

**BCAC – IRC Chapter 3 – Intermodal Shipping Containers
Draft Code Change Proposal
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PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Developed: 14 September 2018 (Submission to ICC BCAC for consideration in ICC Group B 2019)

International Residential Code

SECTION R202 - DEFINITIONS

(NEW DEFINITION)

INTERMODAL SHIPPING CONTAINER. A six-sided steel unit originally constructed as a general cargo container used for the transport of goods and materials.

CHAPTER 3 – BUILDING PLANNING

(NEW SECTION)

SECTION R301.1.4 Intermodal shipping containers. Intermodal shipping containers shall be permitted to be designed in accordance with the Section 3114 of the *International Building Code*.

Reason:

This code change purpose is to introduce intermodal shipping containers into the International Residential Code based on requests by code officials in the U.S. Prior to this proposal, several jurisdictions had created their own individual regulations or ordinances, or had administered additional requirements beyond the code (e.g. Section R104.11 “Alternative Materials, design and methods of construction and equipment”) so as to be comfortable to ensure a safe structure. This code change proposal is in response to those requests to develop a provision in order to establish a consistent set of provisions which cover the minimum safety requirements, but which do not duplicate existing code provisions.

The proposed definition is consistent with the successful code change proposal to the International Building Code, new Section 3114. For consistency, we are introducing that same definition here.

The reference to the International Building Code has been modeled after Sections R301.1.1 through R301.1.3. The BCAC Shipping Container Working Group chose not to duplicate the newly accepted shipping container structural design language in the International Building Code. This proposal is making a simple reference the new section in the IBC where the provisions for shipping container structural safety are contained. As Section R301.1 applies to structural design only, the other non-structural provisions of the International Residential Code would apply as required (e.g. energy, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, etc.). Also, because Section R301.1.1 deals with primarily alternative sources of structural design (e.g. independent reference standard structural design resources outside the codes), the BCAC shipping container Working Group determined it to be more appropriate to separate this reference to the IBC for clarity.

BCAC - The International Code Council's Building Code Action Committee (BCAC) was established by the ICC Board of Directors to pursue opportunities to improve and enhance an assigned International Code or portion thereof. This includes both the technical aspects of the codes as well as the code content in terms of scope and application of referenced standards. Since its inception in July, 2011, the BCAC has held open meetings and numerous workgroup calls which included members of the BCAC as well as any interested party to discuss and debate the proposed changes and the public comments. Related documentation and reports are posted on the BCAC website at: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/BCAC/Pages/default.aspx>.

The ICC Building Code Action Committee created a task group to facilitate the development of this proposal. Members of the assigned task group included representatives from: City of Long Beach, CA; County of Mecklenburg, NC; Modular Building Institute; American Iron and Steel Institute; Underwriters Laboratories; and the Portland Cement Association. Additional contacts included the State of California (Division of State Architect, Housing and Community Development), City of San Diego; City of Los Angeles, CA; City of Seattle; Clark County, NV; Falcon Structures, RADCO a Twining Company, SEABOX Company, FEMA ATC Seismic Code Support Committee, and other guests who provided their individual expertise.

Cost impact category: The net effect of the public comment and code change proposal will not increase or decrease the cost of construction.

Cost Impact:

The code change proposal will decrease the cost of construction. This new code section will provide clarity on how to consistently design with, permit, and field inspect shipping containers that are repurposed for residential building construction. Current use of repurposed intermodal shipping containers requires the owner or builder to submit through the alternative means and methods administrative provisions.