

ICC Government Relations

August 2025

Monthly Update

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PRO CODES ACT: Take action to protect the building safety codes ICC members created

Right now, what you and your colleagues have built to create world-class safety codes and standards is under attack. That’s why a bipartisan group of Members of Congress is at work to pass the [Pro Codes Act](#), H.R. 4072. *Your help is urgently needed.* Click [HERE](#) to let your **Member of Congress know your work deserves to be protected**. You’ll be joining a broad coalition of building and fire safety organizations to defend our work. This legislation aims to protect the code development process and to prevent unauthorized and erroneous copies of codes from being published. [Click here to ask your member of Congress](#) to protect your work and co-sponsor the Pro Codes Act today!

[Read more here](#) →



Major housing bill is now advancing to the U.S. Senate

The U.S. Senate Banking Committee has advanced significant housing legislation for the first time since the 2008-2009 recession. [The Renewing Opportunity in the American Dream \(ROAD\) to Housing Act of 2025](#) includes a wide range of policy approaches to boost housing supply, modernize financing options, reduce regulatory barriers, and promote economic mobility.

The bill’s strong bipartisan support could be a harbinger for Congress to take additional action on the legislation in the fall. The bill expands the Manufactured Home Construction and Safety Standards (HUD code) scope to apply to housing “with or without a permanent chassis.” Currently, state and local governments utilize the International Residential Code (IRC) to govern construction of homes built offsite that are not affixed to a permanent chassis.

The Code Council is working with building safety organizations and Congress to ensure that the legislation’s expansion of the HUD code assures equivalent life safety requirements to the IRC, supports code official training, and recognizes existing consensus-based codes and standards. The Code Council co-developed a series of best practice standards for offsite construction with the Modular Building Institute, which several states have adopted, and is currently working with the New York Institute of Technology on an additional standard that is still in development.

The bill would also authorize the Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery program, with a variation on ICC-supported language regarding resilient construction. The bill would direct HUD to publish best practices for zoning and cost-effective building codes, provide grants for “pattern books” to speed affordable housing projects, and support home repairs and training.

The Code Council’s Government Relations team will continue to engage with key Members of Congress to ensure the bill supports construction that is safe, resilient, and affordable, as well as the critical role building safety professionals play in the housing sector. Contact the GR team at advocacy@iccsafe.org for more information about the bill or to engage with your federal elected officials.

UPDATE YOUR CALENDAR

[2025 Annual Conference, Expo & Committee Action Hearings](#)
[October 19–30](#)

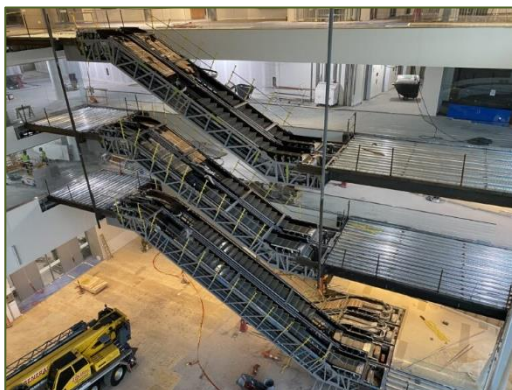
**Huntington Convention Center
Cleveland, OH**

Conference attendees can take advantage of the eight-track Education Program, Expo Talks, Building Tours and Insight Sessions offer a full range of learning opportunities for all building safety professionals.

[Register now](#) for your **Full Access Pass** or **Education Pass**. Earn valuable CEUs each day at the 2025 Annual Conference

FEMA Earthquake Hazard Reduction Grant applications are due August 11

FEMA is offering over \$2 million in funding through the **FY25 National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program – Individual State Earthquake Assistance (ISEA)** for eligible states and territories with high or very high seismic risk. Grants range from **\$50,000 to \$963,000** and support activities like seismic code implementation, hazard mapping, public education, and preparedness. Applications are due **August 11**, and a 25% cost share is required (waived for insular areas). Learn more at fema.gov/earthquake and apply via the [FEMA Grants Outcomes \(GO\) portal](#).



2025 Annual Conference coming to newly renovated convention center

With more than 500,000 square feet of meeting and event space – including 225,000 square feet for exhibiting, two ballrooms and more than 50 breakout rooms – the Huntington Convention Center is the perfect host for the [2025 International Code Council Annual Conference, Expo and Committee Action Hearings](#), which will be held from October 19-30. Attendees will be among the first to experience the convention center's \$50 million renovations. The renovations included a critical update that transformed the building from its initial concept as a medical mall (when it was rated for business occupancy) to meet the standards for assembly occupancy.

[Read more here](#) →

Check your voter eligibility to participate in Code Development Process

The 2024–2026 cycle of the Code Development Process introduced a revised schedule for hearings as well as deadlines related to voting. To ensure voter eligibility, it is important for Governmental Members to check their membership status by logging in to their [myICC](#) account. To be eligible to vote at Group A and B Public Comment Hearings (PCH) or the Online Governmental Consensus Vote (OGCV) in 2026, **an ICC Governmental Membership must be current as of October 21**. If the membership expires before October 21, it must be renewed to be eligible to vote in the 2026 PCH or OGCV. Visit [myICC](#) to check your status.

[Read more here](#) →

Day of Service is set for the 2025 ICC Annual Conference in Cleveland

This year marks the 11th Annual WICED/PTN/ICC Day of Service—a collaborative effort between Women in Code Enforcement and Development (WICED), PermitTechNation (PTN), and the International Code Council (ICC). Held on the Saturday before the ICC Annual Conference, this special event is our opportunity as members of the ICC family to give back to the communities we visit in a meaningful and lasting way. This year we're proud to support Fisher House and Ronald McDonald House Charities of Northeast Ohio. Volunteers will assist with property maintenance at both Cleveland and Akron locations. Sign up to be part of this rewarding experience! Volunteer slots are limited, so register now.

[Read more here](#) →

New report reveals valuable building industry insights for ICC members

The International Code Council released the *State of the Building Safety Industry Report: Envisioning the Future*, summarizing responses from a diverse range of building safety professionals across different generations, trade specialties, geographic locations and income levels. It covers a wide range of topics, including compensation, work environment, career satisfaction, workplace challenges and future opportunities. Respondents rated the value of continuing education assistance, flexible work schedules, work-life balance, benefits, and time off. Answers provided averages that will help employers and individuals benchmark themselves against others in the industry. More than 4,800 building safety professionals participated in the survey, representing a broad spectrum of disciplines across the industry. The survey included responses from both Code Council members and non-members, ensuring inclusive representation. Become an ICC member [here](#) to access the report.

[Read more here](#) →

NIBS report outlines urgent need for proactive disaster mitigation strategies

The [National Institute of Building Sciences](#) (NIBS) [Consultative Council](#) released a new report which presents a data-driven case for proactively retrofitting buildings and infrastructure within the U.S. [2025 Moving Forward Report: Retrofitting for Resilience](#) outlines the urgent need for proactive investment in disaster mitigation strategies. The NIBS Consultative Council, which includes representatives of architects, engineers, contractors and standards-developing bodies, serves as a non-partisan forum to address key challenges facing the built environment. Its annual *Moving Forward Report* aims to identify emerging issues and develop solutions to guide the industry and government. The report discusses the devastating financial and human losses across the U.S. caused by extreme weather events. The cumulative financial toll of weather-related hazards from 1980 to January 2025 has approached \$3 trillion, a figure that only accounts for 403 events that each caused \$1 billion or more in damages.

[Read more here](#) →

Full and alternate member slots open on Exam Development Committees

The Code Council has openings on Exam Development Committees (EDCs). Apply today to help contribute to the development and maintenance of ICC Certification exams! Application deadline is **September 15**. There are full and alternate member openings on the following [Exam Development Committees \(EDCs\)](#):

Accessibility; Certified Building Official / Certified Fire Marshal; Commercial Building; Electrical; Fire Services; IgCC; Mechanical; Permit Technician; Plumbing / Fuel Gas; Portable / Pre-Engineered Fire Extinguishing Systems; Property Maintenance and Housing / Zoning; Reinforced / Prestressed Concrete; Residential Building; Soils; Structural Masonry; Structural Steel and Welding; Sustainability; Tall Mass Timber. There are also alternate member openings on the Commercial Fire Alarm and Fire Sprinkler exam committees. For more information about the duties and responsibilities of an EDC member, contact 888-422-7233, ext. 5524 or at accommittees@iccsafe.org. To apply, [click here](#).

In-depth report from ICC examines battery and energy storage systems

The rapid advancement of lithium-ion battery technology has introduced a series of challenges for various stakeholders, namely building code officials, fire code officials, and first responders as well as architects, engineers, and construction professionals. The International Code Council (ICC) developed a roadmap to bridge the gaps in codes related to the use, manufacturing, storage, testing, and recycling of batteries and energy storage systems (ESS). The 2024 International Codes (I-Codes) feature updates to the International Fire Code (IFC), International Building Code (IBC), and International Residential Code (IRC) to enhance battery safety.

[Read more here](#) →

Code Council announces its new strategic collaboration with Archistar

The International Code Council announced a new strategic collaboration with Archistar. Through this collaboration, the Code Council is now an official Premier Platinum Reseller of groundbreaking technology that digitizes and automates code compliance checks called the eCheck™ solution. Enhanced with a seamless [ICC Code Connect API®](#) content integration, the eCheck™ platform allows cities and jurisdictions to evaluate building and zoning compliance more efficiently. The solution will directly address long-standing permitting delays and capacity constraints that contribute to housing shortages nationwide.

[Read more here](#) →

New York updates its state building code with 2024 International Codes®

The state of New York recently adopted nine of the [2024 International Codes®](#) (I-Codes®) with amendments. This decision comes after careful consideration by the State Fire Prevention and Building Code Council and is a testament to the state's commitment to the safety and sustainability of its communities. "New York's adoption of the 2024 I-Codes marks a significant step toward advancing building safety, accessibility and sustainability," said International Code Council Chief Executive Officer John Belcik. "We commend the state's leadership in embracing the vital role that building codes play in protecting communities." Amendments to the state code adoptions include provisions for 18 inches of sea level rise over the currently required flood elevation in tidal areas, and other adjustments to existing language for buildings built in flood hazard areas. This adoption also requires the installation of automatic fire sprinklers in all newly constructed townhomes on municipal water systems. Other safety provisions include increased battery and energy storage system protection.

BUILDING FOR RESILIENCE: Insights from a global codes assessment

The quality and resilience of the built environment are fundamental to the health and sustainability of societies worldwide. With rapid urbanization expected to push the proportion of people in cities to nearly 70 percent by 2050, a vast portion of the global building stock that will exist in the coming decades has yet to be constructed. This construction boom, largely centered in Africa, Asia and Latin America, presents a critical opportunity to lock in safety and resilience for generations to come. A report publication, [Building Regulation for Resilience: A Global Assessment](#)

[of Building Codes](#), provides a comprehensive snapshot of where building codes stand today and offers a detailed set of recommendations for improvement. The report assesses the building codes and implementation environments of 22 countries across six geographic regions, focusing on three priority areas: structural safety and resilience, green buildings and universal accessibility. For building safety professionals and code officials, the report's findings offer a global perspective on shared challenges and highlight pathways to a more resilient future.

[Read more here](#) →

Engineered bamboo emerging as renewable, high-performance material

Across three days in June, the Code Council participated in a novel program of events in three Australian cities to showcase, discuss and learn about the attributes of bamboo as a building material. The focus was on establishing engineered bamboo as a mainstream product in the Australian market, in much the same way that compressed laminated timber was over a decade ago. Structural engineered bamboo has the potential to complement sustainably sourced timber where supply struggles to meet demand and, therefore, represents an opportunity for the timber industry to diversify and mitigate risk.

[Read more here](#) →

Code officials provide the first line of defense with hydrogen installations

[Hydrogen](#) is gaining renewed attention as a cornerstone of the evolving clean energy landscape. As an energy carrier, it offers remarkable versatility and potential across a broad spectrum of applications. With a high energy density by weight, hydrogen can be efficiently converted into mechanical work or heat, making it an invaluable resource in supporting diverse energy and industrial processes. Perhaps most compelling is its environmental profile: when used in a fuel cell to provide energy, the only byproducts are water and heat—completely avoiding production of greenhouse gases. Historically, hydrogen has been crucial in industries like petroleum refining, fertilizer manufacturing and glass production. Recently, its use has expanded to powering industrial forklifts and medium- to heavy-duty transportation such as buses, rail systems and long-haul trucks. In some regions, it is blended into natural gas pipelines for residential and power generation.

[Read more here](#) →

ICC Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas Updates

Four Corners Initiative connects with various PMG industry stakeholders

The [International Code Council's Plumbing Mechanical and Fuel Gas Membership Council](#) (PMGMC) launched an ambitious nationwide outreach effort to raise awareness about the vital role plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas (PMG) codes play in safeguarding public health and supporting industry professionals. The *Four Corners Initiative*, aptly named to reflect its coast-to-coast outreach, seeks to connect with industry stakeholders at all levels by highlighting the PMGMC's mission and the resources available through the Code Council. Spearheaded by the PMGMC and supported by the [Code Council's PMG Technical Resources Team](#), the *Four Corners Initiative* delivers live and virtual training events focused on the [International Plumbing Code®](#) (IPC), [International Mechanical Code®](#) (IMC), [International Fuel Gas Code®](#) (IFGC), [International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®](#) (ISPS) and the [International Private Sewage Disposal Code®](#) (IPSDC). These sessions are designed not only to provide technical knowledge, but also to foster meaningful relationships within the PMG community.

[Read more here](#) →

ICC Family of Solutions Updates

ICC Evaluation Service performs tests on high-performance storm shelters

ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) performs tests in accordance with ICC 500, as well as FEMA P-320 and PEMA P-361, for manufacturers of high-performance storm shelters and components. These tests include:

- Missile impact
- Static Air-pressure Difference
- Windborne debris impact resistance for tornadoes and hurricanes
- Wind load testing

ICC 500 outlines the standard for design and construction of storm shelters and is considered the primary standard for storm safe rooms, storm shelters and hurricane impact doors. The standard gives the minimum requirements to safeguard safe room occupants from conditions commonly experienced during tornadoes and hurricanes. Testing for storm shelter doors, walls, and other components is a crucial step in adhering to the standards set forth in the code. Contact us today to learn more and get started with storm shelter testing.

ICC-ES Supplement Reports help to simplify regional product approvals

ICC-ES regional supplement reports can help move product approval faster. ICC-ES Supplement Reports are designed to show proof of compliance to local and state-specific building codes. Adding an ICC-ES Supplement Report can streamline multiple jurisdiction approvals with one comprehensive report, simplifying the process of meeting varying regional code requirements. Recognized by code officials, designers, and specifiers, ICC-ES reports provide a mark of excellence, signifying that products have been rigorously evaluated, enhancing credibility and streamlining the approval process. ICC-ES Supplement Reports support:

- ✓ Nationwide Market Access: Meet the specific requirements of key local codes like the Los Angeles Building Code, Chicago Building Code, Florida Building Code, Oregon Building Code, and more.
- ✓ Streamlined Approval Process: Save time with code-official-trusted reports that make it easy to demonstrate compliance with local and state building codes.
- ✓ Enhanced Credibility: Show stakeholders that your products meet the highest standards for safety and compliance.
- ✓ Increased Visibility: Join the ranks of manufacturers already gaining awareness and trust in new markets nationwide by showcasing compliance to regional codes.

[Read more here](#) →

Virtual Canadian Evaluation Committee hearing set for September 18

The following will be presented for review at the virtual Canadian Evaluation Committee hearing, September 18.

- AC38CA (20) Canadian Acceptance Criteria for Sheathing Membranes
- AC174CA (20) Canadian Acceptance Criteria for Wood-plastic Composite and Plastic Lumber Deck Board Span Ratings

The proceedings of the Canadian Evaluation Committee will be carried out via live WebEx.

- Parties interested in joining the ICC-ES Canadian Evaluation Committee hearing on September 18 must register for the WebEx Event.
- Registrations will be reviewed and approved weekly by ICC-ES. You will receive a confirmation when your registration has been approved by ICC-ES.
- Registrations close September 17.

To register for the September 18 review, [click here](#). View the detailed agenda and all the latest information [here](#).