
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 379 Session of
2023

INTRODUCED BY ISAACSON, NEILSON, GIRAL, MADDEN AND SANCHEZ,
MARCH 14, 2023

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT,
MARCH 14, 2023

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45), entitled
2 "An act establishing a uniform construction code; imposing
3 powers and duties on municipalities and the Department of
4 Labor and Industry; providing for enforcement; imposing
5 penalties; and making repeals," providing for deconstruction
6 standards; and imposing penalties.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of November 10, 1999 (P.L.491, No.45),
10 known as the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act, is amended by
11 adding a chapter to read:

12 CHAPTER 8

13 DECONSTRUCTION STANDARDS

14 Section 801. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this chapter
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Certified deconstruction contractor." As follows:

19 (1) A contractor that:

1 (i) has successfully completed a deconstruction
2 certification program conducted by the department; and
3 (ii) appears on a list of certified deconstruction
4 contractors posted on the publicly accessible Internet
5 website of the department.

6 (2) A firm or other entity shall be considered a
7 certified deconstruction contractor if at least one
8 individual currently employed by the firm or other entity is
9 certified.

10 "Deconstruction." The systematic dismantling of a structure,
11 or portion of a structure, to maximize the salvage of materials
12 for reuse, in preference over salvaging materials for recycling,
13 energy recovery or sending the materials to a landfill.

14 "Heavy machinery." Equipment used in the deconstruction or
15 demolition of a building or structure such as track hoes,
16 excavators, skid steer loaders and forklifts.

17 "Primary dwelling structure." A residential building
18 containing at least one but not more than four dwelling units
19 based on current permitted occupancy at the time of the
20 demolition permit application. The term does not include an
21 accessory building such as a garage or shed.

22 "Recycling." The processing of waste materials into new
23 products or material feed stock for products. Materials that can
24 be recycled include, but are not limited to, concrete, metal
25 pipng and asphalt roofing shingles.

26 "Responsible party." Any of the following:

27 (1) An owner or person in control of a primary dwelling
28 structure.

29 (2) An authorized agent of the owner or person described
30 in paragraph (1).

1 "Reuse." The use of a product or material that was
2 previously installed for the same or similar function to extend
3 the life cycle of the product or material. Materials salvageable
4 for reuse include, but are not limited to, cabinets, doors,
5 windows, hardware, fixtures, flooring, siding and framing
6 lumber.

7 Section 802. Deconstruction assessment.

8 Each primary dwelling structure in this Commonwealth that was
9 erected prior to January 1, 1930, as indicated by municipal
10 building records or, if no municipal building records exist,
11 according to records of the county recorder of deeds in the
12 county where the primary dwelling structure is located, and that
13 meets the criteria established in this chapter shall undergo a
14 deconstruction assessment prior to the demolition, renovation or
15 other construction regarding the primary dwelling structure.

16 Section 803. Deconstruction requirements.

17 A primary dwelling structure shall be deconstructed in
18 accordance with the provisions of this chapter and associated
19 rules and regulations. The following apply:

20 (1) Salvaged material may be sold, donated or reused on-
21 site or off-site.

22 (2) Each deconstruction project must achieve a
23 documented 85% landfill diversion rate by weight and produce
24 one salvaged item for every 500 square meters of design
25 unless otherwise approved by the municipal code official in
26 writing for the particular structure, based on economic or
27 practical infeasibility as determined by the municipal code
28 official after consideration and inspection.

29 (3) Deconstruction under this chapter shall be performed
30 only by a certified deconstruction professional certified and

1 designated by the department under section 804.

2 Section 804. Powers and duties of department.

3 (a) Mandatory actions.--The department shall:

4 (1) Administer the provisions of this chapter.

5 (2) Adopt rules, procedures and forms to implement the
6 provisions of this chapter.

7 (3) Post the rules, procedures and forms to implement
8 this chapter on the publicly accessible Internet website of
9 the department.

10 (4) With respect to deconstruction certification
11 training:

12 (i) Develop and conduct a deconstruction
13 certification training program, which must include
14 educational standards and requirements, to teach
15 deconstruction methods and practice principles generally
16 recognized in the deconstruction industry.

17 (ii) Develop forms to be used by a contractor to
18 apply for the deconstruction certification training
19 program.

20 (iii) After review of a contractor's qualifications
21 and proof of successful completion of the deconstruction
22 certification training program:

23 (A) Designate the contractor as a certified
24 deconstruction contractor.

25 (B) Post the name of the contractor on the list
26 of certified deconstruction contractors in this
27 Commonwealth on the publicly accessible Internet
28 website of the department.

29 (5) Maintain and update the list, or a link to the list,
30 of certified deconstruction contractors in this Commonwealth

1 on the publicly accessible Internet website of the
2 department.

3 (b) Discretionary actions.--The department may permit labor
4 unions, working in conjunction with the department, to develop
5 and conduct deconstruction training programs that meet the
6 standards established by the department in accordance with
7 subsection (a) (4) (i). A contractor that successfully completes a
8 department-approved labor union training program shall receive
9 certification from the department, in which case subsection (a)
10 (4) (iii) (A) shall apply.

11 Section 805. Demolition permit application.

12 An application for a demolition permit under this chapter for
13 a primary dwelling structure shall not be considered complete
14 unless the application is accompanied by a completed
15 predeconstruction form provided by the municipal code official,
16 including a list of targeted salvageable materials and final
17 destinations, or by a municipal code official-approved exemption
18 issued under section 810.

19 Section 806. Assessments to determine deconstruction or
20 demolition.

21 A municipal code official for the municipality in which the
22 subject primary dwelling structure is located shall perform an
23 assessment of the primary dwelling structure and determine if
24 the primary dwelling structure shall undergo deconstruction
25 rather than demolition. The assessment:

26 (1) Shall apply to all demolition, renovation or other
27 construction projects.

28 (2) May include input from the municipal government in
29 which the primary dwelling structure is located and any
30 relevant historical commission or organization in the

1 municipality or county in which the primary dwelling
2 structure is located.

3 Section 807. Participation of certified deconstruction
4 contractors.

5 Regarding the need for a certified deconstruction contractor
6 during deconstruction:

7 (1) Deconstruction may only be performed by a certified
8 deconstruction contractor.

9 (2) At least one certified employee of the contractor
10 shall be present on the job site when activities related to
11 deconstruction are underway.

12 Section 808. Heavy machinery.

13 (a) Permissible use.--Heavy machinery may be used in
14 deconstruction to assist in the salvage of materials for reuse
15 or to remove material not required to be salvaged for reuse.

16 (b) Prohibited use.--Heavy machinery may not be used in
17 deconstruction to remove or dismantle components of buildings in
18 ways that render building components unsuitable for salvage.

19 Section 809. Documentation.

20 (a) Receipts.--A deconstruction permit holder shall maintain
21 receipts for donation, sale, recycling and disposal of all
22 materials for a deconstruction project.

23 (b) Photographs.--Materials that are intended for reuse on-
24 site, or that are disposed of during a deconstruction project
25 and for which no receipt for disposal is obtainable, shall be
26 documented with photographs.

27 (c) Inspection.--A municipal code official for a
28 municipality may at any time request that a deconstruction
29 permit holder working in the municipality produce the receipts
30 or photographs specified in this section.

1 Section 810. Exemptions.

2 (a) Exempted circumstances.--The following are exempt from
3 the requirements of this chapter:

4 (1) The moving of a building.

5 (2) A primary building structure that the municipal code
6 official has determined unsuitable for deconstruction if
7 either of the following are true:

8 (i) The structure is structurally unsafe or is
9 otherwise hazardous to the health, safety or welfare of
10 the public and too unsafe or hazardous for
11 deconstruction.

12 (ii) Most or a substantial portion of the material
13 in the structure is not suitable for reuse.

14 (b) Request for exemption.--A municipal code official shall
15 make the final determination of exemption based on evidence
16 submitted by the applicant and an inspection to confirm
17 conditions and unsuitability. A demolition permit may not be
18 issued until the final determination is made on the exemption
19 request.

20 Section 811. Enforcement and penalties.

21 (a) Amount of civil penalties.--A person that violates this
22 chapter shall be subject to the following penalties, which shall
23 be enforced by and payable to the municipality in which the
24 violation occurred:

25 (1) For a first violation, a civil penalty of up to
26 \$1,000.

27 (2) For a second violation, a civil penalty of up to
28 \$2,000.

29 (3) For a third or subsequent violation, a civil penalty
30 of up to \$3,000.

1 (b) Frequency of civil penalties.--Civil penalties under
2 subsection (a) may be imposed on a per month, per day or per
3 incident basis as determined by the municipality.

4 (c) Heavy machinery penalties.--Improper use of heavy
5 machinery in violation of this chapter shall be subject to a
6 penalty of up to \$20,000 and shall be enforced and payable to
7 the municipality in which the violation occurred.

8 (d) Additional enforcement actions for certified
9 deconstruction contractors.--The department may impose the
10 following additional penalties on a certified deconstruction
11 contractor:

12 (1) For a first violation of this chapter, the removal
13 from the list of certified deconstruction contractors for up
14 to six months.

15 (2) For a second violation of this chapter, the removal
16 from the list of certified deconstruction contractors for up
17 to 12 months.

18 (3) For a third or subsequent violation of this chapter,
19 the removal from the list of certified deconstruction
20 contractors for an indefinite period. The contractor may not
21 apply for reinstatement to the list of certified
22 deconstruction contractors for a period of at least 18
23 months.

24 (4) If a deconstruction contractor falsely advertises or
25 otherwise falsely portrays the deconstruction contractor as a
26 certified deconstruction contractor, a fine of up to \$10,000
27 per occurrence.

28 Section 812. Stop work orders.

29 When necessary to obtain compliance with this chapter, a
30 municipal code official may issue a stop work order requiring

1 that all work, except work directly related to the elimination
2 of the violation, be immediately and completely stopped. The
3 following apply:

4 (1) If the municipal code official issues a stop work
5 order, activity subject to the order may not be resumed until
6 the municipal code official gives specific approval in
7 writing.

8 (2) As follows:

9 (i) Subject to subparagraph (ii), the stop work
10 order shall be in writing and posted at a conspicuous
11 location at the worksite.

12 (ii) When an emergency condition exists, the stop
13 work order may be issued orally, followed by a written
14 stop work order as soon as practicable.

15 (3) A person may not remove, obscure, mutilate or
16 otherwise damage a stop work order.

17 Section 813. Inspections.

18 (a) Authorization.--A municipal code official may conduct
19 inspections whenever:

20 (1) necessary to determine compliance with this chapter
21 or enforce any provision of this chapter; or

22 (2) the municipal code official has reasonable cause to
23 believe that there exists a violation of this chapter.

24 (b) Credentials.--If a responsible party is at the worksite
25 when an inspection is occurring, the municipal code official
26 conducting the inspection shall present proper credentials to
27 the responsible party and request entry.

28 Section 2. This act shall take effect in 60 days.