BMC 15.10 Construction Codes

15.10.010 Short title.
This chapter is known as and may be referred to as the “city of Burien building and construction code” and may be cited as such.

15.10.020 Purpose.
The purpose of the codes and regulations adopted by this title is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of the occupants or users of buildings and structures and the general public, by the provision of construction codes throughout the city and not to create or otherwise establish or designate any particular class or group of persons who will or should be especially protected by the terms of these codes and regulations. More specifically, this chapter is designed to effectuate the following purposes, objectives and standards:

(1) To set forth minimum performance standards and requirements for construction and construction materials, consistent with nationally accepted standards of engineering and fire and life safety.

(2) To permit the use of current technical methods, devices and improvements.

(3) To eliminate restrictive, obsolete, conflicting, duplicative and unnecessary regulations and requirements which could unnecessarily increase construction costs or retard the use of new materials and methods of installation or provide unwarranted preferential treatment to types or classes of materials or products or methods of construction.

(4) To provide standards and specifications for making buildings and facilities accessible to and usable by physically challenged persons.

(5) To consolidate the administration and enforcement of building and construction codes.
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15.10.030 Sound and hours of construction.

Sounds originating from construction sites, including but not limited to sound from construction equipment, power tools and hammering, are prohibited between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. on weekdays and 10:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m. on weekends, as regulated in BMC 9.105.400.

15.10.040 Referenced codes.

Specific codes referenced in the general codes adopted by this chapter shall be as follows:

(1) Any and all reference to the International Plumbing Code shall be replaced with the Uniform Plumbing Code as adopted in BMC 15.10.120.

(2) Any and all reference to the International Property Maintenance Code shall be replaced with the Burien Building and Property Maintenance Code as adopted in Chapter 15.40 BMC.

(3) Any and all reference to the International Electrical Code, National Electrical Code or NFPA 70 shall be replaced with the Burien Electrical Code as adopted in BMC 15.10.140.

15.10.050 Code conflicts resolution.

(1) The codes enumerated in this title are adopted by the State Building Code Council as provided in RCW 19.27.074 and amended by the State Building Code Council from time to time, and are enacted by the State Legislature.

The State Legislature mandates, as provided in RCW 19.27.050, that all counties and cities throughout the state shall enforce the codes and all amendments thereto. Therefore, the city of Burien automatically adopts by reference these codes and their respective amendments as they are adopted and amended by the State Legislature.

(2) In case of conflict among the International Building Code, the International Residential Code, the International Mechanical Code, the International Fire Code and the Uniform Plumbing Code, the first named code shall govern over those following.

(3) In case of conflict between other codes and provisions adopted by this chapter, the code or provision that is the most restrictive, as determined by the building official, shall apply.


The 2015 Edition of the International Building Code (IBC), as published by the International Code Council, Inc., and as adopted by the State Building Code Council in Chapter 51-50 WAC, and including Appendix Chapter E (Accessibility), ICC A117.1-2009 (Accessible Standards), Appendix Chapter H (Signs), and Appendix Chapter J (Grading), excluding Chapter 1, Administration, is hereby adopted by reference, together with the amendments set forth in this section. The Construction Administrative Code, as set forth in Chapter 15.05 BMC, shall be used in place of IBC Chapter 1, Administration.

(1) The provisions of this code do not apply to temporary growing structures used solely for the commercial production of horticultural plants including ornamental plants, flowers, vegetables, and fruits. “Temporary growing structure” means a structure that has the sides and roof covered with polyethylene, polyvinyl, or similar flexible synthetic material and is used to provide plants with either frost protection or increased heat retention. A temporary growing structure is not considered a building for purposes of this code.
(2) The provisions of this code do not apply to the construction, alteration, or repair of temporary worker housing, except as provided by rule adopted under Chapter 70.114A RCW or Chapter 37, Laws of 1998 (SB 6168). “Temporary worker housing” means a place, area, or piece of land where sleeping places or housing sites are provided by an employer for his or her employees or by another person, including a temporary worker housing operator, who is providing such accommodations for employees, for temporary, seasonal occupancy, and includes “labor camps” under RCW 70.54.110.

(3) The provisions of this code do not apply to vendor carts. “Vendor cart” means a mobile, portable means of containing or transporting merchandise, vegetables, fruits, or other inventory for the purpose of retail sales. “Vendor cart” shall not mean a building or structure, as defined in this code. Unless otherwise exempted, separate plumbing, electrical and mechanical permits shall be required.

(4) Recyclable materials, compost, and solid waste storage. For the purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

COMPOST means biodegradable solid wastes that are separated for composting such as food waste, food soiled paper and yard waste.

RECYCLED MATERIALS means those solid wastes that are separated for recycling or reuse, such as papers, metals and glass.

All local jurisdictions shall require that space be provided for the storage of recycled materials, compost, and solid waste for all new buildings.

EXCEPTION: Group R-3 and Group U Occupancies.

The storage area shall be designed to meet the needs of the occupancy, efficiency of pickup, and shall be available to occupants and haulers.

(5) Add new stand-alone section as follows:

Design Criteria shall be as follows:
GROUND AND ROOF SNOW LOAD: 25 PSF
SEISMIC DESIGN CATEGORY: D
WIND SPEED: Risk category I: 100 mph; Risk category II: 110 mph; Risk category III and IV: 115 MPH
WIND EXPOSURE: Site Specific. See IBC Section 1609.4
SOIL BEARING: Site specific. See IBC Chapter 18
WEATHERING: Moderate
FROST LINE DEPTH: 12 inches
TERMITE: Slight to moderate
DECAY: Slight to moderate
WINTER DESIGN TEMPERATURE: 24°F
SUMMER DESIGN TEMPERATURE: 83°F
ICE SHIELD UNDERLAYMENT REQUIRED: No
FLOOD HAZARDS: See BMC 15.55
AIR FREEZING INDEX: 148°F- days
MEAN ANNUAL TEMPERATURE: 51.4°F.
(6) Amend IBC Section 403.4.8.1, Equipment Room, to read as follows:

403.4.8.1 Equipment Room. If the standby system is a generator set inside a building, the system shall be located in a separate room enclosed with 2-hour fire barriers constructed in accordance with Section 707 or horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both, and shall be in a separate room from the normal power source including transformers and distribution equipment. Power distribution from the emergency source to the emergency transfer switch shall be by an independent route from the normal power source. System supervision with manual start and transfer features shall be provided at the fire command center. Fuel-fired standby power generator sets and associated fuel storage, including optional landlord- or tenant-owned generator sets, located more than 75 feet above the lowest level of Fire Department vehicle access, require the approval of the fire code official.

(7) Add new IBC Section 403.4.8.1.1, Penetrations, to read as follows:

403.4.8.1.1 Penetrations. Penetrations into and openings through a room containing a standby power system are prohibited except for required exit doors, equipment and ductwork necessary for heating, cooling or ventilation, sprinkler branch line piping, or electrical raceway serving the standby power system or being served by the standby power system. Such penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section 714.

Exception: Metallic piping with no joints or openings where it passes through the standby power system room.

(8) Amend IBC Section 403.4.8.3, Standby power loads, to read as follows:

403.4.8.3 Standby power loads. The following are classified as standby power loads:

1. Power and lighting for the fire command center required by Section 403.4.6;
2. Ventilation and automatic fire detection equipment for smoke proof enclosures;
3. Elevators.
4. Where elevators are provided in a high-rise buildings for accessible means of egress, fire service access or occupant self-evacuation, the standby power system shall also comply with IBC Section 1009.4, 3007 or 3008 as applicable.
5. Smoke control systems.

(9) Add new IBC Section 403.7, Smoke control, and amend to read as follows:

403.7 Smoke control. A smoke control system meeting the requirements of Section 909 shall be provided in buildings having floors more than 75 feet above the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.

(10) Amend IBC Section 405.8, Standby power, as follows: Add the following sentence to the end of the paragraph:

405.8 Standby power. A standby power system complying with Chapter 27 shall be provided standby power loads specified in Section 405.8.1. An emergency power system complying with Section 2702 shall be provided for the emergency power loads specified in Section 405.8.2. Fuel-fired emergency
generator sets and associated fuel storage, including optional generator sets, located more than 30 feet below the lowest level of exit discharge require the approval of the fire code official.

(11) Amend IBC Table 508.4, Required Separation of Occupancies (Hours), as follows:

Add footnote reference superscript “f” to R Occupancy Classification row and column headings. Add footnote “f” to read: See Section 419 for Live/Work Unit separations.

(12) IBC section 901.7, Fire Areas, is amended to include a second paragraph as follows:

901.4.3 Fire Area 901.7 Fire areas. Where buildings, or portions thereof, are divided into fire areas so as not to exceed the limits established for requiring a fire protection system in accordance with this chapter, such fire areas shall be separated by fire barriers constructed in accordance with Section 707 of the International Building Code or horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711 of the International Building Code, or both, having a fire-resistance rating of not less than that determined in accordance with Section 707.3.10 of the International Building Code.

For the purpose of this section, fire barriers shall not be used to reduce the calculation of floor areas in this chapter for newly constructed buildings with a gross floor area of 5,000 square feet or greater and existing buildings undergoing a modification or change of use with a cumulative work area of 5,000 square feet or greater.

(13) Amend IBC Section 903.2, Automatic sprinkler systems, to read as follows:

903.2 Where required. Approved automatic sprinkler systems in new buildings and structures shall be provided in the locations described in Sections 903.2.1 through 903.2.12, WAC 51-50-903 and in all new and substantially altered buildings with a gross work area of 5,000 square feet or greater, regardless of type or use.

Exceptions: Spaces or areas in telecommunications buildings used exclusively for telecommunications equipment, associated electrical power distribution equipment, batteries and standby engines, provided those spaces or areas are equipped throughout with an automatic smoke detection system in accordance with Section 907.2 and are separated from the remainder of the building by not less than 1-hour fire barriers constructed in accordance with Section 707 or not less than 2-hour horizontal assemblies constructed in accordance with Section 711, or both.

(14) Amend IBC Section 907.1.3, Equipment, as follows: Add the following sentence to the end of the paragraph:

907.1.3 Equipment. Systems and their components shall be listed and approved for the purpose for which they are installed. All new alarm systems shall be addressable. Each device shall have its own address and shall annunciate individual addresses at the approved supervising station.

(15) Add new IBC Section 907.2.24, System Installation, to read as follows:

907.2.24 System installation. Fire alarm systems shall be installed and maintained in accordance with this code by persons under the direct supervision of individuals that have factory training and certification on the system being installed. Plans submitted for Fire Alarm System permits shall be prepared under the supervision of individuals possessing a NICET (National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies) Level III certification in Fire Alarm Systems or shall be licensed by the State of
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Washington as a Professional Fire Protection or Electrical Engineer or certified by the State of Washington. Plans shall identify certification and/or licensing information.

(16) Add new IBC Section 911.1.2.1, Penetrations, to read as follows:

911.1.2.1 Penetrations. Penetrations into and openings through a fire command center are prohibited except for required exit doors, equipment and ductwork necessary for heating, cooling or ventilation, sprinkler branch line piping, electrical raceway for fire department communication and control, and electrical raceways serving the fire command center or being controlled from the fire command center. Such penetrations shall be protected in accordance with Section 713.

Exception: Metallic piping with no joints or openings.

(17) Amend IBC Section 1503.4, Roof drainage, to revise reference to the Uniform Plumbing Code and add new Section 1503.4.4, Discharge and Disposal, to read as follows:

1503.4 Roof drainage. Design and installation of roof drainage systems shall comply with IBC Section 1503 and Chapter 11 of the Uniform Plumbing Code.

1503.4.4 Discharge and Disposal. Roof top drainage shall be disposed of by one of the following methods:

1. Tight line to a storm water system (private or public).

2. Tight line to a roof-runoff infiltration system.

3. Concrete splash blocks.

1503.4.4.1 Tight line. A tight line with direct discharge to an abutting property or the right-of-way is prohibited unless specifically approved by the building official on the construction plans/permit.

1503.4.4.2 Review Required. In all cases the method selected shall be subject to review and approval by the building official and/or the city Public Works Department, with consideration given to site, soil types, slope condition and the nature of the development.

1503.4.4.3 Standards. All drainage systems both public and private shall be designed in accordance with storm water standards adopted by the city of Burien.

1503.4.4.4 “Green Roof technology”. “Green roof” technology may be approved by the building official provided that any drainage coming off of the roof is collected and disposed of pursuant to Sec 1503.4.4.1.

(18) Amend IBC Section 1608.1, General, to read as follows:

1608.1 General. Design snow loads shall be not less than 25 PSF uniform roof snow load, nor less than that determined by IBC Section 1607.

(19) Amend IBC Section 1612.3, Establishment of flood hazard areas, to read as follows:

1612.3 Establishment of flood hazard areas. To establish flood hazard areas, the applicable governing authority shall adopt a flood hazard map and supporting data. The flood hazard map shall include, at a minimum, areas of special flood hazard as identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency in an engineering report entitled “The Flood Insurance Study for King County” dated September 2007, as
amended or revised with the accompanying Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) and Flood Boundary and Floodway Map (FBFM) and related supporting data along with any revisions thereto. The adopted flood hazard map and supporting data are hereby adopted by reference and declared to be part of this section.

(20) Amend IBC Section 1705.16, Exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS), to read as follows:

1705.16 Exterior insulation and finish systems (EIFS). Special inspections shall be required for all EIFS applications. All exterior insulation finish systems (EIFS) shall be certified by the manufacturer as having been installed per the manufacturer’s installation recommendations or other agency approved by the building official. The manufacturer’s certification shall serve as the special inspection requirement when approved by the building official.

Exception: Special inspections shall not be required for EIFS applications installed over masonry or concrete walls.

1705.6.1 Water-resistive barrier coating. A water-resistive barrier coating complying with ASTM E 2570 requires special inspection of the water-resistive barrier coating when installed over a sheathing substrate.

(21) Amend IBC Section 2701.1, Scope, to read as follows:

2701.1 Scope. This chapter governs the electrical components, equipment and systems used in buildings and structures covered by this code. Electrical components, equipment and systems shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the provisions of the Burien Electrical Code as adopted in BMC 15.10.140.

(22) Add new IBC Section 2702.1.6, Location, to read as follows:

2702.1.6 Location. Location of stationary generators, fuel piping, and storage tanks are subject to the approval of the building official and/or fire code official.

(23) Amend IBC Section 3303, Demolition standards, to read as follows:

3303.1 Purpose. The purpose of this section is to establish standards by which demolition of existing structures is to be conducted. The proposed standards are intended to ensure that the public health, safety and welfare are protected when structures are removed. If demolition is proposed along with an application for a construction permit or reuse of a property, sections 3303.5 and 3303.11 do not apply. Following demolition of any structure the property shall be altered to a condition that will not create an attractive nuisance or be unsightly to neighboring properties, public streets and pedestrian facilities. This purpose statement shall be preeminent.

3303.2 Construction Documents. Construction documents and a schedule for demolition must be submitted when required by the Building Official. Where such information is required, no work shall be done until such construction documents or schedule, or both, are approved.

3303.3 Permit Required. A demolition permit is required for any structure to be removed. The demolition permit may be conditioned as necessary to mitigate adverse impacts associated with demolition activities and the aesthetic condition of the vacant site following demolition. All demolition work shall be completed within 30 days from commencement of demolition activity provided that site restoration work shall be completed as provided in section 3303.11.
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3303.4 Nuisances. The activity shall not create or exacerbate a nuisance as defined by BMC 8.45.020.

3303.5 Foundation Removal and Surface Restoration. All foundations and/or related materials shall be removed from the site. Unless otherwise approved by the city, all man-made or processed surfaces including but not limited to driveways, asphalt, patios or sidewalks shall be removed, except in the public right-of-way.

3303.6 Pedestrian protection. The work of demolishing any building shall not be commenced until pedestrian protection is in place as required by this chapter.

3303.7 Means of egress. A party wall balcony or horizontal exit shall not be destroyed unless and until a substitute means of egress has been provided and approved.

3303.8 Vacant Lot. Where a structure has been demolished or removed, the vacant lot shall be filled and maintained to the existing grade or in accordance with the ordinances of the jurisdiction having authority. This requirement may be waived if grading would require the alteration of a critical area and/or its buffer. It may also be waived if grading activity could result in soil instability.

3303.9 Erosion Control. All areas that have been disturbed by demolition activity shall be stabilized to prevent erosion. Erosion control measures shall comply with adopted best management practices and shall be in place prior to and during any demolition activity.

3303.10 Water Accumulation. Provisions shall be made to prevent the accumulation of water or damage to any foundations on the premises or the adjoining property.

3303.11 Site Restoration Required. Restoration of properties shall be completed within 4 months of the issuance of a demolition permit. The city may require a financial guarantee to ensure proper installation, establishment and maintenance of a restoration plan. Areas of a site that have been disturbed shall be re-vegetated with an approved hydro-seed mixture.

3303.12 Utility Connections. All service utilities shall be properly capped or terminated at property lines or at the service connection in the right-of-way unless otherwise approved by the Building Official. Utilities Removal and/or decommissioning of utilities shall be completed in accordance with all applicable laws and procedures including but not limited to the IFC, IBC, WAC and RCW.

3303.13 Fire safety during demolition. Fire safety during demolition shall comply with the applicable requirements of this code and the applicable provisions of Chapter 56 of the International Fire Code.

(24) IBC Section H104, Identification, is deleted.

15.10.070 International Residential Code adopted.

(1) Energy Code requirements are regulated by Chapter 51-11R WAC as adopted and amended in BMC 15.10.130.

(2) Plumbing Code requirements are regulated by Chapter 51-56 WAC (UPC) as adopted and amended in BMC 15.10.120.

(3) Electrical Code requirements are regulated by Burien Electrical Code (WCEC) as adopted in BMC 15.10.140.

(4) Except where required by the International Fire Code for access or fire flow, an automatic residential fire sprinkler system shall not be required for additions or alterations to existing buildings that are not already provided with an automatic residential sprinkler system.

(5) Amend IRC Table R301.2, Climatic and geographic design criteria, to include local design values as follows:

R301.2 Climatic and Geographic design criteria. Buildings shall be constructed in accordance with the provisions of this code as limited by the provisions of this section. Additional criteria shall be established by the local jurisdiction and set forth in Table R301.2 (1). Design values for Table R-301.2(1) shall be as follows:

GROUND AND ROOF SNOW LOAD: 25 PSF  
WIND SPEED: 110 mph  
TOPOGRAPHIC EFFECTS: No  
SEISMIC DESIGN CATEGORY: D2  
WEATHERING: Moderate  
FROST LINE DEPTH: 12 inches  
TERMITE: Slight to moderate  
DECAY: Slight to moderate  
WINTER DESIGN TEMPERATURE: 24°F.  
SUMMER DESIGN TEMPERATURE: 83°F.  
ICE SHIELD UNDERLAYMENT REQUIRED: No  
FLOOD HAZARDS: See BMC 15.55  
AIR FREEZING INDEX: 148°F - days  
MEAN ANNUAL TEMPERATURE: 51.4°F.  
SOIL BEARING (Assumed): 1500 PSF

(6) Amend IRC Appendix V, Fire Sprinklers, to read as follows:

AS107.1 Fire sprinklers. An approved automatic fire sprinkler system shall be installed in new one-family and two-family dwellings and townhouses in accordance with Appendix P.

EXCEPTION: One-family and two-family dwellings and their attached accessory structures with a gross floor area less than 3600 square feet.
15.10.080 International Mechanical Code adopted.

The 2015 Edition of the International Mechanical Code (IMC), as published by the International Code Council, Inc., and as adopted by the State Building Code Council in Chapter 51-52 WAC, excluding Chapter 1, Administration, is hereby adopted by reference together with the amendments set forth in this section. The Construction Administrative Code, as set forth in Chapter 15.05 BMC, shall be used in place of IMC Chapter 1, Administration.

15.10.090 National Fuel Gas Code (NFPA 54) adopted.


15.10.100 Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code (NFPA 58) adopted.


The 2015 Edition of the International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC), as published by the International Code Council, Inc., and as adopted by the State Building Code Council in Chapter 51-52 WAC, excluding Chapter 1 “Administration,” is hereby adopted by reference together with the amendments set forth in this section. The Construction Administrative Code, as set forth in Chapter 15.05 BMC, shall be used in place of IFGC Chapter 1, Administration.

(1) Amend IFGC Section 614.4, Exhaust installation, to read as follows:

614.4 Exhaust installation. Exhaust ducts for clothes dryers shall terminate on the outside of the building and shall be equipped with a back-draft damper. Dryer exhaust ducts may terminate at approved exterior louvers with not less than 1/2” openings in any direction. Screens shall not be installed at the duct termination. Ducts shall not be connected or installed with sheet metal screws or other fasteners that will obstruct the flow. Clothes dryer exhaust ducts shall not be connected to a vent connector, vent or chimney. Clothes dryer exhaust ducts shall not extend into or through ducts or plenums.

15.10.120 Uniform Plumbing Code adopted.

The 2015 Edition of the Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC), as published by the International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials and as adopted and amended by the State Building Code Council in Chapter 51-56 WAC, including Appendix A – Recommended Rules for Sizing the Water Supply System; Appendix B – Explanatory Notes on Combination Waste and Vent Systems; Appendix I – Installation Standards, and, in addition, Appendix C, Alternate Plumbing Systems, excluding Sections C303.3, C304.0 through C601.9 of Appendix C, is hereby adopted by reference together with the additions, deletions, exceptions, and amendments set forth in this section. The Construction Administrative Code, as set forth in Chapter 15.05 BMC, shall be used in place of UPC Chapter 1, Administration; Chapters 12 and 14 of the Uniform Plumbing Code are not adopted; and, those requirements of the Uniform Plumbing Code
relating to venting and combustion air of fuel-fired appliances as found in Chapter 5 and those portions of the code addressing building sewers as identified in Chapter 51-56 WAC are not adopted.

(1) Amend UPC Section 311.0, Independent Systems, as follows:

311.0 Independent Systems. The drainage system of each new building and of new work installed in any existing building shall be separate and independent from that of any other building, and, when available, every building shall have an independent connection with a public or private sewer.

Exception: Where one (1) building stands in the rear of another building on an interior lot, and no private sewer is available or can be constructed to the rear building through an adjoining court, yard, or driveway, the building drain from the front building shall be permitted to be extended to the rear building.

Swimming pools shall be provided with a separate and independent drainage system, which shall connect with a public or private sewer. The drainage pipe for the pool, floor drain, and similar fixtures shall be connected either to the side sewer downstream of the main building or structure, or to the building sewer downstream of the last plumbing fixture. The main building drain shall be equipped with an accessible backwater valve outside of the building or structure and upstream of the pool drain connection.

(2) Amend UPC Chapter 6, Table 610.3, Water Supply Fixture Units (WSFU) and Minimum Fixture Branch Pipe Sizes, as follows:

Delete “Lawn Sprinkler, each head” “for Private Use” from the table.

(3) Amend UPC Section 708.0, Grade of Horizontal Drainage Piping, to read as follows:

708.0 Grade of Horizontal Drainage Piping. Horizontal drainage piping shall be run in practical alignment and a uniform slope of not less than one fourth (1/4) inch per foot (20.9 mm/m) or two (2) percent toward the point of disposal provided that, where it is impractical due to the depth of the street sewer or to the structural features or to the arrangement of any building or structure to obtain a slope of one-fourth (1/4) of an inch per foot (20.9 mm/m) or two (2) percent. Any such pipe or piping four (4) inches (100 mm) or larger in diameter may have a slope of not less than one-eighth (1/8) of an inch per foot (10.5 mm/m) or one (1) percent, only when first approved by the building official. Horizontal drainage piping connected to any dual flush gravity tank water closet shall slope a minimum of one-fourth (1/4) inch per foot.

(4) Amend UPC Section 1101.12.2.2.2 Combined System, to read as follows:

1101.12.2.2.2 Combined System. The secondary roof drains shall connect to the vertical piping of the primary storm drainage system conductor downstream of any horizontal offset below the roof. The primary storm drainage system shall connect to the building storm water that connects to an underground public storm sewer. The combined secondary and primary roof drain systems shall be sized in accordance with Section 1103.0 based on double the rainfall for the local area. A relief drain shall be connected to the vertical drain piping, within 20 feet of grade, using a wye-type fitting piped to daylight on the exterior of the building. The piping shall be sized as required for a secondary drain with a 4 inch maximum.


(1) Sections R107, Fees; R108, Stop Work Order; R109, Board of appeals; R110, Violations; and R111, Liability, are not adopted.

(2) Sections C107, Fees; C108, Stop Work Order; C109, Board of appeals; C110, Violations; and C111, Liability, are not adopted.

15.10.140 Washington Cities Electrical Code adopted.

(1) The most current edition of the Washington Cities Electrical Code (WCEC), Part One (Adoption) and part Three (National Electrical code amendments), as published by the Washington Association of Building Officials, is hereby adopted by reference and shall be known as the Burien Electrical Code. This includes Annex A, B and C of the National Electrical Code; Commercial Building Telecommunications Cabling Standard (ANSI/TIA-568-C series, February 2009); Commercial Building Standard for Telecommunications Pathway and Spaces (TIA-569-B, October 2004); Commercial Building Grounding and Bonding Requirements for Telecommunications (ANSI/TIA-607-B, August 2011); Residential Telecommunications Cable Standard (ANSI/TIA/EIA 570-B-2004); and the National Electrical Safety Code (NESC C2-2012 excluding Appendixes A and B)

(2) The “Construction Administrative Code” as set forth in Chapter 15.05 BMC shall be used for the administration of the Burien Electrical Code.

(3) Conflicts.

(a) The requirements of Washington Cities Electrical Code will be observed where there is any conflict between this chapter and the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70), Centrifugal Fire Pumps (NFPA 20), the Emergency and Standby Power Systems (NFPA 110), ANSI/TIA/EIA 568-B, ANSI/TIA/EIA 569-A, ANSI/TIA/EIA 607, or ANSI/TIA/EIA 570.


(c) In accordance with RCW 19.28.010(3), when the State of Washington Department of Labor and Industries adopts a more current edition of the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70), the more current edition shall be enforced. Provisions in the annex chapters of the National Electrical Code shall not apply unless specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance.

15.10.150 International Existing Building Code

The 2015 International Existing Building Code (IEBC) is as published by the International Code Council, Inc., and as adopted by the State Building Code Council in Chapter 51-50-48000 WAC, including Appendix A, Guidelines for the Seismic retrofit of Existing Buildings, Appendix N, Solar Readiness, and excluding Chapter 1, Administration, is hereby adopted by reference together with the amendments set
forth in this section. The Construction Administrative Code, as set forth in Chapter 15.05 BMC, shall be used in place of IEBC Chapter 1, Administration.

(1) Amend section 409.1 to include state amendments and City requirements relocated from BMC 15.05.135 to read as follows

409.1 Conformance. Buildings or structures moved into or within the jurisdiction shall comply with the provisions of this code, the International Residential Code (chapter 51-51 WAC), the International Mechanical Code (chapter 51-52 WAC), the International Fire Code (chapter 51-54A WAC), the Uniform Plumbing Code and Standards (chapters 51-56 and 51-57 WAC), the Washington State Energy Code (chapter 51-11 WAC) and the Washington State Ventilation and Indoor Air Quality Code (chapter 51-13 WAC) for new buildings or structures.

EXCEPTION: Group R-3 buildings or structures are not required to comply if:

1. The original occupancy classification is not changed; and

2. The original building is not substantially remodeled or rehabilitated.

For the purposes of this section, a building shall be considered to be substantially remodeled when the costs of remodeling exceed 60 percent of the value of the building exclusive of the costs relating to preparation, construction, demolition or renovation of foundations.

Prior to relocation, a feasibility inspection shall be performed on the building or structure by a registered design professional to document any known structural deficiencies, examine existing plumbing and mechanical systems, inspect insulated areas of the structure and check for life safety deficiencies. A copy of the inspection reports shall be submitted along with a building permit application for relocation.

Structures which do not conform to minimum requirements at the time of initial construction, or current life safety regulations, or are found substantially deficient in structural integrity, shall be subject to correction.

See BMC 12.17.095 (Building moving) for additional permit requirements. (2) Add new section 409.1 Moved building - Electrical Conformance, for the purpose of relocating the content of BMC 15.05.135 as follows:

409.1 Moved buildings – Electrical requirements.

(1) Nonresidential buildings or structures moved into or within the jurisdiction must be inspected to ensure compliance with current requirements of this chapter.

(2) Residential buildings or structures wired in the U.S. to NEC requirements and moved into the jurisdiction must be inspected to ensure compliance with the NEC requirements in effect at the time and place the original wiring was made. The building or structure must be inspected to ensure compliance with all current requirements of Chapter 19.28 RCW and the rules developed by the building department if:

(a) The original occupancy classification of the building or structure is changed as a result of the move; or

(b) The building or structure has been substantially remodeled or rehabilitated as a result of the move.
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(3) Residential buildings or structures wired in Canada to Canadian Electrical Code (CEC) standards and moved into the jurisdiction must be inspected to ensure compliance with the following minimum safety requirements:

(a) Service, service grounding, and service bonding must comply with the Burien Electrical Code.

(b) Canadian Standards Association (CSA) listed Type NMD cable is allowed with the following qualifications:

(i) CSA listed Type NMD cable, American Wire Gauge No. 10 and smaller installed after 1964, utilizing an equipment grounding conductor smaller than the phase conductors, must be:

(A) Replaced with a cable utilizing a full-size equipment grounding conductor; or

(B) Protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter protection device.

(ii) CSA listed Type NMD cable, No. 8 AWG and larger, must:

(A) Utilize an equipment grounding conductor sized according to the requirements of the NEC in effect at the time of the installation;

(B) Be protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter protection device; or

(C) Be replaced.

(c) Other types of wiring and cable must be:

(i) Replaced with wiring listed or field evaluated in accordance with U.S. standards by a laboratory approved by the department; or

(ii) Protected by a ground fault circuit interrupter protection device and arc fault circuit protection device.

(d) Equipment, other than wiring or panelboards, manufactured and installed prior to 1997, must be listed and identified by laboratory labels approved by the department or CSA labels.

(e) All panelboards must be listed and identified by testing laboratory labels approved by the department with the following qualifications:

(i) CSA listed panelboards labeled “Suitable for Use as Service Equipment” will be considered to be approved as “Suitable for Use only as Service Equipment.”

(ii) CSA listed panelboards must be limited to a maximum of 42 circuits.

(iii) CSA listed panelboards used as lighting and appliance panelboards, as described in the NEC, must meet all current requirements of the NEC and this chapter.

(f) Any wiring or panelboards replaced or changed as a result of the move must meet current requirements of Chapter 19.28 RCW and this chapter.

(g) The location, type, and ground fault circuit interrupter protection of receptacles and equipment in a bathroom, kitchen, basement, garage, or outdoor area must meet the Washington requirements in effect at the time the wiring was installed.
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(h) Four 15-ampere, kitchen small appliance circuits will be accepted in lieu of two 20-ampere, kitchen small appliance circuits. Receptacles will not be required to be added on kitchen peninsular or island counters.

(i) Spacing requirements for all other receptacles must meet the Washington requirements in effect at the time the wiring was installed.

(j) Receptacles installed above baseboard or fixed wall space heaters must be removed and the outlet box covered with a blank cover. The receptacle is required to be relocated as closely as possible to the existing location.

(k) Lighting outlet and switch locations must meet the Washington requirements in effect at the time the wiring was installed.

(l) Dedicated 20-ampere small appliance circuits are not required in dining rooms.

(m) Electric water heater branch circuits must be adequate for the load.

(n) The location, type, and circuit protection of feeders must meet the Washington State requirements in effect at the time the wiring was installed.

END