



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

# CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE

2013 EDITION

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# Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the California Building Code 2013 Edition* is to familiarize building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the construction industry with many of the important changes in the *2013 California Building Code* (CBC). This publication is designed to assist those code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, understanding the reason behind the change. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions in their code adoption process.

Only a portion of the total number of code changes to the CBC are discussed in this book. The changes selected were identified for a number of reasons, including their frequency of application, special significance, or change in application. However, the importance of those changes not included is not to be diminished. The *2012 International Building Code*<sup>®</sup> (IBC<sup>®</sup>) is the basis for the CBC. Further information on all code changes can be found in the *Code Changes Resource Collection*, available from the International Code Council<sup>®</sup> (ICC<sup>®</sup>). The resource collection provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2012 IBC since the 2009 edition.

This book is organized into seven general categories, each representing a distinct grouping of code topics. It is arranged to follow the general layout of the CBC, including code sections and section number format. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those significant code changes that occur in the 2013 CBC.

Throughout the book, each change is accompanied by a photograph, an application example, or an illustration to assist and enhance the reader's understanding of the specific change. A summary and a discussion of the significance of the changes are also provided. Each code change is identified by type, be it an addition, modification, clarification, or deletion. The code change itself is presented in a format similar to the style utilized for code-change proposals. Deleted code language is shown with a strike-through, whereas new code text is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual 2013 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2010 language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the California Building Code 2013 Edition* is best used as a study companion to the 2013 CBC. Because only a limited discussion of each change is provided, the code itself should always be referenced in order to gain a more compre-

hensive understanding of the code change and its application. The commentary and opinions set forth in this text are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the ICC. In addition, they may not represent the views of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render interpretations of the CBC. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by the code-change proponent.

Comments concerning this publication are encouraged and may be directed to the ICC at [significantchanges@iccsafe.org](mailto:significantchanges@iccsafe.org).

## About the California Building Code®

Building officials, design professionals, and others involved in the building construction industry recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date building code addressing the design, construction and installation of building systems through requirements emphasizing performance. The *International Building Code* (IBC), 2012 edition, is the basis for the 2013 *California Building Code* (CBC) and is intended to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The IBC is kept up to date through the open code-development process of the International Code Council (ICC). The provisions of the 2009 edition, along with those code changes approved through 2010, make up the 2012 edition. The ICC, publisher of the IBC, was established in 1994 as a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing, maintaining, and supporting a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model building construction codes. Its mission is to provide the highest quality codes, standards, products, and services for all concerned with the safety and performance of the built environment.

The CBC is one in a family of California building codes (California Code of Regulations, Title 24) that are published on a triennial basis. This comprehensive building code establishes minimum regulations for building systems by means of prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new building designs. The California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) is responsible for the administration of each code cycle, which includes the proposal, review and adoption processes. Supplements and errata are issued throughout the cycle.

## Acknowledgments

A special thank you is extended to Scott Stookey, former Senior Technical Staff with ICC for his assistance with the fire protection portions of this text. Thanks also to ICC staff members Alan Carr, Kim Paarlberg, Bill Rehr, and Kermit Robinson and to Stuart Tom, P.E., building official of Glendale, California for their valued review and input.

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## About the ICC

The International Code Council is a member-focused 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. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes. ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) is the industry leader in performing technical evaluations for code compliance fostering safe and sustainable design and construction.

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## About the California Building Officials (CALBO)

**F**ounded in 1962, California Building Officials (CALBO) represents local city and county governments throughout the entire state of California. As a nonprofit 501(c)6 organization, CALBO is dedicated to promoting public health and safety in building construction through responsible legislation, education and building code development. CALBO members are primarily responsible for enforcing building code requirements in an estimated 95 percent of the buildings constructed in the state. CALBO ensures that proper public health and structural safety requirements, codes and standards are adhered to within the built environment. The organization protects the citizens served and the overall safety of the public.

[www.calbo.org](http://www.calbo.org)