



**BUILDING & SAFETY**

659 N. LA CADENA DR.  
COLTON, CA 92324  
909-370-5079 - P

[building@colton.ca.us](mailto:building@colton.ca.us)

# INFORMATION BULLETIN

## 2019 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODES

### EFFECTIVE JANUARY 01, 2020

**Q:** *Why do the codes change?*

**A:** In compliance with State law, the California Building Standards Code is revised and updated every three (3) years. The newest edition of the California Building Standards Code is the 2019 edition with an effective date of January 1, 2020. The City of Colton is required by State law to enforce the new Code.

**Q:** *What is the California Building Standards Code?*

The California Building Standards Code (CBSC) is maintained by the California Building Standards Commission ([www.bsc.ca.gov](http://www.bsc.ca.gov)) and contains the codes and laws that regulate the construction of all buildings and structures in the State of California. The CBSC is Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) and consists of twelve parts: Six (6) parts are authored by the State of California and six (6) parts are based on model codes that are authored by various model code writing bodies.

**Q:** *When is the new 2019 California Building Standards Code effective?*

**A:** The new 2019 California Building Standards Code will become effective January 1, 2020.

➤ All *Over-the-Counter* permits issued after January 1, 2020 must comply with the new 2019 California Building Standards Code. (*Over-the-Counter* permits are those types of permits that do not require submittal to the Building & Safety plan check process.)

➤ All projects submitted for plan check to Building & Safety after January 1, 2020 must comply with the new 2019 California Building Standards Code.

**Q:** *Can specific sections and/or parts from both the old code and the new code be used in the design and construction of a building or structure?*

**A:** No... A construction project must comply with the code that is applicable to the project. Sections and/or parts from different editions of the codes cannot be used.

**Q:** *Will my construction project be affected by the new 2019 California Building Standards Code?*

**A:** Yes & No... It depends upon the type of project (Over-the-Counter or submitted for plan check to

the Department of Building & Safety) and the date of permit issuance or application for plan check. (See the other questions throughout this handout for additional information.)

**Q:** *If a project is submitted for plan check to the Department of Building & Safety prior to January 1, 2020, what codes are applicable to the project?*

**A:** The codes applicable to the project will be the 2016 California Building Standards Code (2016 California Building Code, 2016 California Residential Code, 2016 California Electrical Code, 2016 California Mechanical Code, 2016 California Plumbing Code, 2016 California Fire Code, etc.).

**Q:** *Can a project that is submitted for plan check to the Department of Building & Safety prior to January 1, 2020 be reviewed for compliance with the new 2019 California Building Standards Code?*

**A:** Building & Safety will consider requests to voluntarily utilize the new 2019 California Building Standards Code in lieu of the 2016 California Building Standards Code on a case-by-case basis for projects submitted for plan check before January 1, 2020.

**Q:** *My application to the Planning Division (Design Review, Administrative Site Plan, Conditional Use Permit, etc.) has been determined to be complete and/or approved prior to January 1, 2020. What codes are applicable to my project?*

**A:** The submittal/approval dates to/from any other City Department/Division have no bearing on which edition of the California Building Standards Code is applicable to a project. The edition of California Building Standards Code a project must comply with is solely determined by the date of submittal to Building & Safety for plan check.

**Q:** *If my project is submitted to the Building & Safety plan check process prior to January 1, 2020, when will my plan check expire?*

**A:** Applications for plan check for which a permit is not issued within 180 days following the date of initial submission shall expire by limitation and become null and void. If the expiration date is after January 1, 2020, a time extension cannot be granted since the new 2019 California Building Standards Code will have become effective.

**Q:** *If my permit was issued under the "old" 2016 California Building Standards Code, when will it expire?*

**A:** Permits expire by limitation and become null and void, if the building or work authorized by the permit is not commenced within:

- 180 days from the date of issuance; or
- If the building or work authorized by the permit is suspended or abandoned at any time after the work is commenced for a period of 180 days; or
- As specified in Colton Municipal Code Section 15.06.020

If a permit issued under the “old” 2016 California Building Standards Code expires, a time extension cannot be granted, and a new permit will need to be obtained to complete the building or work. Before a new permit can be issued the plans must be updated to comply with the new 2019 California Building Standards Code, and submitted for plan check and approved by Building & Safety.

**Q:** *If my project was permitted under the “old” 2016 California Building Standards Code and I need to revise my approved plans, which edition of the codes will be applicable?*

**A:** The answer to this question is: It depends on the type of revisions being made. A simple minor clarification will not trigger the need to revise the plans to comply with the new 2019 California Building Standards Code. A major change and/or addition to a project will need to comply with the new 2019 California Building Standards Code. Each specific case will need to be reviewed by Building & Safety Building Official to determine which edition of the California Building Standards Code the revisions must comply with.

**Q:** *How can I find out what the changes are from the old code to the new code?*

**A:** By studying the new codes; by studying the various handbooks, training manuals, code change analyses available; and attending classes and training seminars on the new codes offered by various professional organizations: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org), [www.iapmo.org](http://www.iapmo.org); [www.CALBO.org](http://www.CALBO.org), [www.icbolabc.org](http://www.icbolabc.org).

**Q:** *Where can I find and/or purchase the new 2019 California Building Standards Code?*

**A:** The new 2019 CBSC is currently available for purchase from technical book stores or directly from the International Code Council, at [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org).