

Section 501 General

501.1 Scope. The provisions of this chapter control the height and area of structures hereafter erected and *additions* to existing structures.

Chapter 5 is applicable to all new buildings as well as any existing structures.

[F] 501.2 Address identification. New and existing buildings shall be provided with approved address identification. The address identification shall be legible and placed

in a position that is visible from the street or road fronting the property. Address identification characters shall contrast with their background. Address numbers shall

be Arabic numbers or alphabetical letters. Numbers shall not be spelled out. Each character shall be a minimum of 4 inches (102 mm) high with a minimum stroke width

of ½ inch (12.7 mm). Where required by the fire code official, address identification shall be provided in additional approved location to facilitate emergency response.

Where access is by means of a private road and the building address cannot be viewed from the public way, a monument, pole or other approved sign or means shall be

used to identify the structure. Address identification shall be maintained.

identifying buildings, both new and existing, during an emergency (i.e., fire department, ambulances, medical, police) is greatly aided by the proper placement of address

identification. The size and color criteria are intended to aid visibility from the street. When several structures are remotely located on a site or set back into a property,

or at locations where multiple addresses are provided (e.g., strip malls) where the address is not readily visible from the public way, an approved method of identification

will also be required, which will have characters posted in a location that will help in an emergency.

The fire code official has the authority to require that address numbers

be located in all locations deemed necessary to properly identify the building by street address.

The primary concern is for emergency personnel to locate

the building without going through a lengthy search procedure. In the case of a strip mall, identification would be provided for the backs of buildings that face alleys or

roads since the emergency response unit may often be directed to the back entrance. The address numbers must be maintained in a readily visible condition to provide

for continuous identification. This would include the repainting of faded numbers or the trimming of trees or other vegetation that may be obscuring visibility of the address.

the building without going through a lengthy search procedure. In the case of a strip mall, identification would be provided for the backs of buildings that face alleys or roads since the emergency response may often be directed to the back entrance. The address numbers must be maintained in a readily visible condition to provide for continuous identification. This would include the repainting of faded numbers or the trimming of trees or other vegetation that may be obscuring visibility of the address.

503.1 **General.** Unless otherwise specifically modified in Chapter 4 and this chapter, *building height*, number of stories and *building area* shall not exceed the limits specified in Sections 504 and 506 based on the type of construction as determined by Section 602 and the occupancies as determined by Section 302 except as modified hereafter. *Building height*, number of stories and *building area* provisions shall be applied independently. Each portion of a building separated

2015 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING
CODE COMMENTARY

SECTION
502
DEFINITIONS

502.1 **Definitions.** The following terms are defined in Chapter 2:

AREA,

BUILDING,

BASEMENT,

EQUIPMENT

PLATFORM,

GRADE

PLANE,

HEIGHT,

BUILDING,

MEZZANINE.

This section lists terms that are specifically associated with the subject matter of this chapter. It is important to emphasize that these terms are not exclusively related to this chapter but may or may not also be applicable where the term is used elsewhere in the code. For example, the defined term "basement" in most portions of the code applies to stories that do not meet the definition of a story above grade. However, for the application of flood plain regulations in Section 1612, a different definition of basement applies.

Definitions of terms can help in the understanding and application of the code requirements. The purpose for including a list within this chapter is to provide more convenient access to terms which may have a specific or limited application within this chapter. For the complete definition and associated commentary, refer back to Section 202. Terms that are italicized provide a visual identification throughout the code that a definition exists for that term. The use and application of all defined terms are set forth in Section 201.

SECTION
503
GENERAL BUILDING HEIGHT
AND
AREA
LIMITATIONS