

STATE OF GEORGIA  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY

AMENDMENT TO APPENDIX C, ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.12  
OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND APPENDIX C, ARTICLE V, SECTION 5.12 OF THE EFFINGHAM COUNTY ZONING ORDINANCE AND TO REPEAL ALL OTHER ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT HEREWITH.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Effingham County Board of Commissioners in regular meeting assembled and pursuant to lawful authority thereof:

**5.12 I-1 Industrial districts.**

All properties currently zoned I-1 shall adhere to the buffer requirements designated for Heavy Industrial uses as shown on the buffer chart. However, applicants may request to apply the Light Industrial buffer standards in lieu of the Heavy Industrial standards, subject to approval by the Board of Commissioners.

*5.12.1 LI-Light industrial permitted uses.* All commercial uses are allowed in the I district.

The following uses shall be permitted in the light industrial district, as well as those identified in the Permitted Uses Table provided that such uses meet all the requirements of this section and all other provisions established in this Code.

1. Assembly or fabrication of previously manufactured parts:
  - a. Apparel and other textile products;
  - b. Electronic and other electric equipment, electrical generator and distribution equipment;
  - c. Fabric samples;
  - d. Furniture and fixtures;
  - e. Industrial machinery and equipment;
  - f. Instruments and related products;
  - g. Lumber and wood products, excluding the processing of material for the production of paper and allied products;
  - h. Metal products;
  - i. Plastic and rubber products;
  - j. Transportation equipment.
2. Boat sales and repairs.
3. Automotive sales and repairs.
4. Automotive storage, excluding junk yards.
5. Florist—retail and wholesale.
6. Laboratories.
7. Manufacturing (light) of, including but not limited to the following:

- a. Bakery products;
  - b. Beverages, including alcoholic beverages;
  - c. Communication equipment;
  - d. Computer and office equipment;
  - e. Electrical lighting and wiring equipment;
  - f. Electronic equipment;
  - g. Fabricated metals, excluding use of blast furnaces and drop forges;
  - h. Grain mill products;
  - i. Audio and visual equipment;
  - j. Appliances;
  - k. Ice;
  - l. Meat products, excluding slaughtering, dressing, and rendering;
  - m. Medical instruments and supplies;
  - n. Pharmaceutical products;
  - o. Biodiesel in an enclosed system.
- 8. Offices.
  - 9. Printing and publishing.
  - 10. Recycling centers.
  - 11. Repair of any goods, equipment, and vehicles of which the manufacture, assembly or sales are permitted in this district.
  - 12. Research facilities.
  - 13. Vocational schools.
  - 14. Utility operations centers.
  - 15. Ready-mix concrete facilities.

*5.12.1A HI-Heavy industrial permitted uses.*

Heavy industrial uses must meet the required buffer standards, as well as those identified in the Permitted Uses Table.

- 1. Manufacturing (heavy) of:
  - a. Aerospace vehicles and parts;
  - b. Automobiles and parts;
  - c. Paper;
  - d. Lumber;
  - e. Concrete pipe;
  - f. Asphalt;
  - g. Boats;
  - h. Grain mill products;
  - i. Sugar;
  - j. Wood chips;
  - k. Ethanol;
  - l. Chemicals;
  - m. Plastics.

2. Energy plant.
3. Reserved.
4. Railroad switchyards.
5. Metal plating.
6. Metal smelting.
7. Recycling centers.
8. Warehousing.

*Buffers.* Buffers for the industrial district shall meet the following minimum guidelines from the adjacent property line:

Proposed use	Adjacent use					
	R-district or single -family subdivision exterior boundary*	AR-1 or AR-2	Multi- family	Commercial, Institutional**	Light Industrial	Heavy Industrial**
R-districts or single-family subdivision exterior boundary*	15 feet	15 feet	20 feet	30 feet	300 feet	300 feet
AR-1 or AR-2	15 feet	15 feet	20 feet	30 feet	150 feet	300 feet
Multifamily	20 feet	20 feet	15 feet	20 feet	150 feet	300 feet
Commercial, institutional**	30 feet	30 feet	20 feet	15 feet	50 feet	150 feet
Light industrial**	300 feet	150 feet	300 feet	50 feet	25 feet	25 feet
Heavy industrial**	300 feet	300 feet	300 feet	150 feet	25 feet	25 feet

For projects that meet two out of the three non-metropolitan thresholds for DRI review the required buffer screening may be lessened to allow for architectural views upon approval of the zoning official.

Please see buffer ordinance for required plantings

*5.12.1B HI-Heavy industrial conditional uses.* The following uses may be permitted on a conditional basis upon approval of the board of commissioners after review by the planning board.

1. Junkyards.
2. Shipping container facility, as provided in article III, section 3.16A.

The board of commissioners and planning board in reviewing the conditional use application, may consider the following factors:

- a. The effect the proposed activity will have on traffic flow along adjoining streets;
- b. Ingress and egress to the property;

- c. The number, size and types of signs proposed for the site;
- d. The amount and location of open space;
- e. Protective screening, either natural vegetation and/or berms, and fencing, to screen the use from public view;
- f. Hours and manner of operation;
- g. Outdoor lighting;
- h. Compatibility with surrounding land use; and,
- i. The effect of noise, dust, debris or other external impacts of the use on the surrounding uses.

5.12.2 All proposed uses not listed within section 5.12.1 are subject to review by the planning board and approval by the board of commissioners in accordance with the following procedures:

5.12.2.1 *Submission of plans.* The owner of a tract of land zoned or permitted by conditional use for industrial use shall submit to the planning board and board of commissioners for its review a site plan for the use and development of such tract of land. It shall then be the duty of the planning board and board of commissioners to investigate and ascertain whether the proposed activity complies with all the provisions of this chapter which pertain to section 3.16A or I (industrial) districts. The board of commissioners may determine that a proposed activity is similar to those uses listed within section 5.12.1 or that the use is not similar. If the proposed activity is considered to be a similar use, said activity may be permitted by right. If the proposed activity is not similar to those uses listed within section 5.1.11, the use shall be subject to the approval of the county commission after review and recommendation by the planning board, subject to such conditions deemed necessary and appropriate by the board of commissioners to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of the county and to promote the purposes of this chapter. The planning board and board of commissioners may employ experts in specific fields as needed, and as funds are available, to determine whether a proposed use meets the required performance standards.

5.12.2.2 *Submission requirements.* Design and operation site plans shall be submitted to the zoning official and consist of at least the following:

- 1. Name, address, and telephone number of petitioner, architect, surveyor, engineer of designer.
- 2. Names and addresses of all property owners of the site.
- 3. Zoning district classification of adjoining land.
- 4. Site plan to include the following:
  - a. Location and dimensions of existing and/or proposed structures with the type of usage designated.
  - b. Proposed and existing access and egress.
  - c. Proposed and existing rights-of-way.
  - d. Proposed and existing easements.
  - e. Proposed and existing water, sewer, and storm-water facilities.
  - f. Proposed and existing buffers.
  - g. Setbacks.
  - h. Streams, lakes, and jurisdictional wetland areas.
  - i. Proposed waste treatment/handling facilities.
  - j. Proposed parking.

- k. Proposed outdoor lighting and signage.
- l. Proposed hours of operation.
- m. Traffic study.
- n. Where the noise generated by the proposed development is expected to exceed 55 dB(A) at any point along the property line, the developer shall provide a detailed proposal for noise-reduction measures and shall depict said improvements on all site plans.
- o. A dust and debris mitigation plan to keep the roads clean.

5. Written report outlining the industrial operation, schedule of development, and listing the toxic and/or hazardous materials regulated by local, state, or federal regulations, including disposal/handling plans of said materials.

*5.12.3 Referral and authorization.* A written report of its findings shall be furnished by the planning board to the county commissioners. The planning board may suggest disapproval, recommend the plan as submitted, or may modify, alter, adjust, or amend the plan before recommendation, and in recommending it, may propose the prescribing of other conditions. The report of the planning board to the county commission shall include a finding as to whether the proposed use is consistent with the provisions and requirements of the zoning ordinance. If the county commissioners find that the proposed use is consistent with the purpose of the zoning ordinance to promote the public health, safety, and general welfare, it may approve the rezoning.

*5.12.4 Performance standards.* All permitted and conditional uses must conform to the following performance standards:

*5.12.4.1 Smoke.* The emission from any air contaminant source the opacity of which is equal to or greater than 40 percent shall not be permitted. Furthermore, from fuel-burning equipment, visible emissions the opacity of which is equal to or greater than 20 percent, except for one six-minute period per hour of not more than 27 percent opacity, shall not be permitted. Any operation, process, handling, transportation, or storage facility which may result in fugitive dust shall take all reasonable precautions to prevent such dust from becoming airborne. The percent opacity from any fugitive dust source shall not equal or exceed 20 percent. "Opacity" means the degree to which emissions reduce the transmission of light and obscure the view of an object in the background, and is expressed in terms of percent opacity. The measurement of percent opacity does not include the measurement of the obscuration of view due to uncombined water droplets. Any determination of the percent opacity shall be made by the arithmetic average of six minutes of data.

Any visual observation or determination of opacity taken for the purpose of determining compliance with any requirement of this standard shall be made by personnel certified according to procedures established for such certification by the Georgia EPD or by US EPA to make such observation or determination.

*5.12.4.2 Odor.* Any process which may involve the creation or emission of any odors shall be provided with a secondary safeguard system, so that control will be maintained if the primary safeguard system should fail. There is hereby established as a guide in determining such quantities of offensive odors table 3 (Odor Thresholds) in chapter 5, Air Pollution Abatement Manual, copyright 1951, by Manufacturing Chemists Association, Inc., Washington, D.C. Where said publication gives range of figures a simple average of these shall be used.

*5.12.4.3 Toxic gases.* The emission of gases or fumes injurious to persons or property beyond the

lot lines occupied by the use is prohibited.

*5.12.4.4 Glare and heat.* Glare and heat from arc welding, acetylene torch cutting, or similar processes shall be performed so as not to produce glare which is visible, or objectionable heat beyond the property line of the lot on which the operation is located. Direct glare from incandescent exposed lights shall not be visible from adjoining streets or properties. All lighting shall be downward facing and shielded.

*5.12.4.5 Wastewater.* No discharge is permitted at any point in any private sewage disposal system or stream or into the ground of any materials in such a way or of such nature or temperature as could contaminate any water supply, or otherwise cause the emission of dangerous objectionable elements, except in accordance with the standards as approved by water pollution control boards of appropriate agencies of the state department of natural resources.

Furthermore, no accumulation of solid wastes conducive to the breeding of rodents or insects shall be permitted.

*5.12.4.6 Storage of toxic or hazardous wastes, chemicals, and materials.* Any applicant who intends to store, handle, or transport toxic or hazardous waste, chemicals, or materials shall submit to the county fire marshal a listing of all compounds and contents to be contained on the proposed site. Upon approval by the county fire marshal that the use, transport, and storage of said materials meets the federal and state guidelines, the applicant shall be issued a permit authorizing such secured storage. Disposal of toxic or hazardous wastes, chemicals, and materials is prohibited.

*5.12.4.7 Vibration.* Any use creating intense earthshaking vibration shall be set back as far as possible from the lot lines on all sides, and in no case shall any such vibration be perceptible along any lot line.

*5.12.4.8 Buffer/screening.* Please refer to section 3.4, buffers.

*5.12.5 Uses prohibited.*

1. Residential subdivisions.
2. Single-family residences.
3. Churches.
4. Single-family dwellings.
5. Multifamily dwellings.
6. Childcare centers (a childcare center may be allowed as a conditional use to make childcare available to the employees of an industrial site).

*5.12.6 Reserved.*

## **5.13 Light Industrial districts**

*5.13.1 Intent.* The Light Industrial District (L-I) is established to promote and sustain economic growth and employment opportunities by providing dedicated areas for a broad range of industrial, manufacturing, processing, and distribution activities. This district is designed to accommodate industries that operate in a clean, efficient, and non-intrusive manner, ensuring compatibility with adjacent commercial and residential areas while supporting the needs of industrial businesses. Serving as a hub for businesses that require flexible operational space but do not generate excessive noise, pollution, vibration, or other nuisances that could negatively impact surrounding properties.

Refer to Article V, Table of Permitted Uses (TPU)

Any use that is not explicitly addressed in the TPU is prohibited; however, the applicant may request a text amendment and follow the process for getting approval of the use.

Refer to Article III, 3.4 for the required buffers for the L-I zoning district.

*5.13.2 Storage of toxic or hazardous waste, chemicals, and materials.* Any applicant who intends to store, handle, or transport toxic or hazardous waste, chemicals, or materials shall submit to the county Fire Marshall or designee a listing of all compounds and contents to be contained on the proposed site. Upon approval by the county Fire Marshall or designee that the use, transport, and storage of said materials meets the federal and state guidelines, the applicant shall be issued a permit authorizing such secured storage. Disposal of toxic or hazardous wastes, chemicals, and materials is prohibited. No accumulation of solid waste conducive to the breeding of rodents or insects shall be permitted.

*5.13.3 Vibration.* Any use creating intense earthshaking vibration shall be set back as far as possible from the lot lines on all sides, and in no case shall any such vibration be perceptible along any lot line.

Minimum lot area (public water and sewer)	21,780 sq. feet
Minimum lot area (public water only)	21,780 sq. feet
Minimum lot area (private water and sewer)	43,560 sq. feet
Minimum lot width at building line	100 feet
Minimum front setback	N/A; must meet the required standards
Minimum rear setback	N/A; must meet the required standards
Minimum side setback (interior)	N/A; must meet the required standards
Minimum side setback (street)	N/A; must meet the required standards
Maximum building height	N/A

*5.13.4 Greenspace requirement.* At least 15% of the total lot area shall be designated as greenspace. Greenspace may include landscaped areas, required buffers, tree plantings, bioswales, and pedestrian-friendly spaces such as plazas or seating areas.

## **5.14 Heavy Industrial districts.**

*5.14.1 Intent.* The Heavy Industrial designation is intended to support and enhance employment opportunities by establishing areas specifically designated for a diverse range of industrial activities. These areas accommodate businesses that require extensive infrastructure, large-scale facilities, and access to key transportation networks, ensuring efficient operations and logistical support. The designation encourages the retention and expansion of existing industries while also attracting new businesses that contribute to economic growth. Additionally, it allows for complementary uses—such as logistics hubs, research and development facilities, and limited commercial services—that support industrial functions and workforce needs, fostering a dynamic and sustainable industrial environment.

Refer to Article V, Table of Permitted Uses (TPU)

Any use that is not explicitly addressed in the TPU is prohibited; however, the applicant may request a text amendment and follow the process for getting approval of the use.

Refer to Article III, 3.4 for the required buffers for the L-I zoning district.

Minimum lot area (public water and sewer)	21,780 sq. feet
Minimum lot area (public water only)	21,780 sq. feet
Minimum lot area (private water and sewer)	43,560 sq. feet
Minimum lot width at building line	100 feet
Minimum front setback	N/A; must meet the required standards
Minimum rear setback	N/A; must meet the required standards
Minimum side setback (interior)	N/A; must meet the required standards
Minimum side setback (street)	N/A; must meet the required standards
Maximum building height	N/A

*5.14.2 Greenspace requirement.* At least 15% of the total lot area shall be designated as greenspace. Greenspace may include landscaped areas, required buffers, tree plantings, bioswales, and pedestrian-friendly spaces such as plazas or seating areas.

All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

This \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS,  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY, GEORGIA

FIRST READING: \_\_\_\_\_

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
DAMON RAHN, CHAIRMAN

SECOND READING: \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
STEPHANIE JOHNSON  
EFFINGHAM COUNTY CLERK