

**CHILD CARE FACILITIES**

In December 2022, the Province of Saskatchewan published **Ministerial Interpretation – NBC 2015-001 Major Occupancy Classification of Child Care Services Spaces** outlining the *National Building Code* (NBC) requirements that apply to child care facilities. The ministerial interpretation outlines:

The five types of homes and centres that are regulated by The Child Care Act, 2014 and The Child Care Regulations are:

- Child Care Centres (extended-hours centres or full-time centres),
- Teen Student Support Centres (extended-hours centres or full-time centres),
- Family Child Care Homes (licensed or unlicensed),
- Group Family Child Care Homes, and
- Teen Student Support Family Child Care Homes

Only the above five types of homes and centres may be classified under the NBC 2015 with the following requirements:

Child care spaces in Saskatchewan may be considered as assembly occupancies or residential occupancies dependent upon the type of building they are located in and the license category that would be applicable.

Child Care Centres or Teen Student Support Centres may be classified as a Division B, **Group A, Division 2 assembly occupancy** under the provisions of the NBC 2015.

Family Child Care Homes, Group Family Child Care Homes, or a Teen Student Support Family Child Care Home, located in a dwelling unit that is the principal residence of the licensee, may be classified as a Division B, **Group C residential occupancy** under the provisions of the NBC 2015

### When Are Building Permits Required?

A building permit is required in the following cases:

1. A new child care facility;
2. Alterations to an existing child care facility including
  - Increasing the area the facility occupies,
  - Increasing the approved occupant load of the facility to more than 12 or more than 40 and/or
  - when construction will take place

If construction will not occur, the occupancy of the building will not change, and a child care facility simply moves into an area in an existing school or church, a building permit will not be required. Please note a Development Permit may be required for these scenarios. For further information on the City of Saskatoon's Zoning Bylaw and Development Permits, please contact Development Review at 306-975-2645 or [development.services@saskatoon.ca](mailto:development.services@saskatoon.ca).

### Residential Occupancies

Where overnight (24 hour) care is not provided, a building permit is required if the occupant load exceeds 12 and a permit has not been previously issued for an occupant load exceeding 12. Where overnight care is provided, refer to the Alternative Family Care Home handouts for the requirements.

**CHILD CARE FACILITIES****Other Occupancies, such as Office Buildings or Strip Malls**

All new child care facilities will require a building permit. A building permit will be required for facility license renewals if:

- the occupant load increases and will now exceed 12,
- the area of the daycare or pre-school increases, or
- the occupant load exceeds 40 and no permit has been previously issued for an occupant load exceeding 40.

**NOTE:** The term “renewal” means a renewal of license issued by the Corporate Revenue Department. This is not intended to mean a renewal of building permit. Once a building permit is issued, no building permit renewals are required.

**Additional NBC considerations when designing Child Care Facility.****Group A, Division 2 assembly occupancy NBC considerations:**

- Fire separations between storeys and when adjacent to other suites or occupancies in the same building,
- code-conforming exits and travel distances,
- a single or 2 stage fire alarm system if occupant load is over 40,
- smoke alarms in sleeping rooms if a fire alarm system is not required,
- restricted flame-spread ratings on interior finishes,
- emergency lighting,
- spatial separations,
- fire department access,
- ventilation,
- washrooms (at least 1 water closet for each 30 males and 1 for each 25 females),
- barrier-free access, and
- professional design.

Requirements that may or may not apply include:

- a sprinkler system conforming to NFPA 13, and
- service rooms enclosed by a fire separation.

**Group C residential occupancy NBC considerations**

- interconnected and hard-wired smoke alarms on every floor level,
- Carbon monoxide alarms in all homes that contain fuel-burning appliances (including furnaces, water heaters and fire places)
- guards and handrails on stairs and around openings,
- at least one means of egress, except when more are required due to building height, travel distance, or shared egress, and
- at least one window (means of escape) in all bedrooms including basement bedrooms.

\*Child care facilities where overnight (24 hour) care is provided with care for not more than 8 children and sleeping accommodation for not more than 10 persons refer to the Alternative Family Care Home handouts for requirements. (Sleeping accommodation is calculated as spaces for residents of the dwelling plus spaces for the children being cared for.)

The above requirements are guidelines only.

Building Standards is available to review your project with your design team. Please call and book an appointment.