

# Selected Sections of the Wisconsin Enrolled Commercial Building Code

Relating to the Scope of the Commercial Code and  
Buildings that are Exempt for Agricultural Use

**Note: This is not a complete text of the code... consult a design professional or the State of Wisconsin if you are uncertain about the application of this code to your project.**

Part AE — Chapter Comm 61, Administration and Enforcement

SUBCHAPTER I

SCOPE AND APPLICATION

## **Comm 61.01 Purpose of code.**

Pursuant to various statutory provisions under subch. I of ch. 101, Stats., the purpose of this code is to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public and employees by establishing minimum standards for the design, construction, maintenance and inspection of public buildings, including multifamily dwellings, and places of employment.

## **Comm 61.02 Scope.**

(1) Except as provided in subs. (2) and (3), this code applies to all public buildings and places of employment.

Note: Under s. 101.01 (11), Stats., “place of employment” includes every place, whether indoors or out or underground and the premises appurtenant thereto where either temporarily or permanently any industry, trade or business is carried on, or where any process or operation, directly or indirectly related to any industry, trade or business, is carried on, and where any person is, directly or indirectly, employed by another for direct or indirect gain or profit, but does not include any place where persons are employed in private domestic service which does not involve the use of mechanical power or in farming. “Farming” includes those activities specified in s. 102.04 (3), and also includes the transportation of farm products, supplies or equipment directly to the farm by the operator of said farm or employees for use thereon, if such activities are directly or indirectly for the purpose of producing commodities for market, or as an accessory to such production. When used with relation to building codes, “place of employment” does not include an adult family home, as defined in s. 50.01 (1), or, except for the purposes of s. 101.11, a previously constructed building used as a community-based residential facility, as defined in s. 50.01 (1g), which serves 20 or fewer residents who are not related to the operator or administrator.

Under s. 101.01 (12), Stats., “public building” means any structure, including exterior parts of such building, such as a porch, exterior platform or steps providing means of ingress or egress, used in whole or in part as a place of resort, assemblage, lodging, trade, traffic, occupancy, or use by the public or by 3 or more tenants. When used in relation to building codes, “public building” does not include a previously constructed building used as a community-based residential facility as defined in s. 50.01 (1g) which serves 20 or fewer residents who are not related to the operator or administrator or an adult family home, as defined in s. 50.01 (1).

(2) This code does not apply to buildings or situations listed under the exclusions in ss. 101.01 (11) and 101.01(12), Stats., or under the exemptions in s. 101.05, Stats.

Note: Section 102.04 (3), Stats., as referenced in s. 101.01 (11), Stats., reads as follows: **“As used in this chapter ‘farming’ means the operation of farm premises owned or rented by the operator. ‘Farm premises’ means areas used for operations herein set forth, but does not include other areas, greenhouses or other similar structures unless used principally for the production of food and farm plants. ‘Farmer’ means any person engaged in farming as defined. Operation of farm premises shall be deemed to be the planting and cultivating of the soil thereof; the raising and harvesting of agricultural, horticultural or arboricultural crops thereon; the raising, breeding, tending, training and management of livestock, bees, poultry, fur-bearing animals, wildlife or aquatic life, or their products, thereon; the processing, drying, packing, packaging, freezing, grading, storing, delivering to storage, to market or to a carrier for transportation to market, distributing directly to consumers or marketing any of the above-named commodities, substantially all of which have been planted or produced thereon; the clearing of such premises and the salvaging of timber and management and use of wood lots thereon, but not including logging, lumbering or woodcutting operations unless conducted as an accessory to other farming operations; the managing, conserving, improving and maintaining of such premises or the tools, equipment and improvements thereon and the exchange of labor, services or the exchange of use of equipment with other farmers in pursuing such activities. The operation for not to exceed 30 days during any calendar year, by any person deriving the person’s principal income from farming, of farm machinery in performing farming services for other farmers for a consideration other than exchange of labor shall be deemed farming. Operation of such premises shall be deemed to include also any other activities commonly considered to be farming whether conducted on or off such premises by the farm operator.”**

Note: Section 101.05, Stats., reads as follows: “Exempt buildings and projects.

**No building code adopted by the department under this chapter shall affect buildings located on research or laboratory farms of public universities or other state institutions and used primarily for housing livestock or other agricultural purposes.**

(3) This code does not apply to all of the following types of buildings, structures or situations:

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(e) Buildings and structures that are on a farm premises and used exclusively for farming purposes, provided any use of the building or structure by the public consists only of consumers directly receiving farm commodities, substantially all of which have been planted or produced on the farm premises. In this application, “substantially all” means at least 90 percent of the commodities were planted or produced on the farm premises.

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