codes intend.

ROOF SECTION. A separating or division of a roof area by existing expansion joints, parapet walls, flashing (excluding valley), difference of elevation (excluding hips and ridges), roof type or legal description; not including the roof area required for a proper tie-off with an existing system.

SEISMIC LOADING. Reserved.

SITE BUILT SINGLE-FAMILY RESIDENTIAL STRUCTURES. This term shall mean site built single-family detached residential structures.

[B] SUBSTANTIAL DAMAGE. Damage of any origin sustained by a structure whereby the cost of restoring the structure to its before-damaged condition would equal or exceed 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the damage occurred.

SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT. Any repair, reconstruction, rehabilitation, addition or improvement of a building or structure, the cost of which equals or exceeds 50 percent of the market value of the structure before the improvement or repair is started. If the structure has sustained substantial damage, any repairs are considered substantial improvement regardless of

the actual repair work performed. The term does not, however, include either:

1. Any project for improvement of a building required to correct existing health, sanitary or safety code violations identified by the building official and that are the minimum necessary to assure safe living conditions.
2. Any alteration of a historic structure provided that the alteration will not preclude the structure's continued designation as a historic structure.

STRUCTURAL DETERMINATION. For purposes of this code, "structural" shall mean any part, material or assembly of a building or structure which affects the safety of such building or structure and/or which supports any dead or designed live load and the removal of which part, material or assembly could cause, or be expected to cause, all or any portion to collapse or fail.

SUBSTANTIAL STRUCTURAL DAMAGE. A condition where:

1. In any story, the elements of the lateral force-resisting system have suffered damage such that the lateral load-carrying capacity of the structure in any horizontal direction has been reduced by more than 20 percent from its pre-damaged condition; or
2. The capacity of any vertical load-carrying component, or any group of such components, that supports more than 30 percent of the total area of the structure's floor(s) and roof(s) has been reduced more than 20 percent from its predamaged condition and the remaining capacity of such affected elements, with respect to all dead and live loads, is less than 75 percent of that required by the *Florida Building Code, Building* for new buildings of similar structure, purpose and location.

SUNROOM.

1. A room with roof panels that include sloped glazing that is a one-story structure added to an existing dwelling with an open or glazed area in excess of 40 percent of the gross area of the sunroom structure's exterior walls and roof.
2. A one-story structure added to a dwelling with solid roof panels without sloped glazing. The sunroom walls may have any configuration, provided the open areas with operable or fixed glass or windows or side hinged or sliding glass doors of the longer wall and one additional wall is equal to at least 65 percent of the area below 6 foot 8 inches of each wall, measured from the floor.

For the purposes of this code the term sunroom as used herein shall include conservatories, sunspaces, solariums and porch or patio covers or enclosures.

TECHNICALLY INFEASIBLE. An *alteration* of a building or a facility that has little likelihood of being accomplished because the existing structural conditions require the removal or *alteration* of a load-bearing member that is an essential part of the structural frame or because other existing physical or site constraints prohibit modification or *addition* of elements, spaces, or features that are in full and strict compliance with the

minimum requirements for new construction and that are necessary to provide accessibility.

UNSAFE. Buildings, structures or equipment that are unsanitary, or that are deficient due to inadequate means of egress facilities, inadequate light and ventilation, or that constitute a fire hazard, or in which the structure or individual structural members meet the definition of “*Dangerous*,” or that are otherwise *dangerous* to human life or the public welfare, or that involve illegal or improper occupancy or inadequate maintenance shall be deemed unsafe. A vacant structure that is not secured against entry shall be deemed unsafe.

⋮ **VALUE.** The estimated current replacement cost of the building in kind.

⋮ **WORK AREA.** That portion or portions of a building consisting of all reconfigured elements, systems or spaces as indicated on the construction documents. Work area excludes other portions of the building where incidental work entailed by the intended work must be performed and portions of the building where work not initially intended by the owner is specifically required by this code.

