

# WHAT BUILDING CODE FOR MY PROJECT?

INTRODUCTION TO LIFE SAFETY & BUILDING CODE SERIES BY MEYERFIRE UNIVERSITY | FEBRUARY 2023

## SUMMARY

For new construction, what is the applicable code?

- The short answer: the applicable code is whatever **has been adopted in the project's jurisdiction**. While this sounds simple, determining (1) who the jurisdiction is, and (2) any additional applicable codes & standards can get convoluted.

To determine what the applicable (required) codes are for a project:

1. Determine **who the Authority Having Jurisdiction is** for the project. Search the jurisdiction's own website for applicable code, and contact them if the jurisdiction or the adopted code is not available or not clear.
2. Determine **whether any additional codes or standards apply**, based on the facility type. Examples might include healthcare facilities in the US governed by CMS, or federal US projects that mandate their own design standards.
3. Determine whether the **owner has their own standards**. This could include large users like hospitals or universities that have their own standards.
4. Determine whether the **owner has insurance requirements**. Insurance standards, such as FM Global, can have major impacts on design.

## Standard of Care

- While not necessarily a required code or standard, the concept of **Standard of Care**, which is the basis against which design professionals are compared to determine whether they are performing to a level of legal competence, would dictate that the latest industry knowledge and published codes & standards must be considered in design.
- While non-adopted codes & standards may not be enforceable, licensed professionals are judged by "Standard of Care" to serve public welfare and safety by considering the latest available industry knowledge (and not simply only performing the legally required minimum).



**Check Jurisdiction's Own Website**  
(Contact or Call if necessary)



**Agency-Required Codes & Standards**  
(Healthcare & Federal agencies have their own codes & standards)



**Owner Standards**  
(Some facilities or organizations have their own set of design criteria)



**Owner Insurance Requirements**  
(Owner's Insurance may carry design standards)

## VIDEO LINK

[www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-the-applicable-code-for-my-project](http://www.meyerfire.com/university/what-is-the-applicable-code-for-my-project)

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