

Chapter 1 Introduction

(Revised August 2024)

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A. Definitions

The following definitions apply throughout the *Technical Standards and Specifications Manual*, unless otherwise noted.

City Council

The governing body of the City of Wilmington, North Carolina.

Design Adjustment Committee (DAC)

Quasi-judicial committee which reviews major deviation requests from the Technical Standards Manual.

Drawings

All drawings, or reproductions thereof, pertaining to the construction of the work, which are approved by the City Engineer for such purpose.

NCDOT Specifications

North Carolina Department of Transportation Division of Highways *Standard Specifications for Roads and Structures*, latest edition.

Standard Details

Drawings, or reproductions thereof, which pertain to the standard method of construction of the work approved by the City Engineer.

B. Executive Summary

The City of Wilmington maintains a set of standards to be used in the construction of infrastructure improvements. The materials, design, and construction specifications contained within this manual are established as minimum improvement standards for the City of Wilmington. These specifications and standards have been compiled by the City of Wilmington's technical staff. These standards have been developed to promote sound land development practices consistent with regulatory requirements.

The purpose of the Technical Standards Manual is to establish guidelines and minimum standards for the design and construction of land development projects, infrastructure improvements, and utility installations within the city limits. The manual will assist engineers, developers, surveyors, contractors, inspectors, and property owners in the best practical design for site development and infrastructure improvements. The provisions of this manual also provide design standards for Land Development Code (LDC) requirements in the interest of public health, safety and welfare for the citizens of Wilmington, North Carolina.

Phrases like "as required", "as permitted", "approved", "acceptable", and "satisfactory" shall refer to directives issued, or authorization granted, by the City Engineer.

C. Jurisdiction and Limitations

On and after September 11, 1979, the specifications and standards contained herein shall be applicable to all new infrastructure improvements and alterations in existing improvements lying within the regulatory jurisdiction of the City of Wilmington.

The Cape Fear Public Water & Sewer Authority (CFPUA) has jurisdiction over all public water & sewer within the City Limits.

New Hanover County (NHC) has jurisdiction over all land disturbing activity and corresponding Erosion Control permitting within the City Limits.

Any improvements which are located within, connect, and/or drain to NCDOT rights-of-way shall coordinate with the local NCDOT Division 3 Regional Office. All roadway construction methods and materials not specified within this manual shall conform to NCDOT Specifications.

Any wetland and/or stream disturbance permitting must be completed through the North Carolina Division of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ) and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE).

D. Variance or Modification

Major deviations from the City's Technical Standards Manual require an evidential hearing by the Design Adjustment Committee (DAC). All proposed variances to the specifications and standards contained herein shall be subject to the provisions of Section 18-603 of the City Land Development Code. The DAC is a quasi-judicial committee which is intended to provide relief where application of standards create practical difficulties in allowing development otherwise compliant with the Land Development Code. Any relief granted should also support the Comprehensive Plan and other adopted public plans. In granting adjustments, the DAC may apply conditions and safeguards in conformity with the Land Development Code.

An administrative adjustment may be approved by the City Engineer for minor deviations, to provide relief as described above, which fall within a numeric standard by up to 10 percent or 10 feet, whichever is greater. An administrative adjustment does not require Design Adjustment Committee (DAC) approval and shall be subject to provisions of Section 18-604 of the Land Development Code.

E. Amendment and Adoption Procedures

As authorized by Section 18-605 of the Land Development Code, the City Manager or his/her designee may make amendments to the standards and specifications contained herein, provided that such amendments, in his/her judgment, are of a minor nature and do not alter significantly the intent as originally adopted. Examples of minor amendments include, but are not limited to, clarification of previous standards, revisions to comply with statutes and regulations, or to memorialize historical policy and practice. The City Council, by resolution, shall have authority to repeal or alter any amendment so made by the City Manager or his/her designee. Major amendments to these standards and specifications shall be made by resolution adopted by the City Council following review of the proposed amendment by the Design Adjustment Committee (DAC). Such resolution shall set forth the revised standards and specifications or may amend the standards and specifications by incorporating by reference any document or set of standards. Any document or set of standards so adopted by reference shall be in force from and after the date it is filed in the office of the City Clerk.

This manual will be amended as necessary to reflect new technology, materials, and practices. The public will be notified of all revisions via the City of Wilmington's website. Users of the manual are responsible to confirm they are using the most recent version.