



New structural provisions for wood will be introduced in the 2010 Edition of the National Building Code of Canada

The National Building Code of Canada (NBCC) is the model building code and is adopted or adapted by the Provinces and Territories who enforce building code requirements. Development of the 2010 edition of the NBCC began in 2006 and the Canadian Wood Council has been an active participant in the development process.

New house construction is the largest market for structural wood products and the use of wood products in housing is regulated through the building codes. Part 9 of the Building Code covers Housing and Small Buildings and prescriptively provides wood construction details for smaller wood buildings. Peggy Lepper, Director of Technical Services for the Canadian Wood Council, is a member of the NBCC's Standing Committee on Housing and Small Buildings.

Changes to Part 9 that will affect structural uses of wood construction include:

- Lateral resistance provisions for housing and small buildings to address high wind and earthquake loads. The provisions will require stronger wall bracing in high wind and seismic regions and enhanced connections. Stronger bracing is achieved through the use of structural wood panels.
- Reference to new product standards for preservative treated lumber that highlights a new Use Category System.
- Reference to the 2009 edition of the Canadian Wood Council's Engineering Guide for Wood Frame Construction that provides guidance on design of elements that are outside the prescriptive requirements in Part 9.

Structural design requirements for larger buildings are specified in Part 4 of the NBCC. Loads that must be considered in design are specified in Part 4 along with references to the material engineering standards that are to be used to determine the structural capacity to resist the loads. The 2010 NBCC will reference the latest version of CSA O86 "Engineering Design in Wood" published in 2009. The Canadian Wood Council actively participates in development of the CSA O86 Standard providing both administrative and technical support. Significant changes in the 2009 edition of CSA O86 include:

- New lateral design provisions that address the ability of wood structures to resist wind and seismic loads by:
 - Adding provisions that make it easier to use wood floors and roofs in hybrid construction,
 - Increasing the maximum height for walls that resist lateral loads, and
 - Providing deflection equations for lateral resisting walls, roofs and floors.
- New design provisions for wood screws and enhanced design provisions for bolts and nails.
- More efficient design provisions for studs and columns, and
- Revisions to design values for panels, lumber, glued-laminated timber and structural composite lumber.

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