

Changes to Barrier-Free Design Section of Ontario Building Code

Effective January 1, 2020.

Section 3.8. – Accessibility

There have been several changes within Section 3.8. of the Building Code that provide clarification and enhance accessibility and safety. These include the following:

Article 3.8.1.5.(1) - Controls

New

This Sentence has been amended regarding location and operation of accessible controls related to building services and safety devices.

Article 3.8.3.3. - Doorways and Doors

Reorganization

Requirements related to power door operators in Sentence (16) and (17) have been clarified and integrated into one sentence.

Article 3.8.3.8. - Water Closet Stall

Clarification

Design requirements for water closet stalls have been revised for clarification.

Article 3.8.3.9. - Water Closets

New

This Article has been revised for clarification and updated to add location and operational criteria for flush controls where there is no automatic flush.

Article 3.8.3.10. - Urinals

Clarification

This Article has been revised for clarification and some duplications related to controls have been removed.

Article 3.8.3.11. - Lavatories

Clarification

This Article has been revised to provide additional clarification on accessibility requirements for lavatories, mirrors and washroom accessories.

Article 3.8.3.12. - Universal Washrooms

Clarification

A change has been made to clarify the requirement for power door operators and self-closing devices in universal washrooms.

Article 3.8.3.13. - Showers and Bathtubs

New

This Article was revised to clarify and enhance accessibility and safety for showers and bathtubs including requirements for grab bars, clear floor spaces, shower heads and faucets, and individual bathtub requirements in some institutional occupancies.

Source: [Ontario Building Code Changes 2020 Summary](#) ¹

Link: [Ontario Building Code ON Reg. 332/12](#) ² (See Section 3.8 for Barrier-Free Design)

¹ <https://www.ontario.ca/document/changes-2012-building-code/part-3-fire-protection-occupant-safety-and-accessibility#section-27>

² <https://www.ontario.ca/laws/regulation/120332>