

# 2015 ICCPC<sup>®</sup>

**INTERNATIONAL**

Code Council Performance Code<sup>®</sup>

FOR BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES

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2015 ICC Performance Code® for Buildings and Facilities

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# PREFACE

## Introduction

Internationally, the design and regulatory community has embraced the need for a code that emphasizes performance requirements rather than prescriptive requirements. This need is not unique to the international community. As such, the ICC *Performance Code® for Buildings and Facilities* (ICCPC®), in this 2015 edition, is designed to meet this need through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small.

The ICC *Performance Code® for Buildings and Facilities* clearly defines the objectives for achieving the intended levels of occupant safety, property protection and community welfare. The code provides a framework to achieve the defined objectives in terms of tolerable levels of damage and magnitudes of design events, such as fire and natural hazards.

The concepts covered by this code are not intended to be any different in scope than those covered by the 2015 edition of the *International Codes®* (I-Codes®) published by the International Code Council (ICC)®. However, this code is distinctly different from the other *International Codes*, which, in many cases, direct the user to a single solution to address a safety concern for a building or facility. The ICCPC allows the user to achieve various solutions, systematically. It should be noted that the family of *International Codes*, including the *International Building Code®*, *International Energy Conservation Code®*, *International Existing Building Code®*, *International Fire Code®*, *International Fuel Gas Code®*, *International Green Construction Code®*, *International Mechanical Code®*, *International Plumbing Code®*, *International Private Sewage Disposal Code®*, *International Property Maintenance Code®*, *International Residential Code®*, *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code™*, *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code®* and *International Zoning Code®*, is considered to provide an acceptable solution that will comply with the ICCPC. Conversely, this code provides a procedure to address design and review issues associated with the alternative materials and methods sections of the codes cited above.

It is strongly recommended that users of this code consult the user's guide located in the second portion of this publication to gain additional insight into the provisions of this code.

The ICC *Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* provisions provide many benefits, including the model code development process, which offers an international forum for design professionals, code officials and other interested parties to discuss performance code requirements. This forum provides an excellent arena to debate proposed revisions. This model code also encourages international consistency in the application of provisions.

## Development

The first edition of the ICC *Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* (2001) was the culmination of an effort initiated in 1996 by the ICC. This effort included two drafting committees, Fire and Building, appointed by the ICC and consisting of representatives of the three statutory members of the International Code Council at that time, including: Building Officials and Code Administrators International, Inc. (BOCA), International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), and Southern Building Code Congress International (SBCCI). The intent was to draft a comprehensive set of performance regulations, consistent in scope with the existing model codes, but with a performance emphasis. A new edition of the code is promulgated every 3 years.

This code is founded on principles intended to establish provisions consistent with the scope of a performance code that adequately protects public health, safety and welfare; provisions that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; provisions that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and provisions that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

## Adoption

The International Code Council maintains a copyright in all of its codes and standards. Maintaining copyright allows ICC to fund its mission through sales of books, in both print and electronic formats. The ICC *Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* is designed for adoption and use by jurisdictions that recognize and acknowledge the ICC's copyright in the code, and further acknowledge the substantial shared value of the public/private partnership for code development between jurisdictions and the ICC.

The ICC also recognizes the need for jurisdictions to make laws available to the public. All ICC codes and ICC standards, along with the laws of many jurisdictions, are available for free in a non-downloadable form on the ICC's website. Jurisdictions should contact the ICC at [adoptions@icc-safe.org](mailto:adoptions@icc-safe.org) to learn how to adopt and distribute laws based on the ICC *Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* in a manner that provides necessary access, while maintaining the ICC's copyright.

## Maintenance

The ICC *Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities* is kept up to date through the review of proposed changes submitted by code enforcing officials, industry representatives, design professionals and other interested parties. Proposed changes are carefully considered through an open code development process in which all interested and affected parties may participate.

The contents of this work are subject to change through both the code development cycles and the governmental body that enacts the code into law. For more information regarding the code development process, contact the Codes and Standards Development Department of the International Code Council.

While the development procedure of the ICC *Performance Code* ensures the highest degree of care, the ICC, its members and those participating in the development of this code do not accept any liability resulting from compliance or noncompliance with the provisions because the ICC does not have the power or authority to police or enforce compliance with the contents of this code. Only the governmental body that enacts the code into law has such authority.

## Code Development Committee Responsibilities (Letter Designations in Front of Section Numbers)

In each code development cycle, proposed changes to this code are considered at the Committee Action Hearings by the applicable ICC Code Development Committee, whose action constitutes a recommendation to the voting membership for final action on the proposed change. The provisions of this code are the responsibility of several code development committees. The committee responsible for a section of this code is noted by the bracketed letter in front of that section. For example, proposed changes to code sections that have [BS] in front of them (e.g., [BS] 501.1) are considered by the appropriate IBC – Structural Code Development Committee during the time that the IBC – Structural Code Development Committee meets to consider code change proposals at the code development hearings.

The letter classifications corresponding to the code development committee responsible for hearing code change proposals for that section are as follows:

- [A] = Administrative Code Development Committee;
- [BE] = IBC – Means of Egress Code Development Committee;
- [BF] = IBC – Fire Safety Code Development Committee;
- [BG] = IBC – General Code Development Committee;
- [BS] = IBC – Structural Code Development Committee;
- [CE] = Commercial Energy Conservation Code Development Committee;
- [F] = International Fire Code Development Committee;

[M] = International Mechanical Code Development Committee; and

[P] = International Plumbing Code Development Committee.

For the development of the 2018 edition of the I-Codes, there will be three groups of code development committees and they will meet in separate years. Note that these are tentative groupings, and subject to change by the ICC. Please consult the ICC website Code Development page at [iccsafe.org/cs/codes/Pages/default.aspx](http://iccsafe.org/cs/codes/Pages/default.aspx) for the latest information. These tentative groupings are as follows:

<b>Group A Codes (Heard in 2015, Code Change Proposals Deadline: January 12, 2015)</b>	<b>Group B Codes (Heard in 2016, Code Change Proposals Deadline: January 11, 2016)</b>	<b>Group C Codes (Heard in 2017, Code Change Proposals Deadline: January 11, 2017)</b>
International Building Code – Fire Safety (Chapters 7, 8, 9, 14, 26) – Means of Egress (Chapters 10, 11, Appendix E) – General (Chapters 2-6, 12, 27-33, Appendices A, B, C, D, K)	Administrative Provisions (Chapter 1 of all codes except IRC and IECC, adminis- trative updates to currently referenced standards, and designated definitions)	International Green Construction Code
International Fuel Gas Code	International Building Code – Structural (Chapters 15-25, Appendices F, G, H, I, J, L, M)	
International Existing Building Code	International Energy Conservation Code	
International Mechanical Code	International Fire Code	
International Plumbing Code	International Residential Code – IRC-B (Chapters 1-10, Appendices E, F, H, J, K, L M, O, R, S, T, U)	
International Private Sewage Disposal Code	International Wildland-Urban Interface Code	
International Property Maintenance Code		
International Residential Code – IRC-Mechanical (Chapters 12-24) – IRC-Plumbing (Chapter 25-33, Appendices G, I, N, P)		
International Swimming Pool and Spa Code		
International Zoning Code		

**Note:** Proposed changes to the **ICC Performance Code** will be heard by the code development committee noted in brackets [ ] in the text of the code.

As noted, code change proposals submitted for this code will be assigned to one of several code change committees, which could be considered during the 2015 (Group A) or 2016 (Group B) code change cycle. For example, Section [A] 102.1 is the responsibility of the Administrative Code Development Committee, as denoted by the [A]. Therefore, any proposed change to Section [A] 102.1 will be considered by the Administrative Code Development Committee, during the 2016 Committee Action Hearings.

Another example is Section [BG] 802.1, which is designated as the responsibility of the IBC-General Code Development Committee, which will consider code change proposals during its committee action hearings in 2015 (Group A).

It is very important that anyone submitting code change proposals understand which code development committee is responsible for the section of the code that is the subject of the code change proposal. For further information, please visit the ICC website at [www.iccsafe.org/scoping](http://www.iccsafe.org/scoping).

## **Marginal Markings**

The 2015 edition does not include any margin markings as the text has remained unchanged from the 2012 edition.

## **Italicized Terms**

Selected terms set forth in Chapter 2, Definitions, are italicized where they appear in code. Such terms are not italicized where the definition set forth in Chapter 2 does not impart the intended meaning in the use of the term. The terms selected have definitions that the user should read carefully to facilitate better understanding of the code.

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