

THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BUILDING CODE

780 CMR

Sixth Edition

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**Published by
William F. Galvin
Secretary of the Commonwealth**

FOREWORD and ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BUILDING CODE (780 CMR), *SIXTH EDITION*

FOREWORD

The *Sixth Edition* of 780 CMR ,the Massachusetts State Building Code has been revised from the *Fifth Edition* to make it consistent with the common code format of the National Code, the Uniform Building Code and the Southern Building Code, both in chapter and sub-chapter numbering. The technical content is based on the 1993 edition of the Building Officials and Code Administrators (BOCA) National Building Code. Extensive technical changes have been made as a result of reviews by the BBRs technical advisory committees, listed in this section, and also as required by Massachusetts General Laws and Specialized Codes and Regulations.

Chapter 36, *the One and Two Family Dwelling Code*, has been revised from the *Fifth* to the *Sixth Edition* to make it consistent with the 1995 edition of the CABO One and Two Family Dwelling Code to the extent practicable. Substantive changes have been made as a result of reviews by the BBRs staff, state and municipal building officials, and technical advisory boards.

The following chapters are considered unique to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in their entirety:

Chapter 1	-	Administration
Chapter 9	-	Fire Protection Systems
Chapter 11	-	Accessibility
Chapter 13	-	Energy Conservation
Chapter 16	-	Structural Loads
Chapter 18	-	Foundations and Retaining Walls
Chapter 27	-	Electrical Wiring and Equipment
Chapter 29	-	Plumbing and Gasfitting
Chapter 30	-	Elevator and Conveying Systems
Chapter 34	-	Repair, Alteration and Change of Use of Existing Buildings
Chapter 35	-	Manufactured Buildings, Building Components and Mobile Homes

Several differences appear in the format of the *Sixth Edition* from that of the *Fifth Edition*; a major change pertaining to the numbering system. Other changes in the content of the *Sixth Edition* that are different from that of national building code, are shown in ***bold-faced, italicized type***. Chapters which are significantly different than the national building code are identified with the parenthetical statement ***This Chapter is Entirely Unique to Massachusetts***.

The *Sixth Edition* of the Massachusetts State Building Code (780 CMR) becomes effective on February 28, 1997.

In recognition of the time periods involved in the planning, design and construction of buildings and building related projects and in order to effect an orderly and equitable transition between the *Fifth Edition* and *Sixth Edition*, the State Board of Building Regulations and Standards implements the following policy;

From February 28, 1997 to August 27, 1997 the *Fifth* and *Sixth Editions* of the Massachusetts State Building Code shall be considered to be concurrently effective. During this period, the end user may elect to utilize the provisions of either the *Fifth Edition* in its entirety or the *Sixth Edition* in its entirety.

The *Fifth Edition* will be automatically repealed on August 27, 1997 after which date all users shall comply with the provisions of the *Sixth Edition*.

PURCHASING OPTIONS

The ***One and Two-Family Dwelling Code***, identified in the *Sixth Edition* as Chapter 36, may be purchased as a separate package, including Chapter 1, Administration and Enforcement and Appendix A, or it may be purchased as part of the entire code package.

The ***Rules and Regulations of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards*** identified as 780 CMR-R1 through 780 CMR-R7, may be purchased as a separate package or as part of the entire code package.

Also available is the ***Guide to the Sixth Edition of the Massachusetts State Building Code***, This guide was developed to assist code users in making the transition between the *Fifth Edition* and *Sixth Edition* and is sold as part of the code. It includes a ***Chapter\Article Number Cross Reference-Index*** and a ***Summary of Major Changes*** made in the *Sixth Edition* relative to the *Fifth Edition* and the national building code.

The code may be ordered in any manner identified above by calling the State House Bookstore @ (617) 727-2834.

AMENDMENT PROCESS

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 143, § 97, 780 CMR is subject to change by amendment. Amendments shall be proposed on forms made available at the office of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards. Proposals are offered at public hearing where the Board hears testimony both for and against the proposals. Proposals are then studied and voted upon by the Board. Those that are voted “approved” are issued as amendments to 780 CMR and become effective when published in the Bi-weekly *MASSACHUSETTS REGISTER*.

All proposals for amendment to 780 CMR must be received at least 60 days prior to the public hearing date. Changes that are voted “approved” are issued on a cycle determined by the Board; generally not sooner than a two year cycle.

The Board convenes public hearings to entertain changes to the code a minimum of twice each calendar year; in May and November. Other public hearings may be scheduled as necessary.

Anyone wishing to present a code change proposal should contact the Office of the Board at (617) 727-3200 extension 614 for information on how to file. It is the responsibility of the code user to check the *MASSACHUSETTS REGISTER* periodically to determine if amendments have been issued.

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780 CMR: STATE BOARD OF BUILDING REGULATIONS AND STANDARDS

THE MASSACHUSETTS STATE BUILDING CODE

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TECHNICAL CODE COUNCIL

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 143, § 3, there shall be an advisory board known as the technical code council which shall make recommendations relative to the formulation, promulgation and administration of the state building code. The make-up of the council is available at the Office of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards.