

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS (received by DPS regarding the new code)

Rob Anderson

Chief of Inspections - DPS Building Division

1. What do you think the EFFECTIVE DATE of the 7th EDITION will be?

The effective date has not been determined yet.

The Seventh Edition Single and Two-Family Dwelling Code has been approved by members of the Board of Building Regulations and Standards and is currently available through the International Code Council (ICC).

The ICC document is the unofficial version of the code. The official version will be published by the Secretary of the Commonwealth and will be available through the State House Bookstore soon.

Content of the official version and the unofficial version is identical.

A builder and/or designer may use either version to design and/or construct a single or two-family home. Only the official version may be used as evidence in a court of law, otherwise, except for style (font type, etc. each code is the same).

At this time it is not known exactly when the official version will be published. When available, it may be purchased at the State House Bookstore (617) 727-2834.

2. Am I correct to believe that the 6th EDITION will run parallel to the 7th EDITION for a period of 180 days from the EFFECTIVE DATE of the 7th EDITION?

That is correct; a sixth month overlap period will be afforded once adopted. The effective date is determined by the Secretary of the Commonwealth, not this agency. Again, at this point, the effective date is not known.

3. Will the 7th EDITION contain:

-RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION ONLY? Is Residential Construction defined as 1 and 2 Family Homes or does it include all residential construction regardless of number of living units?

Single and two-family only.

-COMMERCIAL CONSTRUCTION ONLY?

The seventh edition commercial code for all other building types (other than single and two-family homes) will be presented at public hearing later in the year (and will be based on the 2003 International Building Code).

-MECHANICAL CONSTRUCTION ONLY?

Reference is made (in the new single and two-family code) to the 2003 International Mechanical Code as well as the Massachusetts Plumbing and Electrical Code. Also, Chapters 60 through 92 refer to various appliances such as heating and cooling equipment and exhaust systems (see attachment for information on the revised numbering system).

-OR ALL 3 OF THE ABOVE CONSTRUCTION TYPES?

See above.

-OR ONLY SELECTED TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION? If so, which construction types will the 7th EDITION contain?

See above.

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4. If the 7th EDITION contains only RESIDENTIAL CONSTRUCTION, for example, are their other sections of the existing 6th EDITION Massachusetts Building Code that must be purchased to obtain a complete Massachusetts Building Code book? If so, what other sections must be purchased? Where might these additional sections be purchased?

The code has been divided in two parts to mimic the ICC format. The current, Sixth Edition will be used for all building types other than single and two-family homes until such time as the new (seventh edition) commercial code is available. Once the new commercial code is available, the code set will be Seventh Edition Single and Two-Family Dwelling Code and Seventh Edition Commercial (or what we refer to as the Base Code). Until that time, the set will be Seventh Edition Single and Two-Family Dwelling Code and current Sixth Edition Mass. Code.

5. When might printed copies of the 7th EDITION of the Massachusetts Building Code be available for public purchase?

See response to items one 1 and 2 above.

6. What is the purchase price of the 7th EDITION of the Massachusetts Building Code?

See ICC website - www.iccsafe.org/store for ICC price. The Secretary of the Commonwealth will establish a price for the official version once available.

7. Will it be available for purchase through the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bookstore; or, must it be purchased via some outside vendor? If so, from whom must/can it be purchased?

See above responses.