



Significant Changes to the INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE®

2009 Edition

Douglas W. Thornburg, AIA / John R. Henry, P.E.

An indispensable resource for anyone who uses the *International Building Code® (IBC)*, this full color book offers a comprehensive yet practical analysis of the critical changes made between the 2006 and 2009 editions of the code. Each change is first identified and then expanded upon with in-depth discussions of how it affects real-world applications of the *2009 IBC®*. Coverage reflects both structural and nonstructural provisions with special significance, including new and innovative design ideas and technologies, modern materials and methods of construction, and current approaches to fire safety, life safety, and structural stability. Useful to architects, engineers, inspectors, building and fire department personnel, and countless others in the construction industry, it is a "must-have" guide to the many important changes in the *2009 International Building Code®*.

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- direct comparisons between previous and new code language help readers to identify the root of code changes and exactly what they mean
- logical organization that follows the format of the code makes it quick and easy to find specific code provisions
- full color detailed photos and illustrations clarify key concepts
- format imitates style used in code-change proposals, with deleted code language shown with a strike-through, and new code language indicated by underlining, which highlights the important changes visually
- ideal tool for transitioning to new code or for a historical reference in years to come to examine evolution of the code
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Thornburg / Henry

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& JOHN R. HENRY, P.E.



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Library of Congress Control Number: 2009921508

ISBN-13: 978-1-4354-0119-8

ISBN-10: 1-4354-0119-0

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Printed in the United States

1 2 3 4 5 XX 11 10 09

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Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Building Code 2009 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 2009 IBC. 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 IBC 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. Further information on all code changes can be found in the *Code Changes Resource Collection*, available from the ICC. The resource collection provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2009 IBC since the 2006 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 IBC, 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 2009 IBC.

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 underlin-

ing. As a result, the actual 2009 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2006 language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the International Building Code 2009 Edition* is best used as a study companion to the 2009 IBC. Because only a limited discussion of each change is provided, the code itself should always be referenced in order to gain a more comprehensive 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 IBC. 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.

About the International 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 and installation of building systems through requirements emphasizing performance. The *International Building Code*[®] (IBC), in the 2009 edition, 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 2006 edition, along with those code changes approved through 2008, make up the 2009 edition.

The ICC, publisher of the IBC, was established in 1994 as a non-profit 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 IBC is 1 of 14 International Codes[®] published by the ICC. This comprehensive building code establishes minimum regulations for buildings 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 IBC is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference, in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws.

Acknowledgments

A special thank you is extended to Scott Stookey, 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, and Jay Woodward for their valued review and input.

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