



About Us: The International Code Council (ICC), is a membership association dedicated to building safety and fire prevention, and develops the building safety and fire prevention codes used for the construction of residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. Most U.S. cities, counties and states that adopt codes have chosen the codes developed and supported by the International Code Council.

Membership: ICC members include state, county and municipal code enforcement and fire officials, architects, engineers, builders, contractors, elected officials, manufacturers and others in the construction industry. The ICC has nearly 300 chapters, each with its own personality and focus, representing all ICC member professional disciplines.

I-Codes: The International Codes, or I-Codes, published by the ICC, provide minimum safeguards for people at home, at school and in the workplace. The I-Codes are a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated building safety and fire prevention codes. Building codes provide for public safety in the built environment and support the industry's need for a single set of codes.

I-Code Users: Forty-eight states use the I-Codes at the state or jurisdictional level. The District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and federal agencies also enforce one or more of the I-Codes. The Department of Defense references the International Building Code for constructing military facilities, including those that house our troops, around the world and at home.

Model Building Code Advantages: The purpose of a building code is to establish minimum requirements necessary to protect public health, safety and welfare in the built environment. Model building codes provide for protection from fire, structural collapse and general deterioration. Safe buildings are achieved through code-based design and construction practices in concert with a code administration program that ensures compliance. Model codes serve to keep construction costs down by establishing uniformity in the construction industry. This uniformity permits building and materials manufacturers to do business on a larger scale—statewide, regionally, nationally or internationally. This larger scale, in turn, creates cost savings for the end consumer. Codes also help protect real estate investments, commercial and personal, by providing a minimum level of construction quality and safety.

International Code Council Code Development Process: The International Code Council uses the governmental consensus process to develop its building safety and fire prevention codes. It is an open, inclusive process that allows input from all individuals and groups. Committees hear all code change proposals. An appeals process allows anyone to appeal an action or inaction of a code committee. Final decisions are made by International Code Council voting members—code enforcement and fire officials who, with no vested interests beyond public safety, represent the public's best interest. ICC also offers technical and educational support regarding the codes as well as certification exams to test professional knowledge of code enforcement and construction.

How a Code Becomes Law: Legislative bodies are not obligated to adopt model building safety or fire prevention codes, and may write their own code or portions of a code. A model code has no legal standing until it is adopted as law by a legislative body (state legislature, county board, city council, etc.). When adopted as law, owners of property within the boundaries of the adopting jurisdiction are required to comply with the referred codes. Because codes are updated, existing structures usually are required to meet the code that was enforced when the property was built. The primary application of a building code is to regulate new construction. Building codes usually only apply to an existing building if the building undergoes reconstruction, rehabilitation or alteration, or if the occupancy of the existing building changes as defined by the locally adopted building code.

People Helping People Build a Safer World™