

Changes to 2021 Seattle Grading Code, Steam Engineer and Boiler Operator License Law Update, and Seattle Construction Codes Errata



Photo by Tim Durkan



Seattle Department of
Construction & Inspections

LUN Committee
May, 2021

SDCI PURPOSE AND VALUES

Our Purpose

Helping people build a safe, livable, and inclusive Seattle.

Our Values

- Equity
- Respect
- Quality
- Integrity
- Service

SEATTLE CODE UPDATES

- **2021 Seattle Grading Code Update**
- **Steam Engineer and Boiler Operators License Law Update**
- **Seattle Construction Codes Errata**



INTENT OF THE GRADING CODE UPDATE

- The primary intent of this update is to align with the 2021 Seattle Stormwater Code update.
- SDCI provided outreach and public comment opportunities for the Grading Code by presenting the suggested changes to the development community as part of the extensive outreach done for the 2021 Stormwater Code.
- We addressed all comments and incorporated the suggestions for the most impactful changes.

2021 GRADING CODE CHANGES




- Threshold Revisions
- Definition Clarifications
- Exemption Changes



THRESHOLD REVISIONS

22.170.060 – Grading Permit Required (Thresholds)

- **Changed** Land Disturbing Activity from 1 acre to 5,000 square feet
- **Changed** New Plus Replace Hard Surface from 2,000 square feet to 750 square feet
- **Added** extracting groundwater (e.g., dewatering wells for construction or remediation)

	2016 Drainage Review Thresholds	2021 Drainage Review Thresholds	Current Grading Permit Threshold	New Grading Permit Threshold
Land Disturbing Activity Area	750 SF	5,000 SF 	1 acre	5,000 SF 
New Plus Replaced Hard Surface Area	750 SF	750 SF	2,000 SF	750 SF 

DEFINITION CLARIFICATIONS

22.170.050 – Definitions

- **Revised** “Impervious Surface” to “Hard Surface” throughout Grading Code and refer to Stormwater Code for the definition.
- **Revised** “potentially hazardous location” to include any state or federal list or database that indicates potential contamination.

EXEMPTION CHANGES

22.170.060.B – Exemptions

- **Changed** the utility exemption. New installation will not be exempt in ECAs or for new stormwater systems for short plats and subdivision.
- **Removed** exemption for underground storage tank removal/replacement.
- ~~**Revised** exemption for work on railroads. Not applicable if activity triggers Drainage Review per the Stormwater Code.~~

Note: the lined-out revision was contested by the Port of Seattle and BNSF. SDCI, SPU, and the Seattle Attorney's Office concurred with their comment and deleted the revision, as requested

STEAM AND BOILER OPERATOR UPDATE

- Ordinance last updated in 2006
- In 2018 the licensing application and issuance process was moved to the Accela platform, necessitating a rewrite of 6.420.040
- Many editorial changes to update to the current legislative format and switch to gender-neutral language
- SDCI personnel and the Steam License Advisory Board reviewed the ordinance for needed updates
- All updates were approved by the Steam License Advisory Board

STEAM LICENSE ADVISORY BOARD

Representing Licensed Steam Engineers

Terry Chapin (Chair) – Retired Grade I Steam Engineer/Washington State Board of Boiler Rules Chair

Ted Carroll – Grade II Boiler Supervisor - Seattle Public Schools

Representing Owners/Managers

Mick Reeves – Enwave Plant Manager

Kenny Lind – Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Aaron Kessler – Grade II Boiler Supervisor – All Temp Mechanical

Representing the General Public

Christian Dube – Western Washington Stationary Engineers Training Trust

Corey Drury – Port of Seattle

Heath Robinette – IUOE Local 302

SEATTLE CONSTRUCTION CODES ERRATA

This legislation includes adoption of proposed errata for Seattle's construction codes to clarify regulations, adopt amendments consistent with Washington State regulations, and make technical corrections from omissions and errors.

- Provides the correct Plumbing Fixture Table for SBC.
- Provides corrected language in various sections that had errors or omissions.
- Provides corrected section or code references.
- Correctly adopts code language to align with the State.

QUESTIONS?

Micah Chappell

Technical Code Development Manager

[Micah.chappell@seattle.gov](mailto:micah.chappell@seattle.gov)

206-256-5157

Ede Courtenay

SDCI Site Review Program Manager

Ede.Courtenay@seattle.gov

206-733-9679

Matthew Bateman

SDCI Senior Civil Engineer

Matthew.bateman@seattle.gov

206-615-1229

Steve Frazier

Chief Boiler Inspector

Steve.frazier@seattle.gov

206-684-8459

