



North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Health Service Regulation
Construction Section

2705 Mail Service Center • Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-2705
<http://www.ncdhhs.gov/dhsr/>

DRAWING INFORMATION AND COLOR CODE STANDARD
1/2025

In order to reduce plan review turnaround time, the Construction Section created this Drawing Information and Color Code Standard. Please use this Standard when preparing your drawings for submittal. This Standard does not apply to licensed residential facilities with 12 or fewer beds.

Architectural:

1. Provide a completed copy of Appendix B Building Code Summary for new and existing buildings, and any proposed additions.
2. Show a detail of the proposed roof or roof/ceiling assembly in accordance with Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL) requirements.
3. Provide a contextual drawing for the proposed building modification or addition showing the relationship of the project area to the existing building.
4. Provide life-safety drawings at a minimum 1/16-inch = 1 foot scale showing existing and proposed firewalls, fire barriers, fire/smoke barriers, smoke barriers, fire partitions, smoke partitions, occupancy separations, suites of rooms, shafts, suites, exits, horizontal exits, exit signs and fire extinguisher locations.
5. Color code all fire walls, fire barriers, fire/smoke barriers, fire partitions, smoke barriers, smoke partitions, and suite perimeter walls in accordance with the table shown below.
6. Identify all partition types, and show a detail for sealing rated partitions to the underside of the structure above, particularly at corrugated metal decks.
7. Show a detail for sealing and fire stopping penetrations of all walls and floors in accordance with designs from UL or other approved testing and evaluation agency.
8. Provide a separate additional copy of the door schedule drawings.
9. Identify all room functions and/or spaces by name or cross-reference to room numbers on all architectural plans.

Engineering:

1. Provide a narrative at the schematic stage, if applicable, that describes in outline form the proposed mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems.
2. Identify all room functions and/or spaces by name or cross-reference to number on all mechanical, electrical, and plumbing drawings.
3. Show on the mechanical drawings the pressure relationship for each room or space by noting the following information:
 - (+) – Positive
 - (-) – Negative
 - (N) – Neutral
4. Indicate on the mechanical drawings the number of air changes and the number of outside air changes per room.

5. Color code the mechanical drawings to show all exhaust, supply, return, outside air supply, and transfer ducts as follows:
- Pink** Exhaust
 - Green** Supply
 - Blue** Return
 - Yellow** Outside Air Supply/Transfer Duct
6. Color code the mechanical and electrical drawings to show fire dampers, smoke dampers, smoke detectors, and exit signs as follows:
- Red** Fire Dampers, Smoke Detectors
 - Yellow** Smoke Dampers, Exit Signs
7. Color code the electrical drawings to show life-safety, critical, equipment, and normal electrical panel branch circuits and risers as follows:
- Yellow** Life Safety Branch
 - Blue** Critical Branch
 - Red** Equipment Branch
 - Green** Normal Power
8. Color code the architectural, mechanical drawings to show all fire walls, fire barriers, fire/smoke barriers, fire partitions, smoke barriers, smoke partitions, and suite perimeter walls in accordance with the following table:

COLOR	NFPA 101 & NCSBC* TERMINOLOGY	CODE REFERENCE NCSBC (NFPA 101)**	FIRE RESISTANCE RATING	SEPARATION USE
Red	Fire Walls	Section 706	4-hr., 3-hr., 2-hr.	building separations
Pink	Fire Barriers	Section 707 (Section 8.3)	2-hr.	shafts, exits, exit passageways, horizontal exits, incidental use areas, different occupancies, fire areas
Yellow & Pink	Fire/Smoke Barriers	Sections 707 & 710 (Sections 8.3 & 8.5)	1-hr. (Yellow) 2-hr. (Pink)	combination smoke barrier & 2-hr. fire barrier as defined above
Blue	Fire Barriers	Section 707 (Section 8.3)	1-hr.	shafts, exits, exit passageways, incidental use areas, different occupancies, fire areas
Blue	Fire Partitions	Section 709	1-hr.	dwelling unit separations, sleeping units, rated corridors, elevator lobbies
Yellow	Smoke Barriers	Section 710 (Section 8.5)	1-hr.	building smoke compartmenting
Green	Smoke Partition	Sections 711 & 407.3 (Section 18.3.6.2)	Smoke-Tight	smoke-tight corridor walls
Orange	Suite Perimeter Walls	Sections 1014.2.7 & 711 (Section 18.2.5.7.1.2)	Smoke-Tight	suite delineation

*2018 North Carolina State Building Code: Building Code;
National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 101 Life Safety Code 2012 Edition

**NFPA 101 Code References are in parentheses.

9. You may use your own color code standard, but please provide a complete color code key for all colors used on your drawings.