

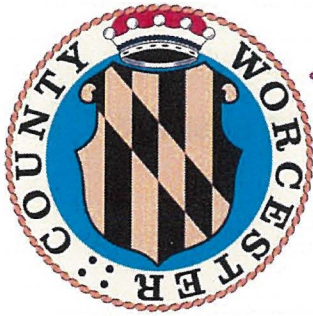
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BUILDING CODES

Building plan permit application submissions are reviewed with reference to but not limited the following:

- 2018 International Building Code
- 2018 International Residential Code
- 2018 International Energy Code
- 2017 National Electric Code
- Maryland Accessibility Code
- Worcester County Floodplain Management Code BR 2-301- effective 7/16/15 - if located in a Special Flood Hazard Area special construction requirements will apply.

RESIDENTIAL

- Building plan requirements (/sites/default/files/DRP Permit Checklist Final 1.9.23.pdf)
- Inspection requirements (/departments/drp/code/resinspect)
- Energy code requirements and Application (/sites/default/files/IECC 2018 Flow Chart 3322.pdf)
- Deck requirements (/sites/default/files/departments/drp/Permit Application 12723 deck.pdf)

COMMERCIAL

- Building plan requirements
(/sites/default/files/departments/drp/comp_attachments/Bldg102721_comm.pdf)

ZONING (ACCESSORY STRUCTURE)

- Zoning plan requirements (<http://www.co.worcester.md.us/departments/drp/code/zoneplan>)

OTHER DESIGN REQUIREMENTS

- Minimum Wind Resistance Requirements (/departments/drp/code/resplan/wind)
- Flood Hazard Zones Requirement (/departments/drp/code/resplan/flood)
- Typical Deck Building Requirements and Details
(/sites/default/files/departments/drp/Deck_detail_2018.pdf)

PERMITS

Electrical Permits - Project that involve or require electric must obtain the proper Electrical Permit. However, it is not required prior to the issuance of the Building Permit. Electrical Permits may be obtained at the Worcester County Government Center located at One West Market Street, Room 1201, Snow Hill, MD. Electrical Permits are obtained by a licensed electrician. For more information relative to Electrical Permits, please visit or contact the office at (410) 632-1200. The Electrical Permit fee is \$25.00.

Plumbing/Gas Permits - Projects that involve plumbing and installation of gas service and/or appliances must obtain the proper Plumbing/Gas Permits. However, it is not required prior to the issuance of the Building Permit. For more information relative to Plumbing/Gas Permits, please visit Environmental Programs, or contact their office at (410) 632-1220.

Water Supply & Wastewater Disposal - If the property is located within a public water and/or sewer service area, the applicant/property owner should contact the Water and Wastewater Department at (410) 641-5251. If the property is not located within a public water and/or sewer service area, the applicant/property owner should contact Environmental Programs at (410) 632-1220 regarding possible permits and fees.

OCCUPANCY CERTIFICATES

According to the Worcester County Zoning and Subdivision Control Article, Section ZS 1-115(b)

Zoning/Occupancy Certificate, "It is unlawful to:

“ (1) Use a building or structure or part thereof, erected or located after the effective date of this Title, until a zoning/occupancy certificate for such use shall have been issued by the Department....." Failure to obtain a Zoning/Occupancy Certificate prior to the use or occupancy of any structure is a violation and could result in the issuance of civil infraction citations/fines.

Important Note: Issuance of a Zoning/Occupancy Certificate requires a minimum of 72 hours for processing after approval of the final inspections (Building/Zoning, Plumbing/Electrical, and Water & Wastewater).

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**A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING LOCAL AMENDMENTS
TO THE MARYLAND BUILDING PERFORMANCE STANDARDS
FOR WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND**

WHEREAS, pursuant to State law the Maryland Codes Administration has established the 2018 International Building Code and 2018 International Residential Code, et al, as the Maryland Building Performance Standards by COMAR Regulation 09.12.51 ; and

WHEREAS, each local jurisdiction within the State must enforce these Standards within twelve months of the State's adoption of these codes; and

WHEREAS, local jurisdictions may make local amendments to modify the provisions of the Standards to address conditions peculiar to the local jurisdiction's community; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners have determined it necessary and appropriate to amend said Standards to carry forward certain local amendments to prior building codes and to ensure consistency with other regulations, both state and local;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland that the following local amendments to the Maryland Building Performance Standards are hereby adopted:

IRC CODE AMENDMENTS

1) R105.2 Work exempt from permit is amended to read as follows:

R105.2 Work exempt from the submission of construction plans. Where permits are required by the terms of other Public Local Law for various construction activities, construction plans shall not be required for the following.

Building:

1. Detached accessory structures such as sheds, playhouses, garages and similar uses, provided the floor area is less than 500 square feet.
2. Fences not over 6 feet (1829 mm) high.
3. Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet (1219 mm) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge.
4. Water tanks supported directly upon grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons (18,927 liters) and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed 2 to 1.
5. Sidewalks and driveways.
6. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.

7. Prefabricated swimming pools that are less than 24 inches (610 mm) deep.
 8. Swings and other playground equipment.
 9. Window awnings supported by an exterior wall which do not project more than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the exterior wall and do not require additional support.
 10. Decks not exceeding 200 square feet in area, not more than 30 inches (762 mm) above grade at any point, are not attached to a dwelling and do not serve the exit door required by section R311.4.
- 2) R105.2 is furthermore amended by the deletion of the Electrical, Gas, Mechanical and Plumbing provisions previously contained in the section.

- 3) R105.5 Expiration is amended to read as follows:

R105.5 Expiration. The expiration date for any issued permit shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section ZS 1-115(g) of the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County as may be amended from time to time. Any permit application which remains unissued after six months from the date of notice to the applicant of its availability shall expire and be considered null and void.

- 4) R110.1 Use and occupancy is amended by the deletion of exceptions 1 and 2.

- 5) Table R301.2(1) Climatic and Geographic Design Criteria is amended by the insertion of the following building design parameters:

Ground snow load – 20 pounds per square foot

Wind design speed/topographic effect – 125 mph/no topographic effect

Seismic design category – A

Subject to damage from:

Weathering – Severe

Frost line depth – 18 inches

Termite – Moderate to Heavy

Winter design temperature – 18 degrees

Ice barrier underlayment required – No

Flood Hazard – As identified by the FIRM maps

Air freezing index – 250

Mean annual temperature – 56 Degrees Fahrenheit

6) R311.7.5.1 Risers is amended to read as follows:

R311.7.5.1 Risers. The maximum riser height shall be 8 ¼ inches. The riser shall be measured vertically between leading edges of the adjacent treads. The greatest riser height within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch (9.55 mm). Risers shall be vertical or sloped from the underside of the nosing of the tread above at an angle not more than 30 degrees (0.51 rad) from the vertical. Open risers are permitted provided that the opening between treads does not permit the passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere.

Exceptions:

1. The opening between adjacent treads is not limited on stairs with a total rise of 30 inches (762 mm) or less.
2. The opening between adjacent treads is not limited on spiral stairways.
3. The riser height of spiral stairways shall be in accordance with Section R311.7.10.1.

7) R311.7.5.2 Treads is amended to read as follows:

R311.7.5.2 Treads. The minimum tread depth shall be 9 inches (229 mm). The tread depth shall be measured horizontally between the vertical planes of the foremost projection of adjacent treads and at a right angle to the tread's leading edge. The greatest tread depth within any flight of stairs shall not exceed the smallest by more than 3/8 inch (9.5 mm).

8) R318.1 Subterranean termite control methods is amended to read as follows:

R318.1 Subterranean termite control methods. In areas subject to damage from termites as indicated by table R301.2(1), methods of protection shall employ a physical barrier as provided in Section R318.3 or construction utilizing cold-formed steel framing in accordance with Sections R505.2.1 and R603.2.1. Additional methods of protection as required by Section R318.3 shall use as least one of the following:

1. Chemical termiticide treatment, as provided in Section R318.2.
2. Termite baiting system installed and maintained according to the label.
3. Pressure-preservative-treated wood in accordance with the provisions of Section R317.1.
4. Naturally durable termite-resistant wood.

- 9) R322. Flood resistant construction is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:
- R322. Flood resistant construction.** For flood-resistant construction regulations, refer to the Building Regulations Article, Title 2 Construction Regulations, Subtitle III Floodplain Management, of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland.
- 10) R403.1.1 Minimum size is amended by the addition of the following sentence at the end of the section: In no case shall the footing be less than 20 inches in width and 10 inches in thickness with a minimum compressive strength of 2500 pounds per square inch and contain no less than two pieces of #4 reinforcement bar laid longitudinally throughout the entire footing.
- 11) R403.1.4 Minimum depth is amended to read as follows:
- R403.1.4 Minimum depth.** All exterior footings shall be placed at least 18 inches below the finished exterior grade. Where applicable, the depth of footings shall also conform to Section R403.1.4.1.
- 12) Appendices E – Manufactured Housing and K – Sound Transmission are specifically adopted.

IBC CODE AMENDMENTS

- 1) [A] 105.2 Work exempt from permit is amended to read as follows:
- [A] 105.2 Work exempt from the submission of construction plans.** Where permits are required by the terms of other Public Local Laws for various construction activities, construction plans shall not be required for the following.
- Building:**
1. Detached accessory structures such as sheds, playhouses, garages and similar uses, provided the floor area is less than 500 square feet.
 2. Fences not over 6 feet (1829 mm) high.
 3. Oil derricks.
 4. Retaining walls that are not over 4 feet (1219 mm) in height measured from the bottom of the footing to the top of the wall, unless supporting a surcharge or impounding Class I, II or IIIA liquids.
 5. Water tanks supported directly upon grade if the capacity does not exceed 5,000 gallons (18,927 liters) and the ratio of height to diameter or width does not exceed 2 to 1.

6. Sidewalks and driveways not more than 30 inches(762 mm) above adjacent grade, and not over any basement or story below and are not part of an accessible route.
 7. Painting, papering, tiling, carpeting, cabinets, counter tops and similar finish work.
 8. Temporary motion picture, television and theatre sets and scenery.
 9. Prefabricated swimming pools accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy that are less than 24 inches (610 mm) deep, do not exceed 5,000 gallons (18925 L) and are installed entirely above ground.
 10. Shade cloth structures constructed for nursery or agricultural purposes, not including service systems.
 11. Swings and other playground equipment accessory to one- and two-family dwellings.
 12. Window awnings supported by an exterior wall which do not project more than 54 inches (1372 mm) from the exterior wall and do not require additional support of Groups R3 and U occupancies.
 13. Nonfixed and moveable fixtures, cases, racks, counters and partitions not over 5 feet 9 inches (1753 mm) in height.
- 2) [A] 105.2 is furthermore amended by the deletion of the Electrical, Gas, Mechanical and Plumbing provisions previously contained in the section.
- 3) [A] 105.5 Expiration is amended to read as follows:
- [A] 105.5 Expiration.** The expiration date for any issued permit shall be in accordance with the provisions of Section ZS 1-115(g) of the Zoning and Subdivision Control Article of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County as may be amended from time to time. Any permit application which remains unissued after six months from the date of notice to the applicant of its availability shall expire and be considered null and void.
- 4) Pursuant to Section .06 Application of Standards, Subsection C., of the Maryland Building Performance Standard, COMAR 09.12.51 as amended from time to time, Worcester County shall be added the list of Counties whereby the standards for agricultural buildings used for agritourism are modified pursuant to the standards contained therein.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect upon its passage and shall apply to all building permit applications accepted for submittal on or after March 25, 2020.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 17th day of March 2020.

ATTEST:

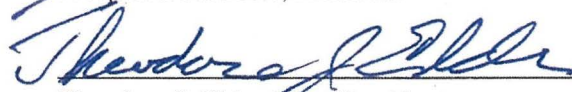


Harold L. Higgins
Chief Administrative Officer

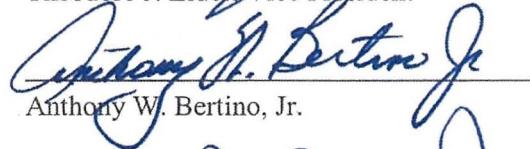
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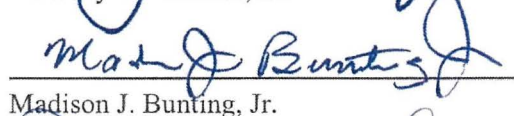
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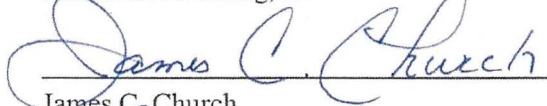
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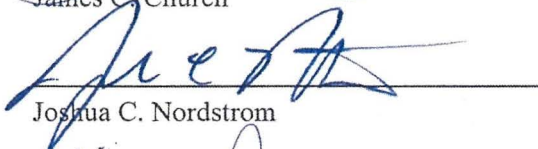
Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.



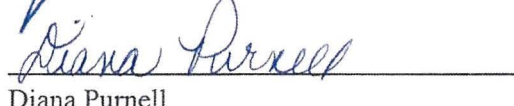
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James C. Church



Joshua C. Nordstrom



Diana Purnell

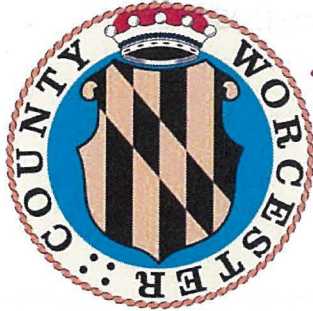
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WIND RESISTANCE REQUIREMENTS

The IBC and IRC designed to ensure safety to life and property from all hazards incident to building design and construction at the least possible cost consistent with national recognized standards. Being located along the Atlantic coastline, Worcester County is subject to many coastal storms, including hurricanes. This is evidenced by the County's inclusion in the 125 MPH Wind Speed Zone, exposure "C" as set forth by DHCD Codes Administration and referenced in ASCE 7-10 Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures.

For this reason, the following basic construction design standards for all wood residential and commercial structures built in Worcester County will be strictly enforced to help reduce the risk of life and property at a minimal cost to homeowners.

- Approved metal high wind roof rafter-to-top plate tie downs fastened in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions are required at every connection to reduce uplift.
- Minimum fastening schedules for exterior wall and roof sheathing are 8d common nails fastened no more than four (4") inches on center on edges and no more than six (6") inches on center in the field or as specified in ICC referenced manuals.
- Asphalt/fiberglass shingle roofing for one and two family dwellings: Shingles shall be installed as per shingle manufacturer's printed instructions for a high wind zone. Roofing for commercial structures built under the IBC: Shingles shall have a minimum of 6 fasteners per shingle section, placed in accordance with the shingle manufacturer's printed instructions.
- Exterior wall sheathing shall either be fastened over the band joist and onto the side of the sill plate, or approved metal connectors shall be fastened as per the connector manufacturer from each wall stud to the sill plate, in required wind exposures.
- Adequate gable end bracing, such as "K-bracing," shall be installed at all gable ends to resist wind loads, and reduce the likelihood of "racking."



The above are enforced to minimize loss of life and property during hurricanes and strong storms and are not intended to serve as the only options for minimum protection. Winds can far exceed the 120 MPH Wind Speed designated for this area creating major damage to structures which employ even the best building techniques. It is suggested that licensed design professionals be contacted for further recommendations to increase structural resistance to storms.

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RESOLUTION NO. 18 - 4

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE 2017 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE
WITH LOCAL AMENDMENTS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section § BR 2-201 of the Building Regulations Article of the Code of Public Local Laws of Worcester County, Maryland, the County Commissioners may adopt an Electrical Code; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners adopted the 2014 version of the National Electrical Code with amendments by Resolution No. 15-6 on April 21, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners received a recommendation from the Board of Electrical Examiners of Worcester County, Maryland to adopt the 2017 version of the National Electrical Code with local amendments to replace the 2014 version; and

WHEREAS, the County Commissioners held a duly advertised public hearing as required by Section § BR 2-201 of the Building Regulations Article of the Code of Public Local laws of Worcester County, Maryland on February 20, 2018 to consider adoption of the 2017 version of the National Electrical Code with local amendments;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Commissioners of Worcester County, Maryland that:

Section 1. The National Electrical Code, 2014 edition, is hereby repealed and replaced by the National Electrical Code, 2017 edition, with the following local amendments and additions as recommended by the Board of Electrical Examiners of Worcester County:

Section 2. Article 547.5(A) is hereby amended and adopted as follows:

547.5(A) Wiring Systems. Types UF, copper SE cables, rigid nonmetallic conduit, liquid tight flexible nonmetallic conduit, with approved termination fittings, shall be the wiring methods employed. All wiring in concealed attic spaces shall only be installed in either rigid nonmetallic conduit or liquidtight flexible nonmetallic conduit. Article 398 and Article 502 wiring methods shall be permitted for areas described in Section 547.1(A). Informational note: See Sections 300.7, 352.44 and 355.44 for installation of raceway systems exposed to widely different temperatures.

Section 3. Article 547.5(B) is hereby amended and adopted as follows:

547.5(B) Mounting. All boxes and fittings shall be steel, or approved plastic with totally sealed, unused knock-outs with wiring entering from the bottom only, and shall comply with Section 547.5. All cables shall be secured within 200 mm (8 ins.) Of each cabinet, box or fitting. Nonmetallic boxes, fittings, conduit, and cables shall be permitted to be mounted directly to any building surface covered by covered by this Article without maintaining the 6 mm (1/4 in.) airspace in accordance with 300.6(D).

Section 4. Article 547.8 is hereby amended and adopted as follows:

547.8 Luminaires (Lighting Fixtures). Lighting fixtures installed in agricultural buildings shall be porcelain or approved plastic and shall comply with 547.8(A) through (C).

Section 5. A new Article shall be numbered Article 547.11 and is adopted as follows:

547.11 Prefabricated Steel Truss Agricultural Houses. All prefabricated steel truss agricultural houses shall comply with the provisions of Article 547 and shall also meet the following standards:

- (a) Wooden runs or supports shall be used for all wiring to be secured to and shall be secured to the framing of the building.
- (b) All insulation shall be laid over the top of all overhead boxes to prevent exposure to temperature variation and condensation.
- (c) All wiredrops shall be protected from chafing or wire damage due to movement, expansion coefficient or contraction.


Section 6. The following definition shall be added to Article 100 Definitions:

MINOR ELECTRICAL INSTALLATION - An electrical installation which is single phase, of twenty amperes/one hundred twenty volts AC or less and installed in an existing structure, the installation of decorative outdoor lighting operating at a nominal 48 volts DC or less and associated cabling and luminaries or electrical wiring systems operating at a nominal 48 volts DC or less such as but not limited to controls, communications, burglar alarms, audio, video and information technology systems when installed in one- and two-family dwelling units.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect on June 1, 2018.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of February, 2018.

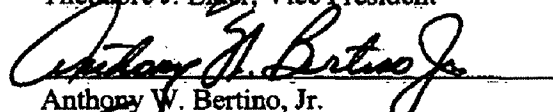
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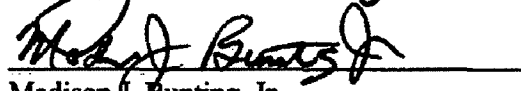

Harold L. Higgins
Chief Administrative Officer

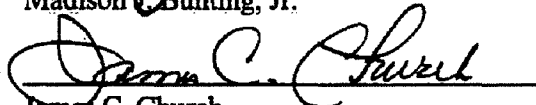
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS OF
WORCESTER COUNTY, MARYLAND

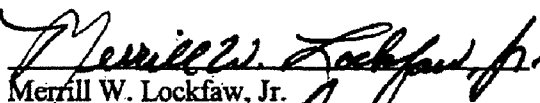

Diana Purnell, President

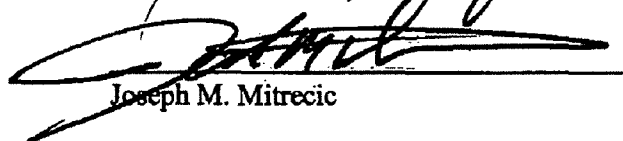

Theodore J. Elder, Vice President


Anthony W. Bertino, Jr.


Madison L. Bunting, Jr.


James C. Church


Merrill W. Lockfaw, Jr.


Joseph M. Mitreic