§ 8. General application of chapter to dwellings. All the requirements of this chapter shall apply to all kinds and classes of multiple dwellings, except where there are specific provisions, requirements or exceptions for one or more kinds or classes. A specific provision for one kind or class of dwelling shall apply only to that kind or class of dwelling to which such reference is made. Whenever a specific provision is inconsistent with a general provision of this chapter, the specific provision shall apply and take precedence. The department shall have power to classify dwellings in accordance with the provisions of this chapter.