

NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE BUILDING CODE PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Proposed amendment submitted by:

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Applicable code: IBC-09

Current code language (including section numbers):

IBC [P] 2902.2 Separate facilities. Where plumbing fixtures are required, separate facilities shall be provided for each sex.

Exceptions:

1. Separate facilities shall not be required for *dwelling units* and *sleeping units*.
2. Separate facilities shall not be required in structures or tenant spaces with a total *occupant load*, including both employees and customers, of 15 or less.
3. Separate facilities shall not be required in mercantile occupancies in which the maximum *occupant load* is 50 or less.
4. Separate facilities shall not be required in assembly occupancies that serve food with a total *occupant load*, including both employees and customers, of less than 25. (NH amendment)

Proposed code language:

IBC [P] 2902.2 Separate facilities. Where plumbing fixtures are required, separate facilities shall be provided for each sex. Single occupancy toilets are permitted to be unisex provided the total number of water closets complies with Table 2902.1.

No change to exceptions

Reason/justification:

There has been considerable news lately about the use of toilet rooms. Much of this is around the use of gender specific, multiple occupancy toilet rooms. Also, in my capacity as a third-party plans reviewer, I have been presented various projects where architects/owners prefer to have single occupancy, unisex facilities. This is often in medical facilities, but also in smaller business and other commercial facilities where the exceptions do not apply. The proposed additional language would permit this and solve numerous issues while still maintaining the code intent of separating male and female toilet users (refer to the code commentary).

The intent of referencing the tables is to assure the total number of water closets required is maintained. A single unisex toilet cannot count as both male and female. If the table required one male and one female water closet, two unisex toilets would be required. If the table required three male and three female water closets, six unisex toilets would be required or two unisex toilets and two, multi-occupancy, male and female toilet rooms with two water closets in each, or some other combination.

The compliance with water closets only (not lavatories) is due to in some occupancies the number of required lavatories exceeds the number of water closets. While this may make sense in multi-occupancy toilet rooms, it does not in single occupancy toilets where more than one lavatory would be excessive.

Code Board Action:

Date: 13 April 2018

Approved: Approved with modifications: Not approved:

Modifications:

Shawn G. Bergeron Sr, Chairman

