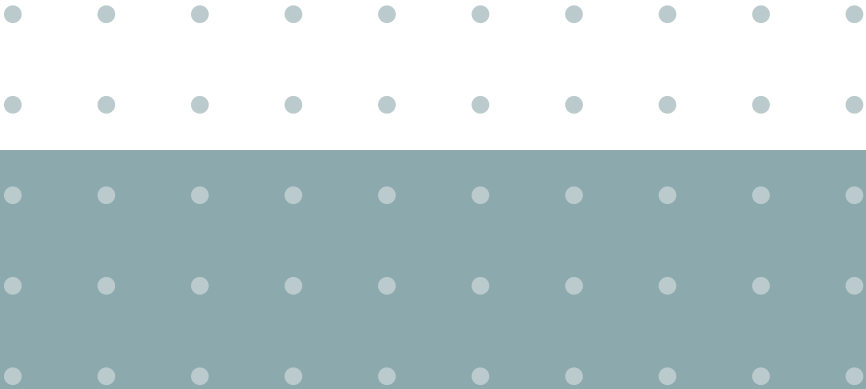




BUILDING CODE COMPLIANCE

Assuring safety and integrity of structures.



*NIA-YAF Leadership Development Program (LDP)
August 4, 2025*

Michael Femi Alley mnia



HELLO!

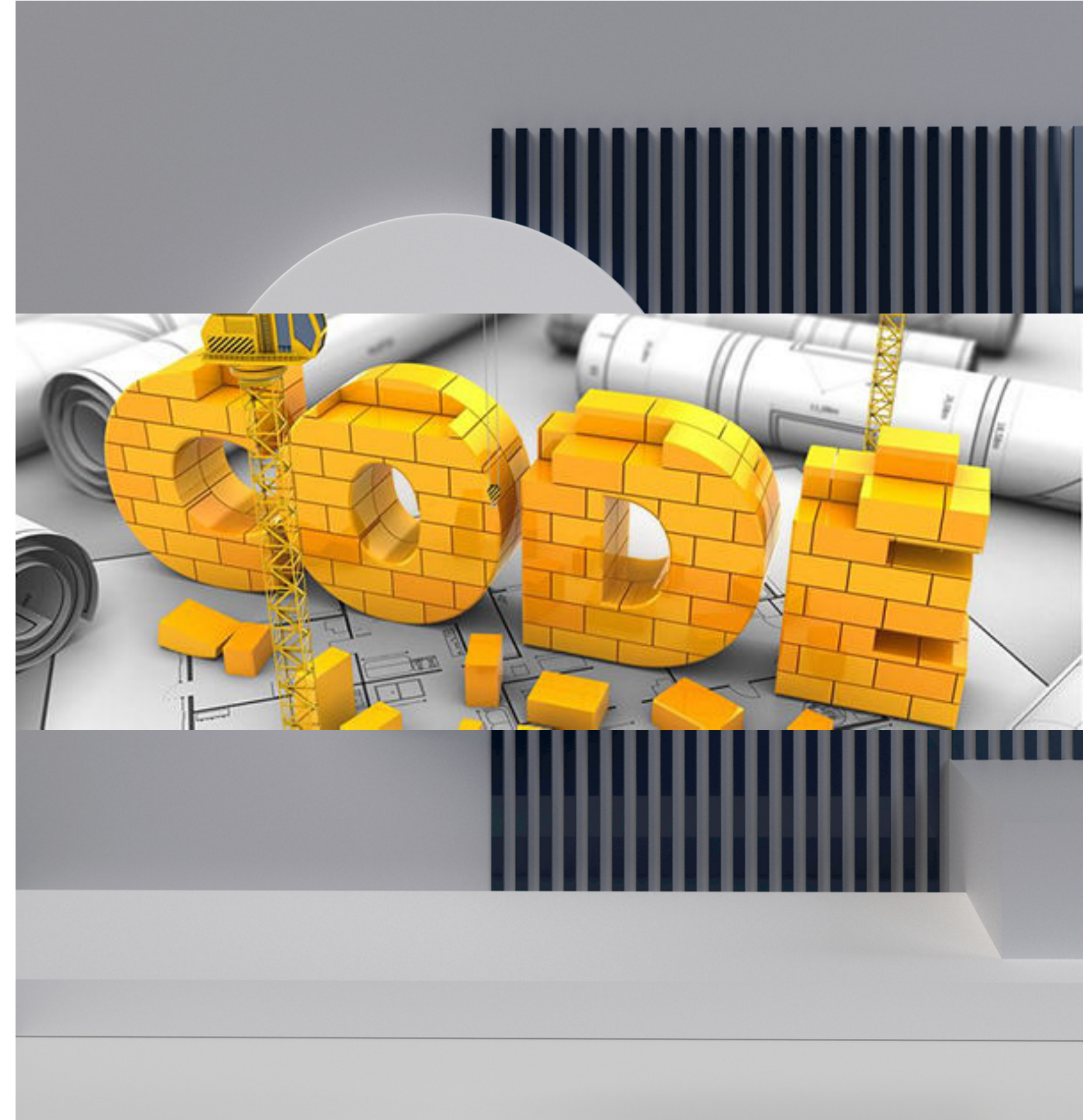
Do not just design buildings based on your feelings or emotions,
use the building codes and design responsibly.



INTRODUCTION

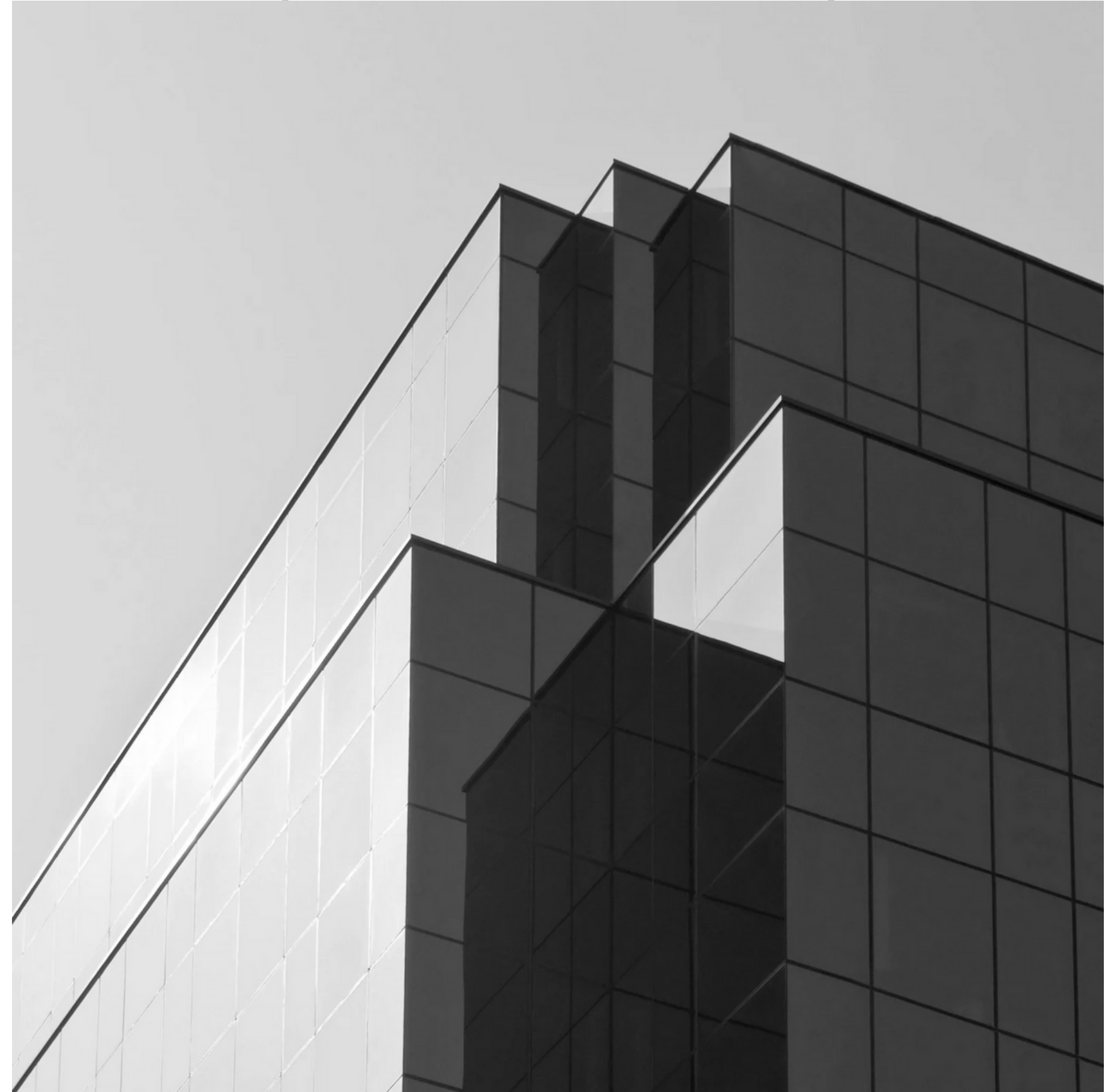
Making sure a building, whether new or old, satisfies the minimal requirements established by local, regional, or national building codes is known as "**building code compliance.**" These codes are mandated by law and are meant to guarantee:

- Safety (egress, fire prevention, structural integrity, etc.)
- Sanitation and health
- Efficiency of energy
- Accessibility
- Resilience and sustainability



WHAT ARE BUILDING CODES?

Building codes are sets of regulations and standards that govern the design, construction, and occupancy of buildings to ensure safety and public welfare.



WHY ARE THE CODES SO IMPORTANT?

A framework for **responsible architecture** is provided by building codes.

They make sure that design innovation does not compromise human dignity, safety, usability, or the rule of law.



BUILDING CODES ARE A FRAMEWORK FOR RESPONSIBLE ARCHITECTURE.

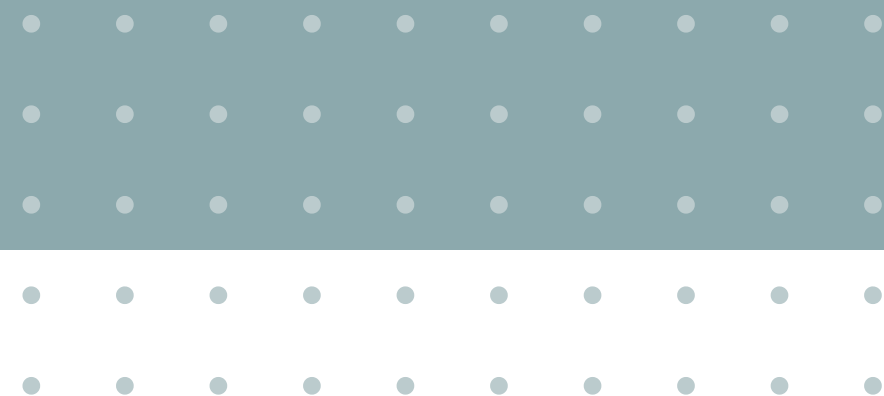
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HOW TO COMPLY WITH THE CODES

Do you know that architects are legally and ethically obligated to prioritize health, safety, and welfare?

Building codes are the standard for doing so.



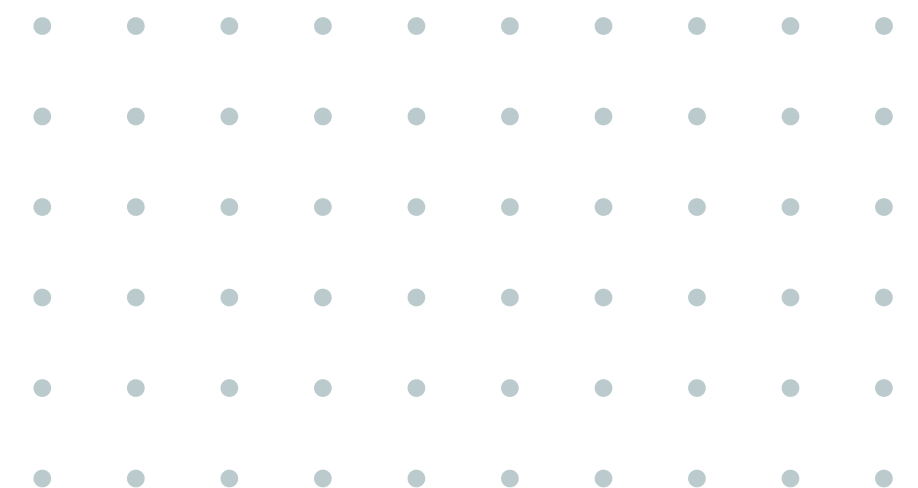


PROBLEM

90% of architects in Nigeria do not know the building codes and so design buildings that are not responsible, deficient in quality and do not meet the acceptable minimum requirements.

SOLUTION

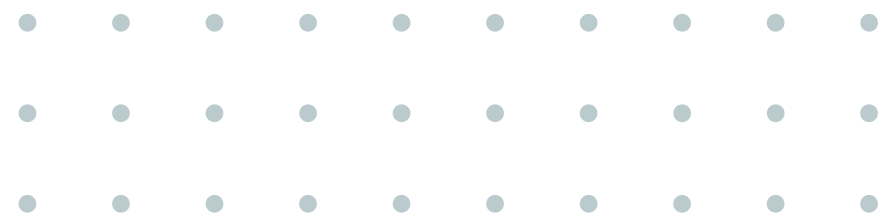
- Use education and awareness - get acquainted with the relevant codes.
- Provide training and capacity building to understand how to use the codes.
- Work with only qualified personnel
- Learn how to create code compliance checklists
- Stay up-to-date with code revisions and amendments.



KNOW THE RELEVANT CODES



1. The Nigerian National Building Code. 2006, 2018 (draft)
2. Lagos State Building Code
3. National Fire Safety Code 2013
4. The International Building Code 2024
5. The International Fire Code 2018
6. The BS Codes
7. The EN Codes
8. The NFPA Codes



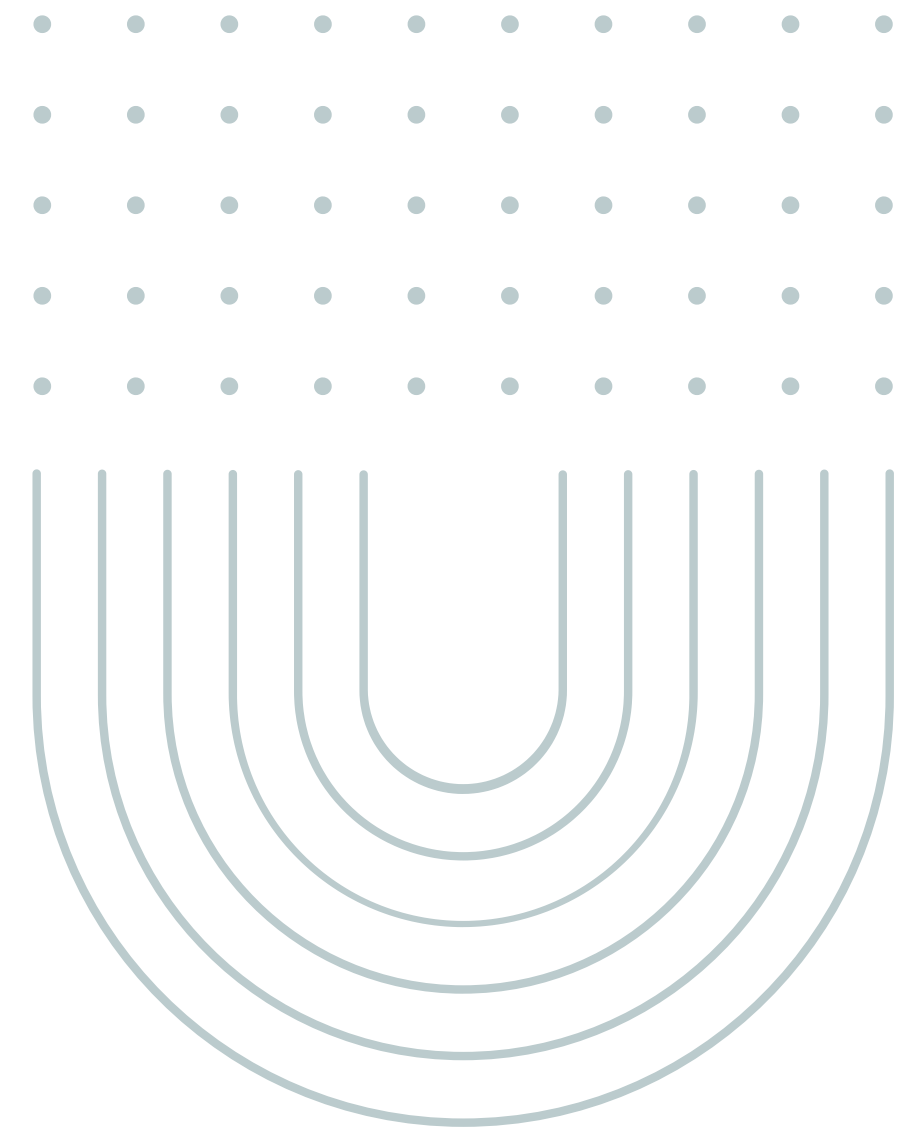


What is this compliance about?

Building code compliance is a critical aspect of any construction project. It is the cornerstone of safety, quality, and sustainability in the built environment.



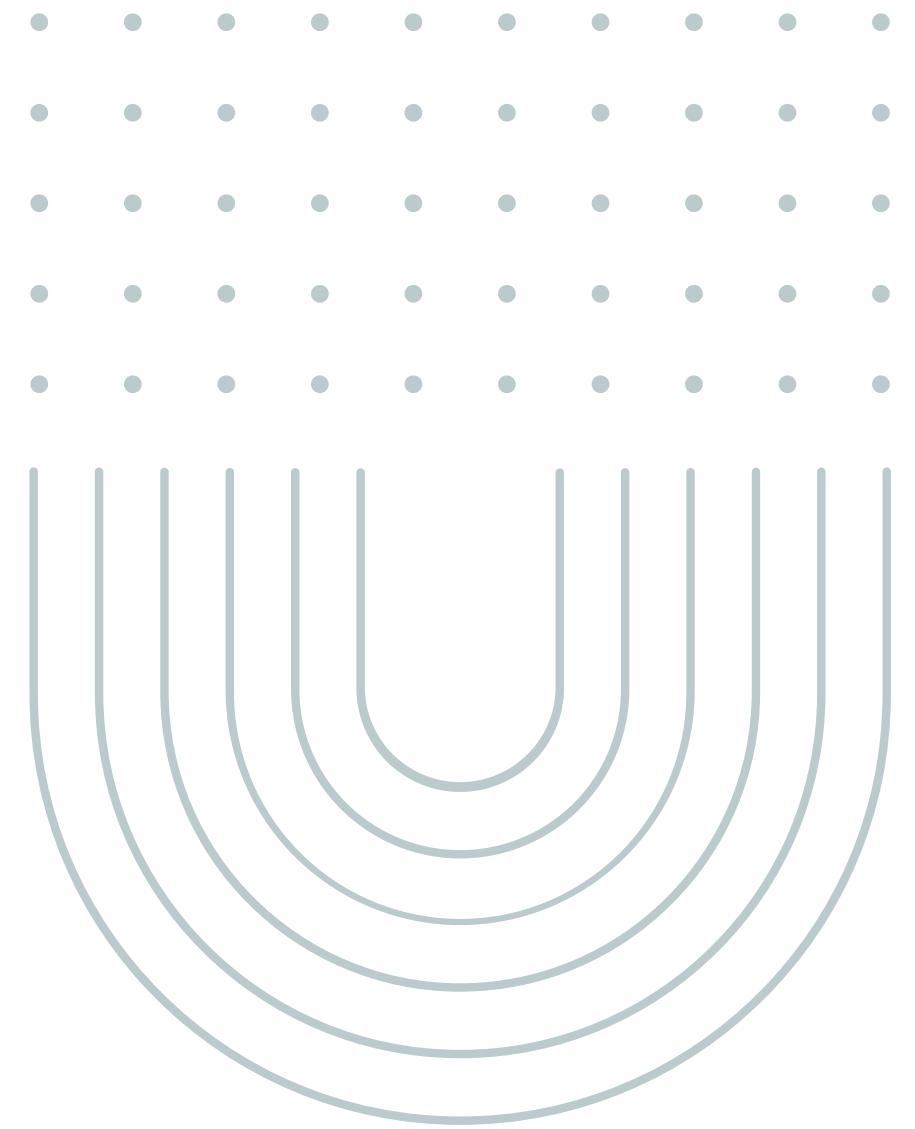
In essence, it involves adhering to a set of regulations and standards. These are established by local, state, federal authorities to ensure that buildings are safe, functional, and environmentally friendly.



THE REALITY

STEP-BY-STEP COMPLIANCE GUIDE

- Understand the Relevant Codes
- Engage Code Consultants (When Needed)
- Design With Code in Mind
- Coordinate with Engineers and Consultants
- Coordinate with Building Authorities
- Prepare Accurate Documentation
- Preliminary Planning and Design Review
- Stay Involved During Construction
- Obtain Final Inspections and Certifications
- Keep Records and Learn From Each Project
- Keeping Up with Code Amendments





“BUILDING CODES COMPLIANCE & THE BUSINESS OF ARCHITECTURE.”

Building code compliance is not just a technical requirement—it's a business necessity. It safeguards your projects, protects your practice, builds client trust, and ensures long-term success in the architectural profession.



Building code compliance is crucial for the business of architecture because it directly impacts the safety, legality, financial success, and professional credibility of architectural projects. Here's why:

Negative Impacts

- *Financial Penalties:*
- *Project Shutdowns*
- *Reputation Damage*
- *Safety Risks*
- *Licensing Issues*

Positive Impacts

- *Enhanced Reputation*
- *Project Success*
- *Long-Term Viability*
- *Financial and Operational Efficiency*
- *Client Confidence and Business Growth*

CRITICAL SECTIONS OF THE CODES THAT YOU MUST KNOW



OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION

FIRE & SMOKE PROTECTION

ROOF & WALL ASSEMBLIES

ELEVATORS & CONVEYING SYSTEMS

FIRE PROTECTION & LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS

TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION

GLASS & GLAZING

ACCESSIBILITY

CIRCULATION

EGRESS

MATERIAL USE

ENERGY EFFICIENCY

BUILDING USE & OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION

According to the Nigerian Building Code Revised Edition 2018 section 4.2.1, every building or structure whether existing or hereafter erected shall be classified as follows:

- I. GROUP A - ASSEMBLY
- II. GROUP B - BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL
- III. GROUP E - EDUCATION
- IV. GROUP F - FACTORY AND INDUSTRIES
- V. GROUP H - HIGH HAZARD
- VI. GROUP I - INSTITUTIONAL
- VII. GROUP M - MERCANTILE
- VIII. GROUP R - RESIDENTIAL
- IX. GROUP S - STORAGE
- X. GROUP U - UTILITY AND MISCELLANEOUS

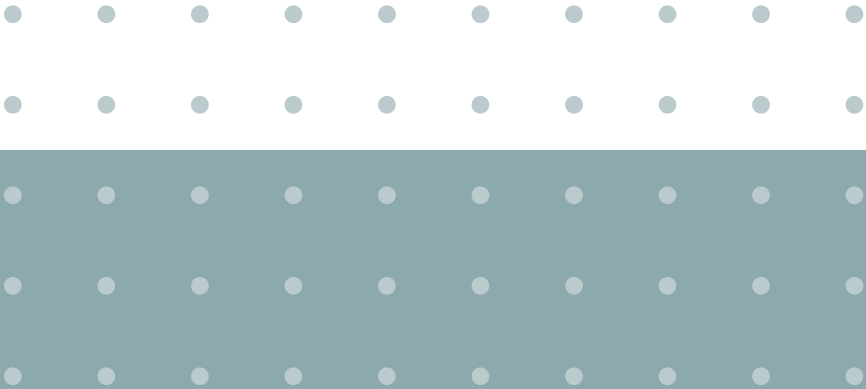
BUILDING CODE RESOURCES

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1. The Nigerian National Building code - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.
 2. Lagos State Building Code- Purchase from LABSCA
 3. International Building Code and the International Fire Code - Purchase form the ICC website
 4. NFPA Codes - Subscription to National Fire protection Association (NFPA)
 5. National Fire Safety Code - Federal Fire Service
 6. BS Codes - Purchase from British Standards Institution or British Standards Online.
- 

KEEPING UP WITH CODE AMENDMENTS

BUILDING CODES ARE NOT STATIC; THEY EVOLVE OVER TIME. AMENDMENTS MAY REFLECT TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES, EMERGING SAFETY CONCERNS, OR ENVIRONMENTAL CONSIDERATIONS. STAYING UPDATED WITH THESE CHANGES IS ESSENTIAL FOR COMPLIANCE IN CONSTRUCTION.

PROFESSIONALS SHOULD REGULARLY CONSULT OFFICIAL RESOURCES AND ATTEND INDUSTRY SEMINARS. THESE PRACTICES ENSURE AWARENESS OF THE LATEST AMENDMENTS AND TRENDS. PROACTIVE ADAPTATION TO NEW CODES MINIMIZES DISRUPTIONS AND SUPPORTS ONGOING PROJECT SUCCESS.



THANK YOU

Do you have any question?

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