



Jackson County Office of Permitting & Code Enforcement

www.jacksonnc.org/permitting-code-enforcement

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MEMO

December 3, 2025

Re: High Wind Zone Construction in Jackson County

In reviewing the 2024 NC Residential Code, our office became aware that Jackson County will no longer be identified as a Special Mountain Wind Region. This is in order to be more in line with the engineering standard ASCE 7 as referenced in the NC Building Code for commercial structures.

The 2024 code has yet to be officially adopted by the NC Residential Code Council. However, pursuant to section 102.5 of the 2018 NC Administrative Code the 2024 code may be used as an alternate method of construction.

After consulting with the Chief Residential Code Consultant at the NC Office of State Fire Marshal, our office has decided to move ahead and use the 2024 code designation for Jackson County's wind speed rules.

Effective immediately, construction in the entirety of Jackson County, regardless of elevation, will be regulated with a design wind speed of 115 MPH. All new construction permits will be issued from this day forward with the new design wind speed of 115 MPH. Construction methods and inspections will now align with that section of the code.

Should any property owner with a project already under construction wish to use this new standard for their current project, you may contact our office for information and instructions on how to modify your existing permit.

For those that have been in this industry for a while, you are well aware of the confusion caused by the previous regulations which were not applicable to many of our neighboring counties. After years of lobbying for correcting this issue, we have finally received confirmation that the efforts of many organizations and individuals have been successful.

We look forward to working with the construction industry to educate everyone and move forward with the new regulations.

Regards,

Tony Elders, Director
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