

MANITOBA FARM BUILDING CODE

- The new Farm Building Code is based on the Manitoba Building Code and classifies farm buildings (not dwellings) as light- or medium-industrial occupancies.
- The new Farm Building Code includes the following requirements:
 - attic spaces must have fire stops every 300 square metres,
 - fire alarm systems are to be installed in all farm buildings covered under the code,
 - travel distance to an exit must be less than 30 metres in all buildings, and
 - all new buildings and major renovations must be certified by a structural engineer.
- Economic losses in farm building fires are severe and are proportionally higher than fires in urban areas. For example, in the ten years spanning 1998 to 2007, the financial loss due to fires involving farm buildings was approximately \$98.9 million.
- Fires on farms pose a special threat because they are widely dispersed geographically and are often at a distance from the local fire department.
- Before these changes, the Buildings and Mobile Homes Act excluded all farm buildings, with the exception of dwellings, from the requirements of the Manitoba Building Code. The changes mean all farm buildings more than 600 square metres, built after the legislation takes effect Nov. 1, must comply with the Farm Building Code.
- Farm building construction codes have been adopted by B.C., Ontario, Nova Scotia, Saskatchewan and the Yukon.