



INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL FACT SHEET

ABOUT THE ICC: The [International Code Council](#) (ICC) is a U.S.-based membership association. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures in the built environment.

ICC MEMBERS: [International Code Council Members](#) are building safety professionals concerned with health, safety and welfare in the built environment. Members include building, fire, plumbing, mechanical and energy officials representing federal, state, county and municipal governments. ICC Members also are architects, engineers, designers, builders, labor groups, contractors, elected officials, manufacturers and other representatives of the construction industry.

ICC CHAPTERS: More than 360 [Chapters](#) in the U.S. and globally support the International Code Council. Chapters are designated as regional, state, local, professional, student or international. Many Chapters focus on particular disciplines such as building, fire, mechanical or plumbing.

I-CODES: The [International Codes](#), or I-Codes, are model codes published by the International Code Council and developed by ICC Members to provide minimum safeguards for homes, buildings and other structures. ICC uses a governmental consensus process to develop its codes. It is an open, inclusive process that allows input from all individuals and groups. Committees hear all code change proposals. Final decisions are made by ICC Voting Members—Governmental and Honorary Members—who, with no vested interests beyond public safety, represent the public's best interest. An appeals process allows anyone to appeal a code change. The I-Codes are a complete set of comprehensive, coordinated codes for all aspects of construction.

ICC STANDARDS: [International Code Council Standards](#), often developed with organizations that offer specific expertise, are developed using a consensus process approved by the American National Standards Institute and adopted by reference to be used with the I-Codes or as a stand-alone document. ICC publishes and develops standards that address accessibility, storm shelters, residential dwellings in high-wind regions, bleachers and grandstands, log structures, landscape irrigation systems, solar collectors and solar water heating systems.

PUBLIC/PRIVATE SECTOR COLLABORATION: The International Code Council provides support to governments by developing model codes and standards. As a result, governments do not take on the high cost and complexity of developing their own codes and standards, and benefit from code uniformity that encourages local, affordable construction growth. The I-Codes support public safety and the need for one set of codes without regional limitations.

I-CODE USERS: All 50 states and the District of Columbia have adopted the I-Codes at the state or jurisdictional level. Many federal agencies, Guam, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands use or reference the I-Codes. Outside of the U.S., the I-Codes are the basis for the Abu Dhabi International

Building Codes, the regional Caribbean Building Standard, the Mexico Residential Building Code, the Haitian National Code, the Honduras Building Code, Jamaica's construction codes, Georgia's building safety codes and the Saudi Building Code.

MODEL CODE ADVANTAGES: Based on building science, technical knowledge and past experiences, model building codes provide protection from man-made and natural disasters, guarding public health and reducing property losses. Safe buildings are achieved through proper design and construction practices in concert with a code administration program that ensures compliance.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF MODEL CODES: Model codes keep construction costs down by establishing uniformity in the construction industry that allows building and materials manufacturers to do business on a larger scale resulting in cost savings. Codes also help protect real estate investments by providing a level of quality and safety, which can result in lower insurance costs.

CDPACCESS: [cdpACCESS](#) is an online, cloud-based tool built exclusively for ICC's code development process. cdpACCESS was once known as remote voting, but it is much more than that. Key elements of cdpACCESS are maintaining the high level of integrity for which ICC's code development process is known, and increased participation and collaboration.

TECHNICAL SUPPORT: The International Code Council provides free code opinions to all of its Members. ICC also performs comprehensive plan reviews for local and state governments, architects and engineers. ICC offers in-person technical consulting where designers can meet with technical staff to create plans and specs, analyze design options, evaluate specific code sections and provide guidance on code compliance. ICC technical experts include architects; civil, fire protection, mechanical and plumbing engineers; energy conservation experts; and accessibility specialists.

TRAINING AND EDUCATION: To support career advancement and on-the-job knowledge and skills, International Code Council education programs train thousands of code, fire, design, engineering, construction and other professionals on building safety provisions provided by the I-Codes, including adoption and compliance. ICC offers code-related training in-person and online for all segments of the construction industry. ICC's Preferred Provider Program opens the door to extensive training opportunities from a variety of educational resources. CEUs from Preferred Providers can be applied toward renewal requirements of ICC's certification program.

CERTIFICATION: The International Code Council offers examinations to test professional knowledge of code compliance and construction, which are often required for employment. For code professionals, examinations cover building, fire, energy, electrical, mechanical and plumbing inspection; permitting; and plans approval. For contractors, examinations address practical applications required for licensure. Professional certifications demonstrate skills and knowledge that can result in career advancement without regional limitations.

ICC GLOBAL SERVICES: Global Services provides cooperation and collaboration in technical and institutional assistance to the global community in the area of building safety. The Global Services team works cooperatively with all ICC departments and subsidiaries to provide assistance in adoption and

adaptation of building code regulations, education and training, certification of building personnel, code administration, and enforcement and conformity assessment programs such as building product certification and third-party accreditation programs. ICC is committed to the world to mainstream safer building construction. It works with countries to enhance regulation and compliance to increase the effectiveness of building codes and their role in disaster risk reduction, and the efficiency of natural resources.

BUILDING CODE HISTORY: Building codes and regulations have protected the public for thousands of years. The earliest known code of law—the Code of Hammurabi, king of the Babylonian Empire, written circa 2200 B.C.—assessed severe penalties, including death, if a building was not constructed safely. The regulation of building construction in the United States dates back to the 1700s. In the early-1900s, the insurance industry and others with similar concerns developed the first model building code.

HOW A CODE BECOMES LAW: A model code becomes law when adopted by a government entity (state legislature, state agency, county board, city council, etc.). When adopted, properties within the adopting jurisdiction are required to comply with the codes.

WHAT CODE APPLIES: The primary objective of a building code is to provide minimum safety, guard public health and provide energy efficiency in new construction. Existing structures generally are required to meet the code that was in place when the property was built. However, newer codes may apply to an existing building when it is altered or a permit is required. A change in occupancy may also impact which code applies. There are exceptions, usually in the fire or residential codes, where new requirements may be applied to existing structures. *The International Existing Building Code* is specifically scoped for application to existing buildings.

THE ICC FAMILY OF COMPANIES

ICC-EVALUATION SERVICE: ICC-ES is a nonprofit, limited liability company that performs technical evaluations of building products, components, methods and materials. The evaluation process results in the issuance of reports on code compliance. ICC-ES also offers product listings for building, plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas products, components and materials. The listing reports are accepted throughout the U.S. and Canada. ICC-ES reports and listings are available free at www.icc-es.org.

INTERNATIONAL ACCREDITATION SERVICE: IAS accredits testing and calibration laboratories, inspection agencies, building and fire prevention departments, fabricator inspection programs and *International Building Code* special inspection agencies. IAS is the oldest leading accreditation body within the United States construction sector and a signatory to several international mutual recognition arrangements. IAS accreditation certificates are available at www.iasonline.org/More/search.html.

SOLAR RATING & CERTIFICATION CORPORATION: The primary purpose of ICC-SRCC is to provide authoritative performance ratings, certifications and standards for renewable energy products, with the intention of protecting and providing guidance to consumers, incentive providers, government and the industry. ICC-SRCC standards are available free at www.solar-rating.org/standards/index.html. Ratings are at www.solar-rating.org/ratings/index.html.

ICC WEBSITES: [International Code Council](#); [cdpACCESS](#); [Building Safety Month](#); [ICC Evaluation Service](#); [International Accreditation Service](#); [Solar Rating & Certification Corporation](#); [Free Public Access to I-Codes](#).

ICC FOUNDING STRATEGIC PARTNERS: The American Gas Association ([www.aga.org](#)), American Institute of Architects ([www.aia.org](#)), Building Owners and Managers Association ([www.boma.org](#)), National Association of Home Builders ([www.nahb.org](#).) and the National Multi Housing Council ([www.nmhc.org](#)).

ICC SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS: Alliance to Save Energy; American Institute of Building Design; American Planning Association; American Seniors Housing Association; Associated General Contractors, Alabama Branch; Boeing Company; Building Codes Assistance Project; Building Component Manufacturer Conference; Federal Alliance for Safe Homes; Institute for Business & Home Safety; Insurance Building Code Coalition; International Association of Fire Chiefs; International City/County Management Association; Laborers' International Union of North America; Missouri Association of Building Officials; National Apartment Association; National Association of Industrial and Office Properties; National Association of State Fire Marshals; National Council of Architectural Registration Boards; Northwest Wall and Ceiling Bureau; Responsible Energy Codes Alliance; Steel Truss and Component Industry; Structural Building Components; Structural Component Distributors Association; Tennessee Building Official Association; Texas Municipal League; The Model Building Code Initiative; U.S. Department of Defense; U.S. Department of Energy; U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development; United States Hispanic Contractors Association; Washington State Association of Fire Marshals; Western Contractors Association; Western Wall and Ceiling Contractors Association; Window and Door Manufacturers Association; WTCA—Representing the Structural Building Components Industry.

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