

**Gender inclusion of reconstruction:
Analysis of state building codes (SBC)
(SBC B.1.2-9:2021 SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY DURING OPERATION)**

Introduction

An essential component of reconstruction of Ukraine is reconstruction of its infrastructure. Therefore, special attention should be paid to the quality of construction, the compliance of codes to modern requirements, in particular, to what is called gender inclusion¹.

Gender inclusion of reconstruction is ensured by a transformative process through each sphere with the help of the implementation of tools of expert participation as well as influence and access to resources. The transformative nature of the reconstruction process means that during the reconstruction, structural barriers that prevented or limited the access of certain groups of people (girls and boys, women and men) to certain opportunities, institutions, services and resources are removed.

SBC are updated regularly both to replace BCR (Building Codes and Regulations) and to bring them into line with European norms. In 2022, 11 new SBC codes and changes to another 14 existing state building codes entered into force. The changes, in particular, concerned the inclusiveness of buildings.

Gender inclusion covers general aspects of inclusiveness, but it is broader than inclusiveness that is usually considered for persons with disabilities and/or persons with reduced mobility (PRM).

The purpose of the review is to determine the necessary changes and additions to the SBC in order to introduce gender inclusion of the reconstruction in construction.

This review continues the analysis of the state building codes².

SBC B.1.2-9:2021 SAFETY AND ACCESSIBILITY DURING OPERATION

This SBC was prepared and approved to replace SBC B.1.2-9-2008 and in general establishes modern norms that, in particular, correspond to the BBB – Build Back Better approach.

These norms determine the main provisions of what is called the "basic requirement" for ensuring safety and accessibility during the operation of buildings and structures.

General requirements determine the main requirement within this document.

¹ <https://wicc.net.ua/post/genderne-bachennya-vidnovlennya-ukrayiny>

2.2 The main requirement for ensuring safety and accessibility during the operation concerns the impossibility and/or minimization of the possibility of accidents or human injuries during the design, construction, operation and liquidation of objects that may occur due to the action of the following dangerous factors:

- slipping, tripping, falling;
- impact, collision;
- burns;
- electric shock;
- damage by explosion;
- limited accessibility for persons with reduced mobility;
- unauthorized access by outsiders.

This is an important component of the operation of buildings and structures. It is part of the practice called "Territorial Security Audit", ³ which has been developed by the Women's Information and Advisory Center since 2010, and since 2021 has become part of the National Action Plan for the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace, Security for the period up to 2025.⁴

However, the territorial security audit, which at the beginning was called "Safe for women – safe for all" in Ukraine, has an important component – the prevention of violence. The potential danger of violence is not limited to unauthorized access by outsiders, but can also be determined by the danger of violent actions, which, in particular, can be carried out by outsiders (for example, residents of the same building).

Recommendation

Amend clause 2.2 and put it in the following version.

2.2 The main requirement for ensuring safety and accessibility during the operation concerns the impossibility and/or minimization of the possibility of accidents or human injuries during the design, construction, operation and liquidation of objects that may occur due to the action of the following dangerous factors:

- slipping, tripping, falling;
- impact, collision;
- burns;
- electric shock;
- damage by explosion;
- limited accessibility for persons with reduced mobility;
- unauthorized access by outsiders;

³ <https://wicc.net.ua/category/audyt-bezpeky-terytoriyi>

⁴ <https://zakon.rada.gov.ua/laws/show/1544-2020-%D1%80#Text>

- **danger of violent actions.**

This entails changes and additions to clause 3.5, as well as additions to SBC's clauses 4.1.9, 5.9.

Recommendation

Amend clause 3.5 and put it in the following version.

3.5 The criteria for ensuring the basic requirement of safety and accessibility of buildings and structures during operation are:

- prevention of slipping and falling;
- prevention of impact and collision;
- prevention of burns;
- prevention of electric shock;
- prevention of damage by explosion;
- ensuring accessibility for persons with reduced mobility;
- prevention of unauthorized access;
- **prevention of danger of violent actions.**

Add SBC with clause 4.1.9

4.1.9 The critical state of violent actions:

- increased risk of violent actions due to constructive solutions (sharp corners, long walls), landscaping (greening without sufficient illumination at night), isolated parts of the building, etc.

Add SBC with clause 5.9

5.9 Prevention of danger of violent actions

5.9.1 In order to prevent the danger of violent actions at the facility, the following should be provided:

- constructive solutions that increase the possibility of surveying the surrounding area
- ensuring greening and other decorative structures with sufficient illumination in the dark

Summary

It is necessary to monitor the implementation of the territorial security audit in order to amend SBC with additional security-related aspects.