



## Request for a Specific Alternative Solution

The Safety Codes Act allows for the Issuance of Variances. Variances are also referred to as “Alternative Solutions” and may only be issued by a safety codes officer, technical administrator, or the Safety Codes Council.

An alternative solution issued by a Safety Codes Officer is site-specific and sets no precedent.

“Alternative solutions” are intended to allow for innovative design, new construction technology or methodology and are not intended for product or equipment approval.

Where a code, standard or regulation has a specific requirement; any variation “with special permission”, “acceptable to the authority having jurisdiction”, or in respect to “acceptance of an equivalent” or “alternative solution”, shall be considered a variance under the Safety Codes Act.

The Alberta Building Code provides for an alternative solution which is written acceptance of a request to build, install, process or otherwise act in a manner not consistent with the specific Division B requirements of the Code or a related standard or regulation, but which provides at least the minimum level of performance required as defined by objectives and functional statements attributed to applicable Division B acceptable solutions of this Code.

A proponent of an alternative solution must demonstrate that the alternative solution addresses the same issues as the applicable acceptable solutions in Division B and their attributed objectives and functional statements. An effort must be made to demonstrate that an alternative solution will perform as well as a design that would satisfy the applicable acceptable solutions in Division B—not “well enough” but “as well as.”

In demonstrating that an “**alternative solution**” will perform as well as a design that would satisfy the applicable solutions in Division B, its evaluation should not be limited to comparison with the acceptable solutions to which an alternative is proposed. All applicable acceptable solutions should be taken into consideration in demonstrating the compliance of an alternative solution.

***Non-compliance with the requirements of a specific alternative solution or variance is an offence under the Safety Codes Act.***

***Pursuant to the Town’s powers and duties as the authority having jurisdiction and under the authority of the Safety Codes Act, the Town of High River shall forward a copy of what was accepted as an alternative solution to be registered as a variance as follows:.***

**A copy of this Alternative Solution will be submitted to:**

Technical Administrator of (*building discipline*)  
c/o Safety Codes Council  
1000, 10665 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton, Alberta, T5J 3S9

309B Macleod Trail SW, High River, AB T1V 1Z5 P: 403-652-2110 E: [permits@highriver.ca](mailto:permits@highriver.ca) W: [www.highriver.ca](http://www.highriver.ca)

The personal information provided on this form is protected by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.  
Information on this form may be used by the Authority having Jurisdiction.



## Alternative Solution Application

Address and / or legal description of the property upon which the thing, process or activity which is the subject matter of a site specific alternative solution is located:

Civic Address: \_\_\_\_\_, High River, AB

Plan \_\_\_\_\_, Block \_\_\_\_\_, Lot \_\_\_\_\_

This alternative solution *may* be accepted under the authority of the Safety Codes Act, Chapter S-1 and the most current edition of the Alberta Building Code.

By signing below, the owner or owner's agent expressly acknowledges that the owner is aware of and agrees with this request for an alternative solution, which is intended to provide an alternative to specific requirement(s) of the Alberta Building Code, and that it is the responsibility of the owner to provide and maintain safety accordingly after the *building* is constructed.

***Non-compliance with the requirements of a specific alternative solution or variance is an offence under the Safety Codes Act.***

Dated this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner

Owner's Agent

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Owner

Owner's Agent

## Documentation of Alternative Solution

Beyond the purposes of demonstrating compliance and acquiring a building permit, there are other important reasons for requiring that the proponent of an alternative solution submit project documentation (i.e. a compliance report) to the authority having jurisdiction and for the authority having jurisdiction to retain that documentation:

Most jurisdictions require that a building be maintained in compliance with the codes under which it was built. Alternative solutions made possible by objective-based codes may have special maintenance requirements, which would be described in the documentation.

Documentation helps consultants perform code compliance assessments of existing buildings before they are sold and informs current owners or prospective buyers of any limitations pertaining to their future use or development.

Documentation provides design professionals with information necessary to design changes to an existing building by generating a "paper trail" of the alternative solution negotiated between the designer and the regulator and should demonstrate that a rational process led to the acceptance of the alternative solution as an equivalency.

309B Macleod Trail SW, High River, AB T1V 1Z5 P: 403-652-2110 E: [permits@highriver.ca](mailto:permits@highriver.ca) W: [www.highriver.ca](http://www.highriver.ca)

The personal information provided on this form is protected by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. Information on this form may be used by the Authority having Jurisdiction.



## Checklist for an Alternative Solution Submission

(For completion by a safety codes officer)

Submitted:	Required for submission of a proposed alternative solution:
<input type="checkbox"/>	1. Name and address of owner and/or owner's agent proposing an Alternative Solution shall be submitted.
<input type="checkbox"/>	2. Documentation shall be provided by the person requesting the use of an alternative solution to demonstrate that the proposed alternative solution complies with this Code.
<input type="checkbox"/>	3. Where the design of a <i>building</i> includes proposed alternative solutions that involve more than one person taking responsibility for different aspects of the design, the applicant for the <i>permit</i> shall identify a single person to co-ordinate the preparation of the design, Code analysis and documentation referred to in this Code.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4. Submit qualifications, experience and background of the person(s) taking responsibility for the design.
<input type="checkbox"/>	5. Provide a description of the proposed alternative solution.
<input type="checkbox"/>	6. Identify the clause and section of the Code, Standard or Regulation to be varied.
<input type="checkbox"/>	7. Include a Code analysis outlining the analytical methods and rationales used to determine that a proposed alternative solution will achieve at least the level of performance required by this Code as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Identification of applicable ABC Division B technical requirements.</li> <li>b. Identification of applicable objectives and functional statements.</li> <li>c. Evaluation of performance level of applicable Division B requirements.</li> <li>d. Evaluation of performance level of proposed alternative solution.</li> <li>e. Identification of any assumptions, limiting or restricting factors.</li> <li>f. Identification of testing procedures, engineering studies, building performance parameters etc., to support assessment for compliance.</li> </ul>
<input type="checkbox"/>	8. Provide information concerning any special maintenance or operational requirements, including any <i>building</i> component commissioning requirements, that are necessary for the alternative solution to achieve compliance with the Code after the <i>building</i> is constructed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	9. Provide a list of submitted documents such as concept reports, calculations, fire modeling, test reports, precedents, fire scenario evaluations, other codes and standards, drawings, etc.

For further information on Alternative Solutions & Variance applications, contact Safety Codes Council at:  
1-888-413-0099 or [sccinfo@safetycodes.ab.ca](mailto:sccinfo@safetycodes.ab.ca)

309B Macleod Trail SW, High River, AB T1V 1Z5 P: 403-652-2110 E: [permits@highriver.ca](mailto:permits@highriver.ca) W: [www.highriver.ca](http://www.highriver.ca)

The personal information provided on this form is protected by the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.  
Information on this form may be used by the Authority having Jurisdiction.