

1. A certificate of continued occupancy shall be granted upon request, subject to this subchapter.

(b) Change of use: It shall be unlawful to change the use of any structure or portion thereof without the prior application for and issuance of a certificate of occupancy as herein provided.

1. A certificate of occupancy shall be issued provided such structure shall comply with the provisions of N.J.A.C. 5:23-6, Rehabilitation Subcode.

i. Buildings meeting the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.31(p) shall be entitled to a certificate of occupancy for Group R-1. The certificate of occupancy shall be subject to the condition that it shall be valid for a bed and breakfast use only.

2. If any non-residential occupancy, other than Use Groups F, H or S, accommodates seven or more non-consecutive group overnight stays within a calendar year for persons over 2½ years of age, and the activities involve planned periods of sleep, the building is considered to have undergone a change of use. In such a case, it shall be necessary to apply for and be issued a Certificate of Occupancy. This shall be a dual Certificate of Occupancy to allow Use Group R-1 in addition to the existing use of the building. Any facility that accommodates six or fewer overnight stays within a calendar year shall obtain a permit under the Uniform Fire Code, N.J.A.C. 5:70. Group overnight stays in Use Groups F, H and S shall be prohibited.

3. The use of an existing structure as a "special amusement building," as defined in the building subcode, shall be a change in the character of use of the existing building. The building or portion thereof shall be required to comply with N.J.A.C. 5:23-6.31(a)5vii.

i. Exception: The use of an existing structure or portion thereof as a special amusement building for not more than 15 days in a calendar year provided that a permit for such use has been issued by the local fire official pursuant to the Uniform Fire Safety Act, N.J.S.A. 52:27D-192 et seq.

Amended by R.1985 d.16, effective February 4, 1985.

See: 16 N.J.R. 3073(b), 17 N.J.R. 275(a).

(a) Added text: "or fire safety" and "or minimum housing standard or regulation".

Amended by R.1993 d.662, effective December 20, 1993.

See: 25 N.J.R. 3891(a), 25 N.J.R. 5918(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.144, effective March 20, 1995 (operative July 1, 1995).

See: 26 N.J.R. 2698(a), 26 N.J.R. 3524(a), 27 N.J.R. 1180(a).

Amended by R.1995 d.611, effective December 4, 1995 (operative April 4, 1996).

See: 27 N.J.R. 3257(a), 27 N.J.R. 4884(a).

Amended by R.1998 d.28, effective January 5, 1998.

See: 29 N.J.R. 3603(a), 30 N.J.R. 129(a).

New heading "Change of use"; rewrote (b); added "Rehabilitation Subcode" in (b)1; deleted (b)1i through (c).

Amended by R.2002 d.255, effective August 5, 2002.

See: 33 N.J.R. 4177(a), 34 N.J.R. 2783(a).

In (b), added 2.

Amended by R.2003 d.157, effective April 21, 2003.

See: 34 N.J.R. 4247(a), 35 N.J.R. 1663(b).

In (b), added 3.

Administrative correction.

See: 35 N.J.R. 5062(a).

Amended by R.2004 d.423, effective November 15, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 3004(a), 36 N.J.R. 5090(a).

In (b)3, deleted "temporary or permanent" preceding "use of an existing structure" in the first sentence, and deleted "the building subcode and fire protection subcode requirements of" preceding the NJAC reference in the last sentence, of the introductory paragraph, added i.

Amended by R.2006 d.120, effective April 3, 2006.

See: 37 N.J.R. 3753(a), 38 N.J.R. 1567(a).

Added (b)1i.

Case Notes

Civil rights action challenging township actions regarding use of property as church were not ripe for adjudication until township planning board decided site plan application and any need for variance. *Trinity Resources, Inc. v. Township of Delanco*, D.N.J.1994, 842 F.Supp. 782.

5:23-2.7 Ordinary maintenance

(a) Ordinary maintenance to structures may be made without filing a permit application with or giving notice to the construction official.

(b) Ordinary maintenance shall not include any of the following:

1. The cutting away of any wall, partition or portion thereof;

2. The removal or cutting of any structural beam or bearing support;

3. The removal or change of any required means of egress, or rearrangement of parts of a structure affecting the exitway requirements;

4. Any work affecting structural or fire safety;

5. Any work that will increase the nonconformity of any existing building or structure with the requirements of the regulations;

6. Addition to, or alteration, replacement or relocation of:

i. Any standpipe;

ii. Water supply, sewer, drainage, gas, soil, waste, vent or similar piping;

iii. Electrical wiring, except that the following shall be considered ordinary electrical maintenance:

(1) Communications wiring in a Class 3 structure provided that the installation does not involve the alteration or penetration of a fire-rated assembly and is not in a hazardous location as defined in Chapter 5 of the electrical subcode.

(A) For the purposes of applying this provision, communications wiring shall mean any wiring covered by Chapter 8 of the electrical subcode.

Communications wiring shall also include data circuits between computers/information technology equipment, which may be classified as "communications circuits," in accordance with Article 725 of the electrical subcode; or

iv. Mechanical or other work affecting public health or general safety; or

7. Any work undertaken for the purpose of lead abatement.

(c) The following items are ordinary maintenance and shall be treated as such by every enforcing agency. No permit for, inspections of, or notice to the enforcing agency of ordinary maintenance shall be required. This is not an all-inclusive listing of ordinary maintenance.

1. Ordinary building maintenance shall include:

i. Exterior and interior painting;

ii. Installation, repair or replacement of any interior finishes of less than 25 percent of the wall area in any given room in a one- or two-family dwelling. This shall include plastering and drywall installation;

(1) Vinyl wall covering of any amount is ordinary maintenance;

(2) Paneling shall not be considered ordinary maintenance;

iii. Wall papering at any location;

iv. The replacement of glass in any window or door. However, the replacement glass shall be of a type and quality that complies with the minimum requirements of the code;

v. The installation and replacement of any window or door, including garage doors, in the same opening without altering the dimensions or framing of the original opening. This shall include storm windows and storm doors. The installation and replacement of means of egress and emergency escape windows and doors may be made in the same opening without altering the dimensions or framing of the original opening, and shall not reduce the required height, width or net clear opening of the previous window or door assembly;

vi. The repair or replacement of any non-structural member such as a partition railing or kitchen cabinet;

vii. The repair or replacement of any interior or exterior trim, decoration or moldings;

viii. The replacement or installation of any flooring material, except carpeting, with a new material. However, installation of carpeting in one and two family dwellings shall be permitted under ordinary maintenance;

ix. The repair of existing roofing material not exceeding 25 percent of the total roof area within any 12 month period;

x. The repair of existing siding with like material not exceeding 25 percent of the total building exterior wall area within any 12 month period;

xi. The repair or replacement of any part of a porch or stoop which does not structurally support a roof above;

xii. The replacement or installation of screens;

xiii. The installation of any roll or batt insulation when installed adjacent to or not more than one and a half inches from an interior finish; and

xiv. Replacement of exterior rain water gutters and leaders.

2. Ordinary plumbing maintenance shall include:

i. Replacement of hose bib valves in single family dwellings. Replacement hose bib valves shall be provided with an approved atmospheric vacuum breaker;

ii. Refinishing of existing fixtures. Relining of fixtures shall not be considered to be ordinary maintenance;

iii. Replacement of ball cocks. Replacement ball cocks must be an approved anti-siphon type;

iv. Repair of leaks involving the replacement of piping between two adjacent joints only;

v. Clearance of stoppages;

vi. Replacements of faucets or working parts of faucets;

vii. Replacement of valves (including shower or combination bath/shower valves in a single family dwelling);

viii. Replacements of working parts of valves, including, but not limited to, shower or combination bath/shower valves;

ix. Replacement of traps except for traps on culinary sinks in food handling establishments;

x. Replacement of a water closet, and/or lavatory, and/or bathtub or shower unit and/or kitchen sink in a single family dwelling with an approved similar fixture provided that no change in the piping arrangement is made. Replacement water closets bearing a date stamp of July 1, 1991 or later must use an average of 1.6 gallons or less of water per flushing cycle; and

xi. Replacement of domestic clothes washers and dishwashers.

3. Ordinary electrical maintenance shall include:

i. The replacement of any receptacle, switch, or lighting fixture rated at 20 amps or less and operating at less than 150 volts to ground with a like or similar item. Replacement of receptacles in locations where ground-fault circuit interrupter protection is required in the electrical subcode, shall not be considered ordinary electrical maintenance;

Amended by R.2004 d.467, effective December 20, 2004.

See: 36 N.J.R. 2122(a), 36 N.J.R. 5709(b).

In (b), substituted "Ordinary" for "Such" preceding "maintenance" in the introductory paragraph and rewrote 6iii; in (c), rewrote 3iii.

Case Notes

Municipal order under zoning ordinance to remove sleeping trailers and disconnect utilities used by a refinery repair crew proper exercise of police power; action not preempted by Occupational Safety and Health Act. Twp. of Greenwich v. Mobil Oil Corp., 504 F.Supp. 1275 (D.N.J.1981).

5:23-2.8 Installation of equipment

(a) When the installation, extension or alteration of mechanical equipment, refrigeration, air conditioning or ventilating apparatus, plumbing, gas piping, electric wiring, heating system or other equipment is specifically controlled by the provisions of this chapter, it shall be unlawful to use such equipment until a certificate of occupancy or certificate of approval, as the case may be, has been issued therefor by the construction official having jurisdiction. Use of elevator devices shall be subject to N.J.A.C. 5:23-12.9.

(b) The Department shall have exclusive authority to approve systems for indirect apportionment of heating costs in multiple dwellings.

Amended by R.1991 d.509, effective October 7, 1991.

See: 23 N.J.R. 2236(a), 23 N.J.R. 3001(a).

Stylistic changes.

Amended by R.1996 d.323, effective July 15, 1996, (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 28 N.J.R. 2112(a), 28 N.J.R. 3549(a).

Amended by R.2003 d.384, effective October 6, 2003.

See: 35 N.J.R. 2422(a), 35 N.J.R. 4712(a).

Designated the existing paragraph as (a) and added (b).

5:23-2.9 Variations and exceptions

(a) No variations or exceptions from the requirements of any subcode of these regulations may be made, except upon the following findings:

1. That strict compliance with any specific subcode provision, if required, would result in practical difficulty to such owner; and

2. That the exception, if granted, will not jeopardize the health, safety and welfare of intended occupants and the public generally.

(b) Except as may be otherwise specified in this chapter, no variations shall be granted from any of the requirements of N.J.A.C. 5:23-2, 4 or 5.

Amended by R.1996 d.236, effective May 20, 1996 (operative January 1, 1997).

See: 27 N.J.R. 4050(a), 28 N.J.R. 2586(a).

Added (b).

5:23-2.10 Applications for variations

(a) An application for a variation pursuant to this section shall be filed in writing with the construction official and shall state specifically:

1. A statement of the requirements of the subcode from which a variation is sought;

2. A statement of the manner by which strict compliance with said provisions would result in practical difficulties;

3. A statement of the nature and extent of such practical difficulties; and

4. A statement of feasible alternatives to the requirements of the subcode which would adequately protect the health, safety and welfare of the occupants or intended occupants and the public generally.

Administrative Correction to (a): Changed "set" to "state".

See: 22 N.J.R. 2503(b).

5:23-2.11 Review of variation applications

Within 20 business days next succeeding the receipt by the construction official of the application, it shall be denied or granted by written order stating the reasons therefor. The application shall be deemed denied for purposes of appeal if no decision is forthcoming within such 20-day period. Records of all applications for variation, and actions taken thereon shall be available for public inspection at the enforcing agency during normal business hours.

5:23-2.12 Final decision on variations

The appropriate subcode official(s) shall make the final determination with respect to matters within their jurisdiction. The construction official shall notify the applicant of that determination. Whenever an application for a variation shall result in contradictory or inconsistent determinations by different subcode officials having jurisdiction pursuant to N.J.A.C. 5:23-3, the construction official shall rule as to which subcode official's determination shall be final, and shall notify the applicant of that ruling. Whenever the construction official shall be certified in a particular subcode, he may modify the determination of the subcode official.

5:23-2.13 Authority to grant variations

The enforcing agency with plan review responsibility shall have the sole authority to grant variations.

5:23-2.14 Construction permits—when required

(a) It shall be unlawful to construct, enlarge, repair, renovate, alter, reconstruct or demolish a structure, or change the use of a building or structure, or portion thereof, or to install or alter any equipment for which provision is made or the installation of which is regulated by this chapter, or to undertake a project involving lead abatement in accordance with N.J.A.C. 5:17, without first filing an application with the construction official, or the appropriate subcode official where the construction involves only one subcode, in writing and obtaining the required permit therefor.

1. Notwithstanding any provision of (b) below to the contrary, a permit shall be required for any work to abate violations cited in a Notice of Violation and Order to Terminate (F213) issued after a certificate of occupancy has been issued.

(b) The following are exceptions from (a) above:

1. Ordinary maintenance as defined in N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.7 shall not require a permit or notice to the enforcing agency;

2. Minor work as defined by N.J.A.C. 5:23-2.17A shall require a permit. However, work may proceed, upon notice to the enforcing agency, before the permit is issued;

3. Emergency work not involving lead abatement, except that a permit shall be applied for or notice given as soon thereafter as is practicable, but not later than 72 hours thereafter.

4. Exceptions to permit requirements for temporary structures, tents, tensioned membrane structures, canopies, and greenhouses are as follows:

i. Temporary structures: A construction permit is not required for the erection, operation or maintenance of any temporary structures (excluding tents, tensioned membrane structures, canopies, and greenhouses) covering an area less than 120 square feet, including all connecting areas or spaces with a common means of egress or entrance and which remain in place for less than 180 days;

ii. Tents, tensioned membrane structures, and canopies: A construction permit is not required for tents, tensioned membrane structures, and canopies that meet all of the criteria in (b)4ii(1) through (5) below. Tents, tensioned membrane structures, and canopies meeting the following criteria shall be subject to the permitting requirements of the Uniform Fire Code (N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7).

(1) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy is 140 feet or less in any dimension and 16,800 square feet or less in area whether it is one unit or is composed of multiple units;

(2) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy remains in place or will remain in place for fewer than 180 days;

(3) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy is used or occupied only between April 1 and November 30;

(4) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy does not have a permanent anchoring system or foundation; and

(5) The tent, tensioned membrane structure, or canopy does not contain platforms or bleachers greater than 11 feet in height.

iii. A temporary greenhouse, also called a "hoop-house" or "polyhouse," meeting the criteria stated in N.J.A.C. 5:23-3.2(d), shall not require a permit.

iv. Regardless of whether the tent, tensioned membrane structure, canopy, or greenhouse requires a permit, a permit shall be required for any electrical equipment, electrical wiring or mechanical equipment that would otherwise require a permit.

5. Gas utility company shall not be required to obtain a permit or give notice to the enforcing agency for replacement of interior gas utility company-owned metering (meter and related appurtenances) by exterior gas utility company owned-metering if the work is performed by qualified employees of the gas utility company.

6. A permit shall not be required for a sign that meets all of the following conditions; provided, however, that the construction official shall have authority to require the removal of any sign that creates an unsafe condition or otherwise to require correction of any such condition:

i. It is supported by uprights or braces in or upon the ground surface;

ii. It is not served by an electrical circuit directly connected to the sign;

iii. It is not greater than 25 square feet in surface area (one side); and

iv. It is not more than six feet above the ground (mounted height).

7. Lead abatement work performed on a steel structure or other superstructure or in a commercial building.

8. A permit shall not be required for garden-type utility sheds and similar structures that are 100 square feet or less in area, 10 feet or less in height, and accessory to buildings of Group R-2, R-3, R-4, or R-5. Such garden-type utility sheds and similar structures are required to comply with the requirements at N.J.A.C. 5:23-9.9.

9. A permit shall not be required for fences six feet or less in height. This exception does not apply to barriers surrounding public or private swimming pools.

10. A construction permit is not required for an outdoor maze, unless it is six feet or greater in height or contains any electrical equipment. Outdoor mazes that do not require a permit are subject to the permitting requirements of the Uniform Fire Code (N.J.A.C. 5:70-2.7).