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Definition of
Greenhouse

CHANGE TYPE: Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY: A definition of greenhouse has been added to the code in order to recognize that the primary characteristic of such a structure is its unique environment for growing plants, and not the structure itself or merely the presence of plants.

2018 CODE: GREENHOUSE. A structure or thermally isolated area of a building that maintains a specialized sunlit environment used for and essential to the cultivation, protection or maintenance of plants.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE: A greenhouse has historically been recognized as a structure intended for the growing of plants. The primary difference between a greenhouse and other structures is that the environment in a greenhouse is specific to this intended use. Although a variety of other activities can occur within a greenhouse, the key issue is the maintenance of a controlled environment within the facility necessary for proper plant growth. A definition of greenhouse has been added to the code in order to recognize that the primary characteristic of such a structure is its unique environment, not the structure itself or merely the presence of plants.

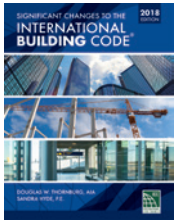
Buildings intended for human habitation are required to provide minimum features such as lighting, ventilation, heating, and cooling that are suitable for the health and welfare of the occupants, and oftentimes plants can coexist in such environments. In a greenhouse, the environment is such that it is maintained exclusively for, and essential to, the aggressive propagation of plants used by commercial growers for plant production. It is acceptable for other activities to be conducted in a greenhouse, such as retail sales, educational research, conservation, education, and assembly use. The occupancy classification of a greenhouse will be determined accordingly. However, in all cases, the environment of the greenhouse must be such that the plants will thrive.



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Greenhouse

The extent of the definition is limited to those structures designed and used specifically for the growing, care, and maintenance of plants. As such, sunrooms, solariums, glass-enclosed walkways, atria, and other types of spaces that permit ample sunlight and prominently feature plants for aesthetic purposes are not considered as greenhouses under the new definition.



This excerpt is taken from *Significant Changes to the International Building Code®*, 2018 Edition. Significant Changes publications take you directly to the most important changes that impact projects. Key changes are identified then followed by in-depth discussion of how the change affects real-world application. Photos, tables and illustrations are included to further clarify application. Available for the IBC, IRC, IFC and IPC/IMC/IFGC, the Significant Changes publications are very useful training and review tools for transitioning to a new code edition.