

Chapter 18.23

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL ZONES

Sections:

- 18.23.010 Purpose.**
- 18.23.020 Intent of commercial and industrial zones.**
- 18.23.030 Uses.**
- 18.23.040 Development standards.**
- 18.23.050 Additional development standards for C-2, central business zone.**
- 18.23.060 Additional development standards for the ep, environmental park zone.**

18.23.010 Purpose.

This chapter lists the land uses that may be allowed within the commercial and industrial zones established by ACC 18.02.070 (Establishment of zones), determines the type of land use approval required for each use, and provides basic and additional development standards for sites, buildings, and associated improvements. (Ord. 6433 § 26, 2012.)

18.23.020 Intent of commercial and industrial zones.

A. *General.* This section describes the intent for each of the city's commercial and industrial zones. These intent statements are to be used to guide the interpretation of the regulations associated with each zone. The planning director is authorized to make interpretations of these regulations based on his/her analysis of them together with clear and objective reasons for such interpretation.

B. C-N, Neighborhood Shopping Center Zone. The C-N zone is intended to provide areas appropriate for neighborhood shopping establishments which provide limited retail business, service and office facilities for the convenience of residents of the neighborhood. A neighborhood shopping center is designed and located so as to minimize traffic congestion on public highways and streets in its vicinity and to best fit the general land use pattern of the area to be served by the center. The protective standards contained in this chapter are intended to minimize any adverse effect of the neighborhood shopping center on nearby property values and to provide for safe and efficient use of the neighborhood shopping center itself.

C. C-1, Light Commercial Zone. The C-1 zone is intended for lower intensity commercial adjacent to residential neighborhoods. This zone generally serves as a transition zone between higher and lower intensity land uses, providing retail and professional services. This zone represents the

primary commercial designation for small – to moderate-scale commercial activities compatible by having similar performance standards and should be developed in a manner which is consistent with and attracts pedestrian-oriented activities. This zone encourages leisure shopping and provides amenities conducive to attracting shoppers and pedestrians.

D. C-2 Central Business District Zone. The intent of the C-2 zone is to set apart the portion of the city proximate to the center for financial, commercial, governmental, professional, and cultural activities. Uses in the C-2 zone have common or similar performance standards in that they represent types of enterprises involving the rendering of services, both professional or to the person, or on-premises retail activities. This zone encourages and provides amenities conducive to attracting pedestrians.

E. C-3, Heavy Commercial Zone. The intent of the C-3 zone is to allow for medium to high intensity uses consisting of a wide range of retail, commercial, entertainment, office, services, and professional uses. This zone is intended to accommodate uses which are oriented to automobiles either as a mode or target of the commercial service while fostering a pedestrian orientation. The uses allowed can include outside activities, display, fabrication or service features when not the predominant portion of the use. The uses enumerated in this classification have potential for impacts to surrounding properties and street systems than those uses permitted in the more restrictive commercial classifications.

F. C-4, Mixed-Use Commercial Zone. The intent of the C-4 zone is to provide for a pedestrian-oriented mix of retail, office, and limited multiple-family residential uses. This classification is also intended to allow flexibility in design and the combination of uses that is responsive to market demands. The uses enumerated in this classification anticipate a mix of multiple-family residential, retail, and office uses that are coordinated through a site-specific planning process. The multiple-family residential must be located in a multi-story building; ~~the ground floor of which must contain a permitted use or combination of uses, other than parking, as listed in this chapter.~~ Certain heavy commercial uses permitted in other commercial classifications are not permitted in this zone because of the potential for conflicts with multifamily residential uses, in order to achieve a quality of environment that is conducive to this mix of uses.

G. M-1, Light Industrial Zone. The intent of the M-1 zone is to accommodate a variety of industrial, commercial, and limited residential uses in an industrial park environment, to preserve land primarily for light industrial and commercial uses, to implement the economic goals of the comprehensive plan and to provide a greater flexibility within the zoning regulations for those uses which are non-nuisance in terms of air and water pollution, noise, vibration, glare or odor. The light industrial/commercial character of this zone is intended to address the way in which industrial and commercial uses are carried out rather than the actual types of products made.

The character of this zone will limit the type of primary activities which may be conducted outside of enclosed buildings to outdoor displays and sales. Uses which are not customarily conducted indoors

or involve hazardous materials are considered heavy industrial uses under this title and are not appropriate for the M-1 zone. An essential aspect of this zone is the need to maintain a quality of development that attracts rather than discourages further investment in light industrial and commercial development. Consequently, site activities which could distract from the visual quality of development of those areas, such as outdoor storage, should be strictly regulated within this zone.

H. EP, Environmental Park Zone. The environmental park district is intended to allow uses in proximity to the Auburn Environmental Park that benefit from that location and will complement the park and its environmental focus. Uses allowed in this zone will focus upon medical, biotech and “green” technologies including energy conservation, engineering, water quality and similar uses. Other uses complementary to and supporting these uses are also allowed. Incorporation of sustainable design and green building practices will be a primary aspect of this zone. The construction of leadership in energy and environmental design (LEED) and built green certified buildings is encouraged and built green will be required for multiple-family dwellings. The city recognizes that much of the property in this zone was developed under earlier standards, so the goals of the district will be realized over a period of time as properties are redeveloped.

I. M-2, Heavy Industrial Zone. The M-2 zone is intended to accommodate a broad range of manufacturing and industrial uses. Permitted activity may vary from medium to higher intensity uses that involve the manufacture, fabrication, assembly, or processing of raw and/or finished materials. Heavy industrial uses should not be located near residential development.

While other uses may be sited within this zone, permits for such uses should not be issued if such uses will discourage use of adjacent sites for heavy industry, interrupt the continuity of industrial sites, or produce traffic in conflict with the industrial uses. (Ord. 6433 § 26, 2012.)

18.23.030 Uses.

A. *General Permit Requirements.* Table 18.23.030 identifies the uses of land allowed in each commercial and industrial zone and the land use approval process required to establish each use.

B. *Requirements for Certain Specific Land Uses.* Where the last column in Table 18.23.030 (“Standards for Specific Land Uses”) includes a reference to a code section number, the referenced section determines other requirements and standards applicable to the use regardless of whether it is permitted outright or requires an administrative or conditional use permit.

Table 18.23.030. Permitted, Administrative, Conditional and Prohibited Uses by Zone

PERMITTED, ADMINISTRATIVE, CONDITIONAL AND PROHIBITED USES BY ZONE									P – Permitted C – Conditional A – Administrative X – Prohibited
LAND USE	Zoning Designation								Standards for Specific Land Uses
	C-N	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	M-1	EP	M-2	
INDUSTRIAL, MANUFACTURING AND PROCESSING, WHOLESALING									
Building contractor, light	X	X	X	P	X	P	X	P	
Building contractor, heavy	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	P	
Manufacturing, assembling and packaging – Light intensity	X	X	X	P	X	P	P	P	ACC 18.31.180
Manufacturing, assembling and packaging – Medium intensity	X	X	X	A	X	P	A	P	ACC 18.31.180
Manufacturing, assembling and packaging – Heavy intensity	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	A	ACC 18.31.180
Marijuana processor	X	X	X	X	X	C	C	C	Chapter 18.59 ACC
Marijuana producer	X	X	X	X	X	C	C	C	Chapter 18.59 ACC
Marijuana researcher	X	X	X	X	X	C	C	C	Chapter 18.59 ACC
Marijuana retailer	X	X	X	C	X	C	C	C	Chapter 18.59 ACC
Marijuana transporter business	X	X	X	X	X	C	C	C	Chapter 18.59 ACC
Outdoor storage, incidental to principal permitted use on property	X	X	X	P	X	P	P	P	ACC 18.57.020(A)
Storage – Personal household storage facility (mini-storage)	X	P	X	P	X	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.020(B)
Warehousing and distribution	X	X	X	X	X	P	P	C	ACC 18.57.020(C)
Warehousing and distribution, bonded	X	X	X	P	X	P	P	P	

PERMITTED, ADMINISTRATIVE, CONDITIONAL AND PROHIBITED USES BY ZONE									P – Permitted C – Conditional A – Administrative X – Prohibited
LAND USE	Zoning Designation								Standards for Specific Land Uses
	C-N	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	M-1	EP	M-2	
and located within a designated foreign trade zone									
Wholesaling with on-site retail as an incidental use (coffee, bakery, e.g.)	X	X	X	P	X	P	P	P	
RECREATION, EDUCATION AND PUBLIC ASSEMBLY USES									
Commercial recreation facility, indoor	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	
Commercial recreation facility, outdoor	X	X	X	A	XA	P	A	A	ACC 18.57.025(A)
Conference/convention facility	X	X	A	A	X	A	X	X	
Library, museum	X	A	A	A	X	A	P	X	
Meeting facility, public or private	A	P	P	P	X	A	P	A	
Movie theater, except drive-in	X	P	P	P	P	X	X	X	
Private school – Specialized education/training (for profit)	A	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Religious institutions, lot size less than one acre	A	P	P	P	A	A	A	A	
Religious institutions, lot size more than one acre	C	P	P	P	A	A	A	A	
Sexually oriented businesses	X	X	X	P	X	P	X	P	Chapter 18.74 ACC
Sports and entertainment assembly facility	X	X	A	A	X	A	X	A	

PERMITTED, ADMINISTRATIVE, CONDITIONAL AND PROHIBITED USES BY ZONE									P – Permitted C – Conditional A – Administrative X – Prohibited
LAND USE	Zoning Designation								Standards for Specific Land Uses
	C-N	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	M-1	EP	M-2	
Studio – Art, dance, martial arts, music, etc.	P	P	P	P	P	P	A	A	
RESIDENTIAL									
Caretaker apartment	X	P	P	P	X	P	P	P	
Live/work unit	X	X	P	P	P	P	P	X	
Work/live unit	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	
Marijuana cooperative	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Multiple-family dwellings as part of a mixed-use development ²	X	X	P	P	P	P	P	X	ACC 18.57.030
Multiple-family dwellings, stand-alone	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	
Nursing home, assisted living facility	X	P	P	P	C	X	X	X	
Senior housing ²	X	X	A	A	X	X	X	X	
RETAIL									
Building and landscape materials sales	X	X	X	P	X	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.035(A)
Construction and heavy equipment sales and rental	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	P	
Convenience store	A	A	P	P	X	P	P	P	
Drive-through espresso stands	A	A	A	P	A	P	A	A	
Drive-through facility, including banks and restaurants	A	A	A	P	P	P	X	P	ACC 18.52.040
Entertainment, commercial	X	A	P	P	X	A	X	A	

PERMITTED, ADMINISTRATIVE, CONDITIONAL AND PROHIBITED USES BY ZONE									P – Permitted C – Conditional A – Administrative X – Prohibited
LAND USE	Zoning Designation								Standards for Specific Land Uses
	C-N	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	M-1	EP	M-2	
Groceries, specialty food stores	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	ACC 18.57.035(B)
Nursery	X	X	X	P	A	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.035(C)
Outdoor displays and sales associated with a permitted use (auto/vehicle sales not included in this category)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	ACC 18.57.035(D)
Restaurant, cafe, coffee shop	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Retail									
Community retail establishment	A	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	
Neighborhood retail establishment	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	
Regional retail establishment	X	X	X	P	P	P	X	A	
Tasting room	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Tavern	P	P	X	P	P	P	X	A	
Wine production facility, small craft distillery, small craft brewery	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
SERVICES									
Animal daycare (excluding kennels and animal boarding)	A	A	A	P	A	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.040(A)
Animal sales and services (excluding kennels and veterinary clinics)	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.040(B)
Banking and related financial institutions,	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	

PERMITTED, ADMINISTRATIVE, CONDITIONAL AND PROHIBITED USES BY ZONE									P – Permitted C – Conditional A – Administrative X – Prohibited
LAND USE	Zoning Designation								Standards for Specific Land Uses
	C-N	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	M-1	EP	M-2	
excluding drive-through facilities									
Catering service	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	P	
Daycare, including mini daycare, daycare center, preschools or nursery schools	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	
Dry cleaning and laundry service (personal)	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Equipment rental and leasing	X	X	X	P	X	P	X	P	
Kennel, animal boarding	X	X	X	A	X	A	X	A	ACC 18.57.040(C)
Government facilities; this excludes offices and related uses that are permitted outright	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
Hospital	X	P	P	P	X	P	X	P	
Lodging – Hotel or motel	X	P	P	P	P	A	P	A	
Medical – Dental clinic	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X	
Mortuary, funeral home, crematorium	A	P	X	P	X	P	X	X	
Personal service shops	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X	
Pharmacies	P	P	P	P	P	X	X	X	
Print and copy shop	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	X	
Printing and publishing (of books, newspaper and other printed matter)	X	A	P	P	P	P	P	P	
Professional offices	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	

PERMITTED, ADMINISTRATIVE, CONDITIONAL AND PROHIBITED USES BY ZONE									P – Permitted C – Conditional A – Administrative X – Prohibited
LAND USE	Zoning Designation								Standards for Specific Land Uses
	C-N	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	M-1	EP	M-2	
Repair service – Equipment, appliances	X	A	P	P	P	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.040(D)
Veterinary clinic, animal hospital	A	P	P	P	P	P	X	X	
Youth community support facility	X	P	X	X	X	X	X	X	ACC 18.57.040(E)
TRANSPORTATION, COMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE									
Ambulance, taxi, and specialized transportation facility	X	X	X	A	X	P	X	P	
Broadcasting studio	X	P	X	P	X	P	X	P	
Heliport	X	X	X	C	X	C	X	C	
Motor freight terminal ¹	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	See Footnote No. 1
Parking facility, public or commercial, surface	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	
Parking facility, public or commercial, structured	X	P	P	P	P	P	P	X	
Towing storage yard	X	X	X	X	X	A	X	P	ACC 18.57.045(A)
Utility transmission or distribution line or substation	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
Wireless communication facility (WCF)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	ACC 18.04.912, 18.31.100
VEHICLE SALES AND SERVICES									
Automobile washes (automatic, full or self-service)	X	A	X	P	P	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.050(A)
Auto parts sales with installation services	X	A	A	P	P	P	X	P	
Auto/vehicle sales and rental	X	A	X	P	X	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.050(B)

PERMITTED, ADMINISTRATIVE, CONDITIONAL AND PROHIBITED USES BY ZONE									P – Permitted C – Conditional A – Administrative X – Prohibited
LAND USE	Zoning Designation								Standards for Specific Land Uses
	C-N	C-1	C-2	C-3	C-4	M-1	EP	M-2	
Fueling station	X	A	A	P	P	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.050(C)
Mobile home, boat, or RV sales	X	X	X	P	X	P	X	P	
Vehicle services – Repair/body work	X	X	A	P	X	P	X	P	ACC 18.57.050(D)
OTHER									
Any commercial use abutting a residential zone which has hours of operation outside of the following: Sunday: 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. or Monday – Saturday: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	A	
Other uses may be permitted by the planning director or designee if the use is determined to be consistent with the intent of the zone and is of the same general character of the uses permitted. See ACC 18.02.120(C)(6), Unclassified Uses.	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	P	

1 Any motor freight terminal, as defined by ACC 18.04.635, in existence as of the effective date of the ordinance codified in this section, is an outright permitted use in the M-1 and M-2 zones. Any maintenance, alterations and additions to an existing motor freight terminal which are consistent with ACC 18.23.040, Development standards, are allowed.

2 Any mixed-use development or senior housing project vested prior to Resolution No. 5187 (December 7, 2015) is an outright permitted use in the C-1 zone. Subsequently, if a nonresidential use within a vested mixed-use development changes, then the nonresidential use shall maintain a minimum of 10 percent of the cumulative building ground floor square footage consisting of the uses permitted outright, administratively, or conditionally, listed under “Recreation, Education, and Public Assembly,” “Retail,” or “Services” of the C-1 zone.

(Ord. 6688 § 1 (Exh. 1), 2018; Ord. 6644 § 2, 2017; Ord. 6642 § 9, 2017; Ord. 6508 § 1, 2014; Ord. 6433 § 26, 2012.)

18.23.040 Development standards.

A. Hereafter, no use shall be conducted and no building, structure and appurtenance shall be erected, relocated, remodeled, reconstructed, altered or enlarged unless in compliance with the requirements in Tables 18.23.040A (C-N, C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 Zone Development Standards) and 18.23.040B (M-1, EP and M-2 Zone Development Standards) and in compliance with the provisions of this title, and then only after securing all permits and approvals required hereby. These standards may be modified through either an administrative variance or variance, subject to the procedures of Chapter 18.70 ACC.

Table 18.23.040A. C-N, C-1, C-2, C-3, and C-4 Zone Development Standards

Development Standard	Requirement by Zone				
	C-N Neighborhood Shopping Center	C-1 Light Commercial	C-2 Central Business	C-3 Heavy Commercial	C-4 Mixed-Use Commercial
Minimum lot area	2 acres	None	None	None	None ¹
Minimum lot width, depth	None	None	None	None	None
Maximum lot coverage	55 percent	None	None	None	None
Minimum setbacks	<i>Minimum setbacks required for structures. See also ACC 18.31.070 for specific exceptions to these setback standards.</i>				
Front	50 ft	20 ft	None	20 ft	20 ft
Side – Interior	None ²	None ²	None	None ²	None ²
Side – Street	50 ft	15 ft	None	15 ft	15 ft
Rear	None ²	None ²	None	None ²	None ²
Height limit	<i>Maximum allowable height of structures. See also ACC 18.31.030 (Height limitations – Exceptions) for specific height limit exceptions.</i>				
Maximum height	30 ft	45 ft ³	ACC 18.23.050	75 ft	75 ft
Additional development standards	None	None	ACC 18.23.050	None	None
Fences and hedges	See Chapter 18.31 ACC				
Landscaping	See Chapter 18.50 ACC				
Parking	See Chapter 18.52 ACC				

Development Standard	Requirement by Zone				
	C-N Neighborhood Shopping Center	C-1 Light Commercial	C-2 Central Business	C-3 Heavy Commercial	C-4 Mixed-Use Commercial
Signs	See Chapter 18.56 ACC				
Lighting	See Chapter 18.55 ACC				
Nonconforming structures, land and uses	See Chapter 18.54 ACC				

Notes:

- 1 Residential uses: no minimum lot size; provided, that residential density does not exceed 20 units per gross acre (this includes privately owned open space tracts but excludes dedicated public roads).
- 2 A 25-foot setback is required when adjacent to a residential zone.
- 3 Buildings within the Auburn north business area, as established by Resolution No. 2283, may exceed 45 feet if one additional foot of setback is provided from each property line (or required minimum setback) for each foot the building exceeds 45 feet in height.

Table 18.23.040B. M-1, EP and M-2 Zone Development Standards

Development Standard	Requirement by Zone		
	M-1 Light Industrial	EP Environmental Park	M-2 Heavy Industrial
Minimum lot area	None	None	None
Minimum lot width, depth	None	None	None
Maximum lot coverage	None	35 percent	None
Minimum setbacks	<i>Minimum setbacks required for structures. See also ACC 18.31.070 for specific exceptions to these standards.</i>		
Front	20 ft	20 ft	30 ft
Side – Interior	None ¹	15 ft	None ¹
Side – Corner	20 ft	20 ft	30 ft
Rear	None ¹	20 ft ¹	None ¹
Height limit	<i>Maximum allowable height of structures. See also ACC 18.31.030 (Height limitations – Exceptions) for specific height limit exceptions.</i>		

Development Standard	Requirement by Zone		
	M-1 Light Industrial	EP Environmental Park	M-2 Heavy Industrial
Maximum height	45 ft ²	35 ft	45 ft ²
Additional development standards	None	ACC 18.23.060	None
Fences and hedges	See Chapter 18.31 ACC		
Landscaping	See Chapter 18.50 ACC		
Parking	See Chapter 18.52 ACC		
Signs	See Chapter 18.56 ACC		
Lighting	See Chapter 18.55 ACC		
Nonconforming structures, land and uses	See Chapter 18.54 ACC		

Notes:

1 A 25-foot setback is required when adjacent to a residential zone.

2 Buildings may exceed 45 feet if one foot of setback is provided from each property line (or required minimum setback) for each foot the building exceeds 45 feet.