

# CHAPTER 5

## PRESCRIPTIVE COMPLIANCE METHOD

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**User note:**

**About this chapter:** Chapter 5 provides details for the prescriptive compliance method—one of the three main options of compliance available in this code for buildings and structures undergoing alteration, addition or change of occupancy.

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### SECTION 501 GENERAL

**[S] 501.1 Scope.** The provisions of this chapter shall control the *alteration, addition and change of occupancy* of existing buildings and structures, ~~((including historic buildings and structures as referenced in Section 301.3.1.))~~

**Exception:** Existing bleachers, grandstands and folding and telescopic seating shall comply with ICC 300.

**[S] 501.1.1 Compliance with other methods.** *Alterations, additions and changes of occupancy* to existing buildings and structures shall comply with the provisions of this chapter or with one of the methods provided in Section 301.3.

**Note:** All alterations, additions and changes of occupancy are also required to comply with Chapter 3.

**501.2 Fire-resistance ratings.** Where *approved* by the code official, in buildings where an automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 or 903.3.1.2 of the *International Building Code* has been added, and the building is now sprinklered throughout, the required fire-resistance ratings of building elements and materials shall be permitted to meet the requirements of the current building code. The building is required to meet the other applicable requirements of the *International Building Code*.

Plans, investigation and evaluation reports, and other data shall be submitted indicating which building elements and materials the applicant is requesting the *code official* to review and approve for determination of applying the current building code fire-resistance ratings. Any special construction features, including fire-resistance-rated assemblies and smoke-resistive assemblies, conditions of occupancy, means of egress conditions, fire code deficiencies, *approved* modifications or *approved* alternative materials, design and methods of construction, and equipment applying to the building that impact required fire-resistance ratings shall be identified in the evaluation reports submitted.

### SECTION 502 ADDITIONS

**[S] 502.1 General.** *Additions* to any building or structure shall comply with the requirements of the *International Building Code* for new construction. Alterations to the *existing building* or structure shall be made to ensure that the *existing building* or structure together with the *addition* are not less complying with the provisions of the *International Building Code* than the *existing building* or structure was prior to the *addition*. An *existing building* together with its *additions* shall comply with the height and area provisions of Chapter 5 of the *International Building Code*.

**Note:** A significant addition to an existing building may be considered a substantial alteration in accordance with Section 307.

**[S] 502.1.1 Fire walls.** An existing nonconforming building to which an *addition* is made is permitted to exceed the height, number of stories and area specified for new buildings if a fire wall is provided, the *existing building* is not made more nonconforming, and the *addition* conforms to this code.

**[S][BS]** ~~((502.2 Disproportionate earthquake damage. A building assigned to Seismic Design Category D, E or F that has sustained disproportionate earthquake damage shall be subject to the requirements for buildings with substantial structural damage to vertical elements of the lateral force-resisting system.))~~

**[S] 502.2 Structural.** *Additions to existing buildings* shall comply with Section 303.3.

**502.3 Smoke alarms in existing portions of a building.** Where an *addition* is made to a building or structure of a Group R or I-1 occupancy, the *existing building* shall be provided with smoke alarms in accordance with Section 1103.8 of the *International Fire Code*.

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\*\* **502.4 Carbon monoxide alarms in existing portions of a building.** Where an *addition* is made to a building or structure of Group I-1, I-2, I-4 or R occupancy, the existing building shall be provided with carbon monoxide alarms in accordance with Section 1103.9 of the *International Fire Code* or Section R315 of the *International Residential Code*, as applicable.

### Exceptions:

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of buildings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of porches or decks.
2. Installation, alteration or *repairs* of plumbing or mechanical systems, other than fuel-burning appliances.

**[S] 502.5 Addition of dwelling units.** Automatic sprinkler systems are required when new dwelling units are added to buildings according to Items 1 through 5 below. This provision is permitted to be used to add one unit after October 29, 1990.

1. One unit is permitted to be added to a residential or commercial building without an automatic sprinkler system unless sprinklers are otherwise required by this section. If more than one unit is added, the new units shall be equipped with a sprinkler system.
2. In buildings that do not comply with the provisions of this code for number of stories, allowable area, height or type of construction before the unit is added, an automatic sprinkler system shall be provided in the new unit. The addition of the new unit shall not be allowed if it increases the nonconformity.
3. In buildings undergoing *substantial alteration*, an automatic sprinkler system shall be installed where required by this code for new construction.
4. One unit is permitted to be added to an existing duplex without an automatic sprinkler system where both of the following conditions are met:
  - 4.1 The project is considered a *substantial alteration* only because of the change of occupancy; and
  - 4.2 The building complies with the requirements for building height and number of stories for a Group R-2 occupancy.
5. Where one unit is added to an existing duplex, sprinklers are required in the new unit and not in the existing units where all of the following conditions are met:
  - 5.1 The existing duplex does not comply with the requirements for building height and story count for a Group R-2 occupancy;
  - 5.2 The project is considered a *substantial alteration* only because of the *change of occupancy*;
  - 5.3 The new unit is constructed as an *addition* to the duplex;
  - 5.4 The new unit is separated from the existing duplex by a fire wall; and
  - 5.5 The *addition* by itself complies with the requirements for a Group R-2 occupancy.

\* **[S] (~~502.8 Additions to Group E facilities.~~** For *additions* to Group E occupancies, storm shelters shall be provided in accordance with Section 1106.1.)

## SECTION 503 ALTERATIONS

**[S] 503.1 General.** Except as provided by Section 302.4, 302.5 or this section, *alterations* to any building or structure shall comply with the requirements of the *International Building Code* for new construction. *Alterations* shall be such that the *existing building* or structure is not less complying with the provisions of the *International Building Code* than the *existing building* or structure was prior to the *alteration*.

### Exceptions:

1. ~~((An))~~ Subject to the approval of the code official, existing stairways shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Sections 1011.3 and 1011.5.2 of the *International Building Code* where the existing space and construction ~~((does))~~ do not allow a reduction in pitch or slope.
2. Handrails otherwise required to comply with Section 1011.11 of the *International Building Code* shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Section 1014.6 of the *International Building Code* regarding full extension of the handrails where such extensions would be hazardous because of plan configuration.
3. Where changes to offices, outpatient clinics or medical offices occur on a multi-tenant floor that contains non-conforming corridors, new tenant walls associated with the tenant change need not meet the standards for one-hour corridor construction, unless the project is considered a *substantial alteration*.
4. Automatic sprinkler systems are required when new dwelling units are added to buildings according to Items 4.1 through 4.6 below. This exception is permitted to be used to add one unit after October 29, 1990.

- 4.1 One unit is permitted to be added to a residential or commercial building without an automatic sprinkler system unless sprinklers are otherwise required by this section. If more than one unit is added, the new units shall be equipped with a sprinkler system.
  - 4.2 In buildings that do not comply with the provisions of this code for number of stories, allowable area, height or type of construction before the unit is added, an automatic sprinkler system shall be provided in the new unit. The addition of the new unit shall not be allowed if it increases the nonconformity.
  - 4.3 In buildings undergoing *substantial alteration*, an automatic sprinkler system shall be installed where required by this code for new construction.
  - 4.4 One unit is permitted to be added to an existing duplex without an automatic sprinkler system where both of the following conditions are met:
    - 4.4.1 The project is considered a *substantial alteration* only because of the *change of occupancy*; and
    - 4.4.2 The building complies with the requirements for building height and number of stories for a Group R-2 occupancy.
  - 4.5 Where one unit is added to an existing duplex, sprinklers are required in the new unit and not in the existing units where all of the following conditions are met:
    - 4.5.1 The existing duplex does not comply with the requirements for building height and story count for a Group R-2 occupancy;
    - 4.5.2 The project is considered a *substantial alteration* only because of the *change of occupancy*;
    - 4.5.3 The new unit is constructed as an *addition* to the duplex;
    - 4.5.4 The new unit is separated from the existing duplex by a fire wall; and
    - 4.5.5 The addition by itself complies with the requirements for a Group R-2 occupancy.
  - 4.6 A sprinkler system is not required when a Group U occupancy that is accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy is converted to a dwelling unit.
5. Ceilings in basements are permitted to project to within 6 feet 8 inches (2032 mm) of the finished floor, and beams, girders, ducts or other obstructions are permitted to project to within 6 feet 4 inches (1931 mm) of the finished floor.
6. Ceiling height in buildings in existence prior to October 17, 1979, shall be permitted to comply with rules promulgated by the code official.
- ((3)) 7. Where provided in below-grade transportation stations, existing and new escalators shall be permitted to have a clear width of no less than 32 inches (815 mm).

**[S] 503.2 Structural.** Alterations to existing buildings and structures shall comply with Section 303.1.

~~[S] (([BS] 503.5 Seismic Design Category F. Where the *work area* exceeds 50 percent of the building area, and where the building is assigned to Seismic Design Category F, the structure of the altered building shall meet the requirements of Sections 1609 and 1613 of the *International Building Code*. Reduced seismic forces shall be permitted.))~~

~~[S] (([BS] 503.6 Bracing for unreinforced masonry parapets on reroofing. Where the intended *alteration* requires a permit for reroofing and involves removal of roofing materials from more than 25 percent of the roof area of a building assigned to Seismic Design Category D, E or F that has parapets constructed of unreinforced masonry, the work shall include installation of parapet bracing to resist out-of-plane seismic forces, unless an evaluation demonstrates compliance of such items. Reduced seismic forces shall be permitted.))~~

~~[S] (([BS] 503.7 Anchorage for concrete and reinforced masonry walls. Where the *work area* exceeds 50 percent of the building area, the building is assigned to Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F and the building's structural system includes concrete or reinforced masonry walls with a flexible roof diaphragm, the *alteration* work shall include installation of wall anchors at the roof line, unless an evaluation demonstrates compliance of existing wall anchorage. Use of reduced seismic forces shall be permitted.))~~

~~[S] (([BS] 503.9 Bracing for unreinforced masonry parapets in major alterations. Where the *work area* exceeds 50 percent of the building area, and where the building is assigned to Seismic Design Category C, D, E or F, parapets constructed of unreinforced masonry shall have bracing installed as needed to resist out-of-plane seismic forces, unless an evaluation demonstrates compliance of such items. Reduced seismic forces shall be permitted.))~~

~~[S] (([BS] 503.11 Substantial structural alteration. Where the *work area* exceeds 50 percent of the building area and where work involves a *substantial structural alteration*, the lateral load resisting system of the altered building shall satisfy the requirements of Sections 1609 and 1613 of the *International Building Code*. Reduced seismic forces shall be permitted.~~

**Exceptions:**

- 1. ~~Buildings of Group R occupancy with not more than five dwelling or sleeping units used solely for residential purposes that are altered based on the conventional light-frame construction methods of the *International Building Code* or in compliance with the provisions of the *International Residential Code*.~~

2. Where the intended *alteration* involves only the lowest story of a building, only the lateral load-resisting components in and below that story need comply with this section.)

[S] (~~([BS])~~ **503.12 Roof diaphragms resisting wind loads in high wind regions.** Where the intended *alteration* requires a permit for reroofing and involves removal of roofing materials from more than 50 percent of the roof diaphragm of a building or section of a building located where the ultimate design wind speed is greater than 115 mph (51 m/s) in accordance with Figure 1609.3(1) of the *International Building Code* or in a special wind region as defined in Section 1609 of the *International Building Code*, roof diaphragms, connections of the roof diaphragm to roof framing members, and roof-to-wall connections shall be evaluated for the wind loads specified in Section 1609 of the *International Building Code*, including wind uplift. If the diaphragms and connections in their current condition are not capable of resisting 75 percent of those wind loads, they shall be replaced or strengthened in accordance with the loads specified in Section 1609 of the *International Building Code*.)

\* [S] (~~(503.14)~~ **503.3 Smoke alarms.** Individual sleeping units and individual dwelling units in Group R and I-1 occupancies shall be provided with smoke alarms in accordance with Section 1103.8 of the *International Fire Code*.)

[S] (~~(503.15)~~ **503.4 Carbon monoxide alarms.** Carbon monoxide alarms shall be provided to protect sleeping units and dwelling units in Group I-1, I-2, I-4 and R occupancies in accordance with Section 1103.9 of the *International Fire Code*.)

**Exceptions:**

1. Work involving the exterior surfaces of buildings, such as the replacement of roofing or siding, the addition or replacement of windows or doors, or the addition of porches or decks.
2. Installation, alteration or *repairs* of plumbing or mechanical systems, other than fuel-burning appliances.

[S] (~~(503.16)~~ **503.5 Refuge areas.** Where *alterations* affect the configuration of an area utilized as a refuge area, the capacity of the refuge area shall not be reduced below that required in Sections (~~(503.16.1)~~) 503.5.1 through (~~(503.16.3)~~) 503.5.3.)

[S] (~~(503.16.1)~~ **503.5.1 Smoke compartments.** In Group I-2 and I-3 occupancies, the required capacity of the refuge areas for smoke compartments in accordance with Sections 407.5.1 and 408.6.2 of the *International Building Code* shall be maintained.)

[S] (~~(503.16.2)~~ **503.5.2 Ambulatory care.** In ambulatory care facilities required to be separated by Section 422.2 of the *International Building Code*, the required capacity of the refuge areas for smoke compartments in accordance with Section 422.3.2 of the *International Building Code* shall be maintained.)

[S] (~~(503.16.3)~~ **503.5.3 Horizontal exits.** The required capacity of the refuge area for horizontal exits in accordance with Section 1026.4 of the *International Building Code* shall be maintained.)

**SECTION 504  
FIRE ESCAPES**

[S] **504.1 Where permitted.** Fire escapes that are altered shall (~~(be permitted only as provided for in Sections 504.1.1 through 504.1.4)~~) comply with this section. Existing fire escapes shall continue to be accepted as a component in the means of egress in existing buildings only.

~~((504.1.1 New buildings. Fire escapes shall not constitute any part of the required means of egress in new buildings.~~

~~**504.1.2 Existing fire escapes.** Existing fire escapes shall continue to be accepted as a component in the means of egress in existing buildings only.~~

~~**504.1.3 New fire escapes.** New fire escapes for existing buildings shall be permitted only where exterior stairways cannot be utilized because of lot lines limiting stairway size or because of sidewalks, alleys or roads at grade level. New fire escapes shall not incorporate ladders or access by windows.~~

~~**504.1.4 Limitations.** Fire escapes shall comply with this section and shall not constitute more than 50 percent of the required number of exits nor more than 50 percent of the required exit capacity.)~~

[S] **504.2 Location.** Where located on the front of the building and where projecting beyond the building line, the lowest landing shall be not less than (~~(7 feet (2134 mm))~~) 8 feet (2438 mm) or more than 12 feet (3658 mm) above grade, and shall be equipped with a counterbalanced stairway to the street. In alleyways and thoroughfares less than 30 feet (9144 mm) wide, the clearance under the lowest landing shall be not less than 12 feet (3658 mm).

[S] **504.3 Construction.** The fire escape shall be designed to support a live load of 100 pounds per square foot (4788 Pa) and shall be constructed of steel or other *approved noncombustible materials*. (~~(Fire escapes constructed of wood not less than nominal 2 inches (51 mm) thick are permitted on buildings of Type V construction. Walkways and railings located over or supported by combustible roofs in buildings of Type III and IV construction are permitted to be of wood not less than nominal 2 inches (51 mm) thick.)~~)

**504.4 Dimensions.** Stairways shall be not less than 22 inches (559 mm) wide with risers not more than, and treads not less than, 8 inches (203 mm) and landings at the foot of stairways not less than 40 inches (1016 mm) wide by 36 inches (914 mm) long, located not more than 8 inches (203 mm) below the door.

**504.5 Opening protectives.** Doors and windows within 10 feet (3048 mm) of fire escape stairways shall be protected with 3/4-hour opening protectives.

**Exception:** Opening protection shall not be required in buildings equipped throughout with an *approved* automatic sprinkler system.

## SECTION 505 WINDOWS AND EMERGENCY ESCAPE OPENINGS

**505.1 Replacement glass.** The installation or replacement of glass shall be as required for new installations.

**505.2 Replacement window opening control devices.** In Group R-2 or R-3 buildings containing dwelling units, ~~((and one and two family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the *International Residential Code*))~~ window opening control devices complying with ASTM F2090 shall be installed where an existing window is replaced and where all of the following apply to the replacement window:

1. The window is operable.
2. The window replacement includes replacement of the sash and the frame.
3. One of the following applies:
  - 3.1. In Group R-2 or R-3 buildings containing dwelling units, the top of the sill of the window opening is at a height less than 36 inches (915 mm) above the finished floor.
  - ~~((3.2. In one and two family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the *International Residential Code*, the top of the sill of the window opening is at a height less than 24 inches (610 mm) above the finished floor.))~~
4. The window will permit openings that will allow passage of a 4-inch-diameter (102 mm) sphere when the window is in its largest opened position.
5. The vertical distance from the top of the sill of the window opening to the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the building, is greater than 72 inches (1829 mm).

The window opening control device, after operation to release the control device allowing the window to fully open, shall not reduce the minimum net clear opening area of the window unit to less than the area required by Section 1030.2 of the *International Building Code*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Operable windows where the top of the sill of the window opening is located more than 75 feet (22 860 mm) above the finished grade or other surface below, on the exterior of the room, space or building, and that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F2006.
2. Operable windows with openings that are provided with window fall prevention devices that comply with ASTM F2090.

**[S] 505.3 Replacement window emergency escape and rescue openings.** Where windows are required to provide *emergency escape* and *rescue openings* in Group R-2 and R-3 occupancies ~~((and one and two family dwellings and townhouses regulated by the *International Residential Code*))~~ replacement windows shall be exempt from the requirements of Sections 1030.2, 1030.3 and 1030.4 of the *International Building Code* and Sections R310.2.1, R310.2.2 and R310.2.3 of the *International Residential Code*, provided that the replacement window meets the following conditions:

1. The replacement window is the manufacturer's largest standard size window that will fit within the existing frame or existing rough opening. The replacement window shall be permitted to be of the same operating style as the existing window or a style that provides for an equal or greater window opening area than the existing window.
2. The replacement of the window is not part of a *change of occupancy*.

Window opening control devices complying with ASTM F2090 shall be permitted for use on windows required to provide emergency escape and rescue openings.

**[S] 505.4 Emergency escape and rescue openings.** Emergency escape and rescue openings shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys or tools. Bars, grilles, grates or similar devices are permitted to be placed over emergency escape and rescue openings provided that the minimum net clear opening size complies with the code that was in effect at the time of construction and such devices shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the escape and rescue opening. Where such bars, grilles, grates or similar devices are installed, they shall not reduce the net clear opening of the emergency escape and rescue openings. ~~((Smoke alarms shall be installed in accordance with Section 907.2.10 of the *International Building Code* regardless of the valuation of the alteration.))~~

**SECTION 506  
CHANGE OF OCCUPANCY**

[S] **506.1 Compliance.** A *change of occupancy* shall not be made in any building or portion thereof unless that building is made to comply with the requirements of the *International Building Code* for the use or occupancy. Changes of occupancy in a building or portion thereof shall be such that the *existing building* is not less complying with the provisions of ~~((this code))~~ the *International Building Code* than the *existing building* or structure was prior to the change. Subject to the approval of the *code official*, changes of occupancy shall be permitted without complying with all of the requirements of this code for the new occupancy, provided that the new occupancy is less hazardous, based on life and fire risk, than the existing occupancy.

**Note:** Conditions arising after the adoption of this code, and conditions not legally in existence at the time of adoption of this code may trigger requirements based on *International Fire Code* Section 102.1, including building upgrades.

**Exceptions:**

1. The building need not be made to comply with Chapter 16 of the *International Building Code* unless required by Section ~~((506.4))~~ 303.2.
2. Subject to the approval of the *code official*, an automatic sprinkler system is not required in dwelling units according to Items 2.1 through 2.6 below. This exception is permitted to be used for the change in occupancy for one dwelling unit after October 29, 1990.
  - 2.1 The occupancy of one unit is permitted to be changed to a dwelling unit without an automatic sprinkler system unless sprinklers are otherwise required by this chapter. If more than one unit is changed, the new units shall be equipped with a sprinkler system.
  - 2.2 In buildings that do not comply with the provisions of this code for number of stories, allowable area, height or type of construction before the occupancy of the unit is changed, an automatic sprinkler system shall be provided in the new unit. The *change of occupancy* shall not be allowed if it increases the nonconformity.
  - 2.3 In buildings undergoing *substantial alteration*, an automatic sprinkler system shall be installed where required by this code for new construction.
  - 2.4 The occupancy of one unit is permitted to be changed to a dwelling unit in an existing duplex without an automatic sprinkler system where both of the following conditions are met:
    - 2.4.1 The project is considered a *substantial alteration* only because of the *change of occupancy*; and
    - 2.4.2 The building complies with the requirements for building height and number of stories for a Group R-2 occupancy.
  - 2.5 Where the occupancy of one unit is changed to a dwelling unit in an existing duplex, sprinklers are required in the new unit and not in the existing units where all of the following conditions are met:
    - 2.5.1 The existing duplex does not comply with the requirements for building height and story count for a Group R-2 occupancy;
    - 2.5.2 The project is considered a *substantial alteration* only because of the *change of occupancy*;
    - 2.5.3 The new unit is constructed as an *addition* to the duplex;
    - 2.5.4 The new unit is separated from the existing duplex by a fire wall; and
    - 2.5.5 The addition by itself complies with the requirements for a Group R-2 occupancy.
  - 2.6 A sprinkler system is not required when a Group U occupancy that is accessory to a Group R-3 occupancy is converted to a dwelling unit.

[S] **506.1.1 Change in the ~~((character of))~~ group or use.** A change of occupancy with no *change of occupancy* classification shall not be made to any structure that will subject the structure to any special provisions of the applicable *International Codes*, without approval of the *code official*. Compliance shall be only as necessary to meet the specific provisions and is not intended to require the entire building be brought into compliance.

**Note:** The following illustrate how *change of occupancy* is interpreted:

- Change in classification is a change in the letter designation. An example is a change from B occupancy to R occupancy.
- Change in occupancy group is change in the number designation within an occupancy classification. An example is a change from group R-1 occupancy to R-2 occupancy.
- Change of use is a change in the subcategory within the occupancy group. An example is a change from R-2 apartment to R-2 boarding house.

[S] ~~((506.2 Certificate of occupancy. A certificate of occupancy shall be issued where it has been determined that the requirements for the new occupancy classification have been met.))~~

**[S] 506.2 Conversion to residential occupancy.** Upon conversion of an *existing building*, or portion thereof, to residential occupancy, *International Building Code* Sections 420, 1203 and 2902 shall apply, and the elements of the dwelling unit envelope that are altered shall comply with the sound transmission control requirements of *International Building Code* Section 1207.

**[S] 506.3 Stairways.** ~~((An))~~ Subject to the approval of the *code official*, existing stairways shall not be required to comply with the requirements of Section 1011 of the *International Building Code* where the existing space and construction does not allow a reduction in pitch or slope.

**[S] 506.4 Structural.** Any building undergoing a *change of occupancy* that results in the building being reclassified to a higher risk category shall satisfy the requirements of ~~((this section))~~ Section 303.2.

~~((506.4.1 Live loads.~~ Structural elements carrying tributary live loads from an area with a *change of occupancy* shall satisfy the requirements of Section 1607 of the *International Building Code*. Design live loads for areas of new occupancy shall be based on Section 1607 of the *International Building Code*. Design live loads for other areas shall be permitted to use previously approved design live loads.

**Exception:** Structural elements whose demand capacity ratio considering the *change of occupancy* is not more than 5 percent greater than the demand capacity ratio based on previously approved live loads need not comply with this section.

~~506.4.2 Snow and wind loads.~~ Where a change of occupancy results in a structure being assigned to a higher risk category, the structure shall satisfy the requirements of Sections 1608 and 1609 of the *International Building Code* for the new risk category.

**Exception:** Where the area of the new occupancy is less than 10 percent of the building area, compliance with this section is not required. The cumulative effect of occupancy changes over time shall be considered.

~~506.4.4 Access to Risk Category IV.~~ Any structure that provides operational access to an adjacent structure assigned to Risk Category IV as the result of a *change of occupancy* shall itself satisfy the requirements of Sections 1608, 1609 and 1613 of the *International Building Code*. For compliance with Section 1613, *International Building Code* level seismic forces shall be used. Where operational access to the Risk Category IV structure is less than 10 feet (3048 mm) from either an interior lot line or from another structure, access protection from potential falling debris shall be provided.)

**[S] 506.5 Substantial alterations.** *Changes of occupancy* that are *substantial alterations* shall comply with Section 307.

**[S] SECTION 507  
((HISTORIC BUILDINGS)) LANDMARKS**

**507.1 ((Historic)) Landmark buildings.** ((The provisions of this code that require improvements relative to a building's existing condition or, in the case of *repairs*, that require improvements relative to a building's predamage condition, shall not be mandatory for *historic buildings* unless specifically required by this section.)) Landmark buildings shall comply with Section 306.

~~((507.2 Life safety hazards.~~ The provisions of this code shall apply to *historic buildings* judged by the code official to constitute a distinct life safety hazard.

~~[BS] 507.3 Flood hazard areas.~~ Within flood *hazard areas* established in accordance with Section 1612.3 of the *International Building Code*, or Section R322 of the *International Residential Code*, as applicable, where the work proposed constitutes *substantial improvement*, the building shall be brought into compliance with Section 1612 of the *International Building Code*, or Section R322 of the *International Residential Code*, as applicable.

**Exception:** *Historic buildings* meeting any of the following criteria need not be brought into compliance:

1. Listed or preliminarily determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.
2. Determined by the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Interior as contributing to the historical significance of a registered historic district or a district preliminarily determined to qualify as an historic district.
3. Designated as historic under a state or local historic preservation program that is *approved* by the Department of Interior.

~~[BS] 507.4 Structural.~~ Historic buildings shall comply with the applicable structural provisions in this chapter.

**Exceptions:**

1. The *code official* shall be authorized to accept existing floors and existing live loads and to approve operational controls that limit the live load on any floor.
2. Repair of *substantial structural damage* is not required to comply with Sections 405.2.3, and 405.2.4. *Substantial structural damage* shall be repaired in accordance with Section 405.2.1.)

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