ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL CODES AND STANDARDS
INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

What does "incorporate by reference" mean? If a governmental agency or authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) over code adoption wishes to adopt a model code for legislative or regulatory purposes, it will enact an ordinance, regulation or law to incorporate by reference (IBR) the relevant code. The actual text of the model code is not included in the law, but the enacting law will include the full text of any changes or amendments enacted by the legislative body of the AHJ.

Step 1
The International Code Council updates the current model codes every three years.

Step 2
The International Code Council publishes the code both in print and online.

Step 3
The model code review process begins with governments.

Step 4
The adoption timeframe is set.

Step 5
Language is modified and amendments are added or recommended through the review process.

Step 6
AHJs set effective date, and notify stakeholders working on projects.

Step 7
Code is adopted into law through legislative or regulatory action, citing the title, edition and publishing information of the model code.

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