

2027 International Building Code®

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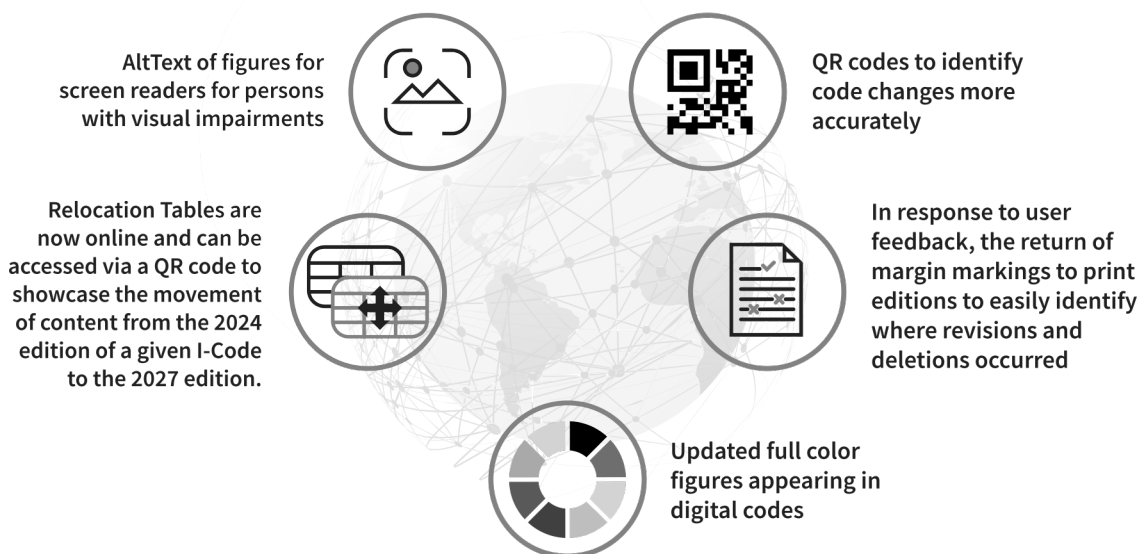
FORMATTING UPDATES FOR THE 2027 I-CODES



The 2027 International Codes® (I-Codes®) reflect ongoing formatting enhancements that advance the International Code Council's® (ICC®) digital transformation strategy and improve the overall user experience across both print and digital platforms. These updates align the print editions with ICC's Digital Codes content online, creating a more consistent and integrated product experience.

With the 2027 editions, the I-Codes include some key updates:

- In the 2024 I-Code print editions, solid vertical lines and deletion arrows in the margins were replaced with QR codes to more precisely identify revisions. While this approach improved specificity, many users indicated that margin markings remained valuable, particularly in environments with limited internet access. In response to this feedback, ICC has reintroduced margin markings in the 2027 print editions. QR codes will continue to be included, providing users with flexible and reliable options for locating and reviewing code changes.
- Relocation Tables are now online and can be accessed via a QR code to showcase the movement of content from the 2024 edition of a given I-Code to the 2027 edition.
- AltText is added to digital formats, providing text descriptions for screen readers to assist those with visual impairments.
- Figures have been enhanced for greater clarity, and now appear in full color in all digital formats.



PREFACE

ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL CODES

The 2027 International Codes® (I-Codes®), published by the International Code Council® (ICC®), are 15 fully compatible titles intended to establish provisions that adequately protect public health, safety and welfare; that do not unnecessarily increase construction costs; that do not restrict the use of new materials, products or methods of construction; and that do not give preferential treatment to particular types or classes of materials, products or methods of construction.

The I-Codes are updated on a 3-year cycle to allow for new construction methods and technologies to be incorporated into the codes. Alternative materials, designs and methods not specifically addressed in an I-Code can be approved by the building official where the proposed materials, designs or methods comply with the intent of the provisions of the code.

The I-Codes are used as the basis of laws and regulations in communities across the US and in other countries. They are also used in a variety of nonregulatory settings, including:

- Voluntary compliance programs.
- The insurance industry.
- Certification and credentialing for building design, construction and safety professionals.
- Certification of building and construction-related products.
- Facilities management.
- “Best practices” benchmarks for designers and builders.
- College, university and professional school textbooks and curricula.
- Reference works related to building design and construction.

The coordination of technical provisions allows the I-Codes to be used as a complete set of complementary documents. Individual codes can also be used in subsets or as stand-alone documents. Some technical provisions that are relevant to more than one subject area are duplicated in multiple model codes.

THE CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The code development process regularly provides an international forum for building professionals to discuss requirements for building design, construction methods, safety, performance, technological advances and new products. Proposed changes to the I-Codes, submitted by code enforcement officials, industry representatives, design professionals and other interested parties, are deliberated through an open code development process in which all interested and affected parties may participate.

Openness, transparency, balance, due process and consensus are the guiding principles of both the ICC Code Development Process and OMB Circular A-119, which governs the federal government’s use of private-sector standards. The ICC process is open to anyone without cost. Remote participation is available through cdpAccess®, ICC’s cloud-based app. Details on the code development process and information on how you can engage in the process can be found at <https://www.iccsafe.org/committees/cdc/>. This includes details of past, present, and future cycles.

To ensure that organizations with a direct and material interest in the codes have a voice in the process, ICC has developed partnerships with key industry segments that support ICC’s important public safety mission.

Code development committees evaluate and make recommendations regarding proposed changes to the codes. Beginning with the 2027 cycle, a second Committee Action Hearing (CAH) was introduced. The second CAH allowed for proponents and interested parties to respond to the committee’s recommendations at CAH#1. At CAH#2 the committee could consider these comments once introduced and either modify or reaffirm their recommendation at CAH#1. Their recommendations are then subject to public comment and council-wide votes. ICC’s governmental members—public safety officials who have no financial or business interest in the outcome—cast the final votes on proposed changes.

The I-Codes are subject to change through future code development cycles and by any governmental entity that enacts the code into law. For more information regarding the code development process, contact the Codes and Standards Development Department of ICC at [iccsafe.org/products-and-services/i-codes/code-development/](https://www.iccsafe.org/products-and-services/i-codes/code-development/).

While the I-Code development procedure is thorough and comprehensive, ICC, its members and those participating in the development of the codes expressly disclaim any liability resulting from the publication or use of the I-Codes, or from compliance or noncompliance with their provisions. NO WARRANTY OF ANY KIND, IMPLIED, EXPRESSED OR STATUTORY, IS GIVEN WITH RESPECT TO THE I-CODES. ICC does not have the power or authority to police or enforce compliance with the contents of the I-Codes.

CODE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES (LETTER DESIGNATIONS IN FRONT OF SECTION NUMBERS)

In each cycle, proposed changes are considered by the Code Development Committee assigned to a specific code or subject matter. Committee Action Hearings result in recommendations regarding a proposal to the voting membership. Where changes to a code section are not considered by that code’s own committee, the code section is preceded by a bracketed letter designation identifying a different committee. Bracketed letter designations for the I-Code committees are:

- [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] = IECC—Commercial Energy Committee*
- [EB] = International Existing Building Code Development Committee
- [F] = International Fire Code Development Committee
- [FG] = International Fuel Gas Code Development Committee
- [M] = International Mechanical Code Development Committee
- [MP] = IRC—Mechanical/Plumbing Code Development Committee
- [P] = International Plumbing Code Development Committee
- [PC] = International Code Council Performance Code Development Committee
- [PM] = International Property Maintenance Code Development Committee
- [RB] = IRC—Building Code Development Committee
- [RE] = IECC—Residential Energy Committee*
- [SP] = International Swimming Pool and Spa Code Development Committee
- [W] = International Wildland-Urban Interface Code Development Committee
- [Z] = International Zoning Code Development Committee**

* This code is currently developed through the ICC Consensus Procedures CP12.
** IZC proposals will be heard by the IPMC committee.

Code change proposals submitted for code sections that have a letter designation in front of them will be heard by the respective committee responsible for such code sections. Because different committees hold Committee Action Hearings in different years, proposals for most codes will be heard by committees in both the 2027 (Group A) and the 2028 (Group B) code development cycles. It is very important that anyone submitting code change proposals understands which code development committee is responsible for the section of the code that is the subject of the code change proposal.

HOW TO IDENTIFY CODE CHANGES

Changes to the I-Codes are identified in multiple ways, including QR codes, colored text and margin markings (solid vertical lines and deletion arrows). QR codes were used in the 2024 I-Codes to precisely identify revisions. In 2027, in addition to QR codes, solid vertical lines denoting changed text and arrows denoting deletions were reintroduced to print editions.

The following key details how those methods appear in the I-Codes:

QR Codes



A section bearing a QR code indicates that section has undergone technical revision from the previous code cycle. QR codes take the user to ICC’s Digital Codes website (codes.iccsafe.org), where technical revisions are displayed. Use the QR code via one of the following methods:

- Scan the QR code with a mobile device.
- Enter the 7-digit code printed below the QR code at the end of the following URL: qr.iccsafe.org/
- Click the QR code when viewing the code in PDF format.

Margin Markings (specific to print/pdf versions)

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Solid vertical lines indicate a technical change from the requirements of the previous edition.

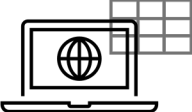
Deletion arrows indicate where an entire section, paragraph, list item, exception, table or table row has been deleted.

Blue Text (specific to Digital Codes)



While print editions may not display color, digital formats, including online and PDF versions, use **blue text** to denote changes made from the previous I-Code cycle.

Content Relocations



The Content Relocations section of this Preface provides a QR code linking to a table that indicates the relocation of content from the 2024 edition of this code to the 2027 edition.

CONTENT RELOCATIONS

The following QR code links to a Relocations Table documenting the movement of content from the 2024 edition of this code to the 2027 edition:



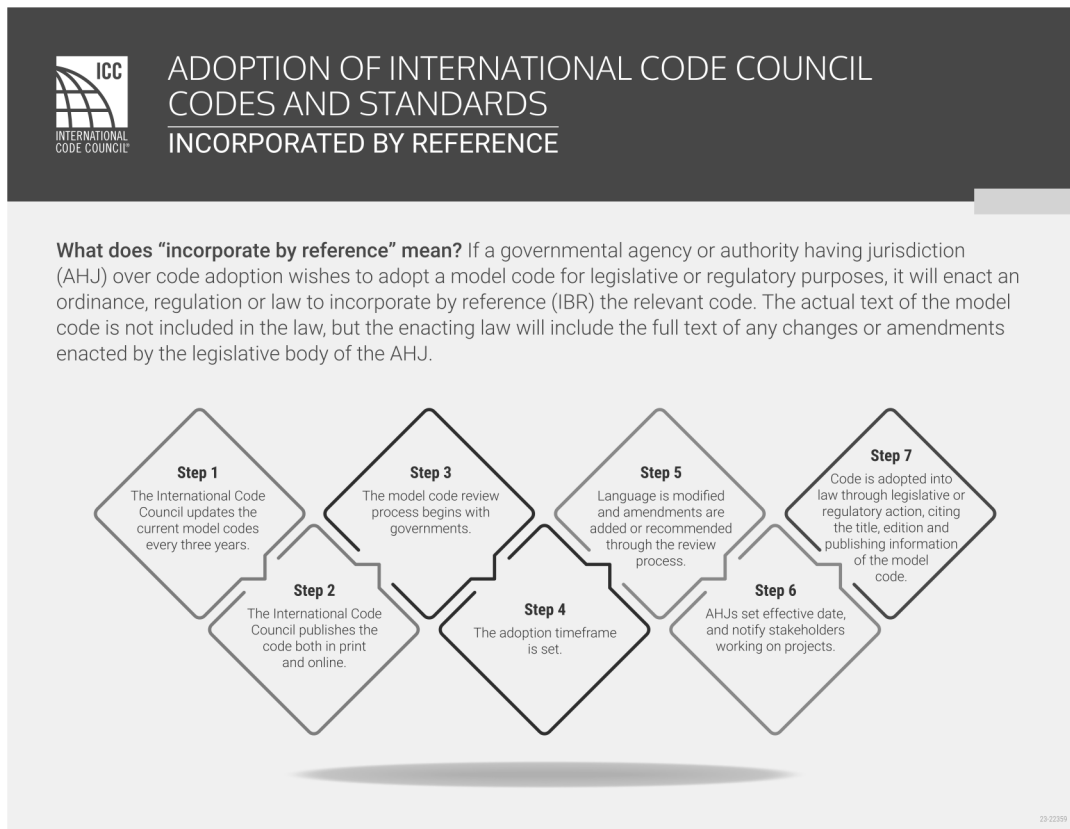
ITALICIZED TERMS

Words and terms defined in Chapter 2, Definitions, are italicized where they appear in code text and the Chapter 2 definitions apply. Although care has been taken to ensure applicable terms are italicized, there may be instances where a defined term has not been italicized or where a term is italicized but the definition found in Chapter 2 is not applicable. For example, Chapter 2 of the IBC contains a definition for “Listed” that is applicable to equipment, products and services. The term “listed” is also used in the IBC to refer to a list of items within the code or within a referenced document. For the latter, the Chapter 2 definition would not be applicable.

ADOPTION OF INTERNATIONAL CODE COUNCIL CODES AND STANDARDS

ICC maintains copyright in all of its codes and standards. Maintaining copyright allows ICC to fund its mission through sales of books in both print and digital format. ICC welcomes incorporation by reference of its codes and standards by jurisdictions that recognize and acknowledge ICC's copyright in the codes and standards, and further acknowledge the substantial shared value of the public/private partnership for code development between jurisdictions and ICC. By making its codes and standards available for incorporation by reference, ICC does not waive its copyright in its codes and standards.

ICC's codes and standards may only be adopted by incorporation by reference in an ordinance passed by the governing body of the jurisdiction. “Incorporation by reference” means that in the adopting ordinance, the governing body cites only the title, edition, relevant sections or subsections (where applicable), and publishing information of the model code or standard and the actual text of the model code or standard is not included in the ordinance (see graphic, “Adoption of International Code Council Codes and Standards”). The Code Council does not consent to the reproduction of the text of its codes or standards in any ordinance. If the governing body enacts any changes, only the text of those changes or amendments may be included in the ordinance.



ICC also recognizes the need for jurisdictions to make laws accessible to the public. Accordingly, all I-Codes and I-Standards, along with the laws of many jurisdictions, are available to view for free at codes.iccsafe.org/codes/i-codes. These documents may also be purchased, in both digital and print versions, at shop.iccsafe.org.

RESOURCES FOR ADOPTION

To facilitate adoption, some I-Code sections contain blanks for fill-in information that needs to be supplied by the adopting jurisdiction as part of the adoption legislation. Template adoption ordinances are available at <https://www.iccsafe.org/advocacy/sample-adoption-ordinances/>.

For further information or assistance with adoption, including a sample ordinance, jurisdictions should contact ICC via email at incorporation@iccsafe.org.

For a list of frequently asked questions (FAQs) addressing a range of foundational topics about the adoption of model codes by jurisdictions and to learn more about the Code Council's code adoption resources, scan the QR code or visit [iccsafe.org/code-adoption-resources](https://www.iccsafe.org/code-adoption-resources).



INTRODUCTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

The *International Building Code*, or IBC, establishes minimum requirements for building systems using 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 a model code that provides minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare of the occupants of new and existing buildings and structures. It addresses structural strength, means of egress, sanitation, adequate lighting and ventilation, accessibility, energy conservation and life safety in regard to new and existing buildings, facilities and systems.

The IBC applies to all occupancies, including one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses that are not within the scope of the IRC. The IRC is referenced for coverage of detached one- and two-family dwellings and townhouses as defined in the exception to Section 101.2 and the definition for “*Townhouse*” in Chapter 2. The IRC can also be used for the construction of live/work units (as defined in Section 508.5) and small bed and breakfast-style hotels where there are five or fewer guestrooms and the hotel is owner-occupied. The IBC applies to all types of buildings and structures unless exempted. Work exempted from permits is listed in Section 105.2.

ARRANGEMENT AND FORMAT OF THE 2027 IBC

The format of the IBC allows each chapter to be devoted to a particular subject. The following table shows how the IBC is divided. The subsequent tables show IBC requirements that are correlated with other I-Codes. The chapter synopses detail the scope and intent of the provisions of the IBC.

CHAPTER TOPICS	
CHAPTERS	SUBJECTS
1, 2	Administration and Definitions
3	Use and Occupancy Classifications
4, 31	Special Requirements for Specific Occupancies or Elements
5–6	Height and Area Limitations Based on Type of Construction
7–9	Fire Resistance and Protection Requirements
10	Requirements for Evacuation
11	Specific Requirements to Allow Use and Access to a Building for Persons with Disabilities
12, 27–30	Building Systems, Such as Lighting, HVAC, Plumbing Fixtures, Elevators
13	Energy Use
14–26	Structural Components—Performance and Stability
32	Encroachment Outside of Property Lines
33	Safeguards during Construction
35	Referenced Standards
Appendices A–P	Appendices

INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE CORRELATED TOPICS

The IBC requirements for hazardous materials, fire-resistance-rated construction, interior finish, fire protection systems, means of egress, emergency and standby power, and temporary structures are directly correlated with the requirements of the *International Fire Code*® (IFC®). The following table shows chapters/sections of the IBC that are correlated with the IFC:

IBC/IFC CORRELATED TOPICS		
IBC CHAPTER/SECTION	IFC CHAPTER/SECTION	SUBJECT
Sections 307, 414, 415	Chapters 50–67	Hazardous materials and Group H requirements
Chapter 7	Chapter 7	Fire-resistance-rated construction (fire and smoke protection features in the IFC)
Chapter 8	Chapter 8	Interior finish, decorative materials and furnishings
Chapter 9	Chapter 9	Fire protection systems
Chapter 10	Chapter 10	Means of egress
Chapter 27	Section 604	Standby and emergency power
Section 3103	Chapter 31	Temporary structures

INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE CORRELATED TOPICS

The IBC requirements for smoke control systems, and smoke and fire dampers are directly correlated to the requirements of the IMC. IBC Chapter 28 is a reference to the IMC and the *International Fuel Gas Code*® (IFGC)® for chimneys, fireplaces and barbecues, and all aspects of mechanical systems. The following table shows chapters/sections of the IBC that are correlated with the IMC:

IBC/IMC CORRELATED TOPICS		
IBC CHAPTER/SECTION	IMC CHAPTER/SECTION	SUBJECT
Section 717	Section 607	Smoke and fire dampers
Section 909	Section 513	Smoke control

INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE CORRELATED TOPICS

The IBC requirements for plumbing fixtures and toilet rooms are directly correlated to the requirements of the IPC. The following table shows chapters/sections of the IBC that are correlated with the IPC:

IBC/IPC CORRELATED TOPICS		
IBC CHAPTER/SECTION	IPC CHAPTER/SECTION	SUBJECT
Chapter 29	Chapters 3 and 4	Plumbing fixtures and facilities

Chapter 1 Scope and Administration.

Chapter 1 establishes the limits of applicability of the code and describes how the code is to be applied and enforced. The provisions of Chapter 1 establish the authority and duties of the code official appointed by the authority having jurisdiction and also establish the rights and privileges of the design professional, contractor and property owner.

Chapter 2 Definitions.

Chapter 2 is the repository of the definitions of terms used in the body of the code. The user of the code should be familiar with and consult this chapter because the definitions are essential to the correct interpretation of the code and because the user may not be aware that a term is defined.

Chapter 3 Occupancy Classification and Use.

Chapter 3 provides for the classification of buildings, structures and parts thereof based on the purpose for which they are used. Section 302 identifies the groups into which all buildings, structures and parts thereof must be classified. Sections 303 through 312 identify the occupancy characteristics of each group classification. In some sections, specific group classifications having requirements in common are collectively organized such that one term applies to all. For example, Groups A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4 and A-5 are individual groups for assembly-type buildings. The general term “Group A,” however, includes each of these individual groups. Other groups include Business (B), Educational (E), Factory (F-1, F-2), High Hazard (H-1, H-2, H-3, H-4, H-5), Institutional (I-1, I-2, I-3, I-4), Mercantile (M), Residential (R-1, R-2, R-3, R-4), Storage (S-1, S-2) and Utility (U). In some occupancies, the smaller number means a higher hazard, but that is not always the case.

Defining the use of the buildings is very important as it sets the tone for the remaining chapters of the code. Occupancy works with the height, area and construction type requirements in Chapters 5 and 6, to determine “equivalent risk.” The determination of equivalent risk involves three interdependent considerations: (1) the level of fire hazard associated with the specific occupancy of

the facility; (2) the reduction of fire hazard based on the fuel load by limiting the floor area and the height of the building; and (3) the level of overall fire resistance provided by the type of construction. The greater the potential fire hazards indicated as a function of the group, the lesser the height and area allowances for a particular construction type.

Occupancy classification also plays a key part in the appropriate protection measures. As such, threshold requirements for fire protection and means of egress systems are based on occupancy classification (see Chapters 9 and 10). Other sections of the code also contain requirements respective to the classification of building groups. For example, Section 706 specifies requirements for fire wall fire-resistance ratings that are tied to the occupancy classification of a building and Section 803.11 contains interior finish requirements that are dependent upon the occupancy classification. The use of the space, rather than the occupancy of the building, is utilized for determining occupant loading (Section 1004) and live loading (Section 1607).

Chapter 4 Special Detailed Requirements Based on Occupancy and Use.

Chapter 4 contains the requirements for protecting special uses and occupancies which are supplemental to the remainder of the code. For example, the height and area limitations established in Chapter 5 apply to all special occupancies unless Chapter 4 contains height and area limitations. In this case, the limitations in Chapter 4 supersede those in other sections. An example of this is the height and area limitations for open parking garages given in Section 406.5.4, which supersede the limitations given in Sections 504 and 506.

In some instances, it may not be necessary to apply the provisions of Chapter 4. For example, if a covered mall building complies with the provisions of the code for Group M, Section 402 does not apply; however, other sections that address a use, process or operation must be applied to that specific occupancy, such as stages and platforms, special amusement buildings and hazardous materials (Sections 410, 411 and 414).

The chapter includes requirements for buildings and conditions that apply to one or more groups, such as high-rise buildings, underground buildings or atriums. Special uses may also imply specific occupancies and operations, such as for Group H, hazardous materials, and uses with associated combustibility hazards, which are coordinated with the IFC. Unique consideration is taken for special use areas, such as covered mall buildings, motor-vehicle-related occupancies, special amusement buildings and aircraft-related occupancies. Special facilities within other occupancies are considered, such as stages and platforms, motion picture projection rooms, children's play structures and storm shelters. Finally, in order that the overall package of protection features can be easily understood, unique considerations for specific occupancies are addressed: Groups I-1, I-2, I-3, R-1, R-2, R-3 and R-4 and ambulatory care facilities.

Chapter 5 General Building Heights and Areas.

Chapter 5 contains the provisions that regulate the minimum type of construction for area limits and height limits based on the occupancy of the building. Height and area increases are permitted based on open frontage for fire department access, separation and the type of sprinkler protection provided (Sections 503 through 506, 510). Provisions include the protection and/or separation of incidental uses (Table 509.1), accessory occupancies (Section 508.2) and mixed uses in the same building (Sections 506.2.2, 508.3, 508.4 and 510). Unlimited area buildings are permitted in certain occupancies when they meet special provisions (Section 507). Live/work units are provided for in Section 508.5.

Tables 504.3, 504.4 and 506.2 are the keystones in setting thresholds for building size based on the building's use and the materials with which it is constructed. Respective to each group classification, the greater the fire-resistance rating of structural elements, as represented by the type of construction, the greater the floor area and height allowances. The greater the potential fire hazards indicated as a function of the group, the lesser the height and area allowances for a particular construction type.

Chapter 6 Types of Construction.

The interdependence of fire safety considerations can be seen by looking at Tables 601 and 705.5, which show the fire-resistance ratings of the principal structural elements comprising a building in relation to the five classifications for types of construction. Type I construction generally requires the highest fire-resistance ratings for structural elements, whereas Type V construction generally requires the least amount of fire-resistance-rated structural elements. The greater the potential fire hazards indicated as a function of the group, the lesser the height and area allowances for a particular construction type. Section 603 includes a list of combustible elements that can be part of a noncombustible building (Types I and II construction).

Chapter 7 Fire and Smoke Protection Features.

Chapter 7 provisions present the fundamental concepts of fire performance that all buildings are expected to achieve in some form. This chapter identifies the acceptable materials, techniques and methods by which proposed construction can be designed and evaluated against to determine a building's ability to limit the impact of fire.

Chapter 8 Interior Finishes.

Chapter 8 contains the performance requirements for controlling fire growth within buildings by restricting interior finish and decorative materials. The provisions of Chapter 8 require materials used as interior finishes and decorations to meet certain flame-spread index or flame-propagation criteria based on the relative fire hazard associated with the occupancy.

Chapter 9 Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems.

Chapter 9 prescribes the minimum requirements for active systems of fire protection equipment to perform the following functions: detect a fire, alert the occupants or fire department of a fire emergency, and control smoke and control or extinguish the fire. Generally, the requirements are based on the occupancy, the height and the area of the building, because these are the factors that most affect firefighting capabilities and the relative hazard of a specific building or portion thereof. This chapter parallels and is substantially duplicated in Chapter 9 of the IFC; however, the IFC Chapter 9 also contains periodic testing criteria that are not contained in the IBC. In addition, the special fire protection system requirements based on use and occupancy found in IBC Chapter 4 are duplicated in IFC Chapter 9 as a user convenience.

Chapter 10 Means of Egress.

The criteria in Chapter 10 regulating the design of the means of egress system are established as the primary method for protection of occupants by allowing timely relocation or evacuation. Both prescriptive and performance language is utilized for determination of a safe exiting system. It addresses all portions of the means of egress system (i.e., exit access, exits and exit discharge) and includes design requirements as well as provisions regulating individual components. The requirements detail the size, arrangement, number and protection of means of egress components. The means of egress protection requirements work in coordination with other sections of the code, such as protection of vertical openings (see Chapter 7), interior finish (see Chapter 8), fire suppression and detection systems (see Chapter 9) and numerous others, all having an impact on life safety. Chapter 10 of the IBC is duplicated in Chapter 10 of the IFC; however, the IFC contains one additional section on the maintenance of the means of egress system in existing buildings.

Chapter 11 Accessibility.

Chapter 11 contains provisions for accessibility of buildings and their associated sites and facilities for people with physical disabilities. The fundamental philosophy of the code is that everything is required to be accessible (see Section 1103.1). The code's scoping requirements then address the conditions under which accessibility is not required in terms of exceptions to this general mandate. While the IBC contains scoping provisions for accessibility (e.g., what, where and how many), ICC A117.1 is the referenced standard for the technical provisions (e.g., how).

There are many accessibility issues that not only benefit people with disabilities but also provide a tangible benefit to people without disabilities. This type of requirement can be set forth in the code as generally applicable without necessarily identifying it specifically as an accessibility-related issue. Such a requirement would then be considered as having been "mainstreamed." For example, visible alarms are located in Chapter 9 and accessible means of egress and ramp requirements are addressed in Chapter 10.

The IRC references Chapter 11 for accessibility provisions; therefore, this chapter may be applicable to housing covered under the IRC.

Chapter 12 Interior Environment.

Chapter 12 provides minimum standards for the interior environment of a building. The standards address the minimum sizes of spaces, as well as minimums for temperature, light and ventilation. Concerns for sound transmission and acoustics are addressed. Finally, the chapter provides minimum standards for toilet and bathroom construction.

Chapter 13 Energy Efficiency.

Chapter 13 provides minimum design requirements that will promote efficient utilization of energy in buildings. The requirements are directed toward the design of building envelopes with adequate thermal resistance and low air leakage, and toward the design and selection of mechanical, water heating, electrical and illumination systems that promote effective use of depletable energy resources. For the specifics of these criteria, Chapter 13 requires design and construction in compliance with the IECC.

Chapter 14 Exterior Walls.

Chapter 14 addresses requirements for exterior walls of buildings. Minimum standards for wall covering materials, installation of wall coverings and the ability of the wall to provide weather protection are provided.

Chapter 15 Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures.

Chapter 15 provides standards for both roof assemblies and structures that sit on top of the roofs of buildings. The criteria address roof construction and covering, including the weather-protective barrier at the roof and, in most circumstances, a fire-resistant barrier.

Chapter 16 Structural Design.

Chapter 16 prescribes minimum structural loading requirements for use in the design and construction of buildings and structural components. The chapter references and relies on many nationally recognized design standards, including the American Society of Civil Engineers' *Minimum Design Loads for Buildings and Other Structures* (ASCE/SEI 7).

Chapter 17 Special Inspections and Tests.

Chapter 17 provides a variety of procedures and criteria for testing materials and assemblies, labeling materials and assemblies and special inspection of structural assemblies. This chapter expands on the inspections of Chapter 1 by requiring special inspection where indicated and, in some cases, structural observation.

Chapter 18 Soils and Foundations.

Chapter 18 provides criteria for geotechnical and structural considerations in the selection, design and installation of foundation systems to support the loads from the structure above.

Chapter 19 Concrete.

Chapter 19 provides minimum accepted practices for the design and construction of buildings and structural components using concrete, both plain and reinforced. This chapter relies primarily on the reference to American Concrete Institute (ACI 318), *Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete*.

Chapter 20 Aluminum.

Chapter 20 contains standards for the use of aluminum in building construction. This chapter references national standards from the Aluminum Association (AA) for use of aluminum in building construction, AA ADM, 2026, Part VIII, *Guidelines for Aluminum Sheet Metal Work in Building Construction*, and AA ADM, 2026, Part I, *Specification for Aluminum Structures*.

Chapter 21 Masonry.

Chapter 21 provides comprehensive and practical requirements for masonry construction.

Chapter 22 Steel.

Chapter 22 provides the requirements necessary for the design and construction of structural steel (including composite construction), cold-formed steel, steel joists, steel cable structures and steel storage racks. Chapter 22 requires that the design and use of steel materials be in accordance with the specifications and standards of the American Institute of Steel Construction, the American Iron and Steel Institute, the Steel Joist Institute and the American Society of Civil Engineers.

Chapter 23 Wood.

Chapter 23 provides minimum requirements for the design of buildings and structures that use wood and wood-based products.

Chapter 24 Glass and Glazing.

Chapter 24 establishes regulations for glass and glazing that, when installed in buildings and structures, are subjected to wind, snow and dead loads.

Chapter 25 Gypsum Panel Products and Plaster.

Chapter 25 contains the provisions and referenced standards that regulate the design, construction and quality of gypsum board, gypsum panel products and plaster and reinforced gypsum concrete.

Chapter 26 Plastic.

Chapter 26 addresses the use of plastics in building construction and components. This chapter provides standards addressing foam plastic insulation, foam plastics used as interior finish and trim, and other plastic veneers used on the inside or outside of a building.

Chapter 27 Electrical.

Since electrical systems and components are an integral part of almost all structures, Chapter 27 references the *National Electrical Code* (NFPA 70). In addition, Section 2702 addresses emergency and standby power requirements and references where they are required. Such systems must comply with the IFC and referenced standards.

Chapter 28 Mechanical Systems.

Nearly all buildings will include mechanical systems. Chapter 28 provides references to the IMC and the IFGC for the design and installation of mechanical systems. In addition, Chapter 21 of this code is referenced for masonry chimneys, fireplaces and barbecues.

PREFACE

Chapter 29 Plumbing Systems.

Chapter 29 regulates the minimum number of plumbing fixtures that must be provided for every type of building. This chapter also regulates the location of the required fixtures in various types of buildings. The regulations in this chapter come directly from Chapters 3 and 4 of the IPC.

Chapter 30 Elevators and Conveying Systems.

Chapter 30 provides standards for the installation of elevators into buildings, including requirements for elevator shafts and lobbies. Referenced standards provide the requirements for the elevator system and mechanisms. Special provisions are indicated for fire service access elevators and for the optional choice of occupant evacuation elevators in high rise buildings (see Section 403).

Chapter 31 Special Construction.

Chapter 31 contains a collection of regulations for a variety of unique structures and architectural features. Pedestrian walkways and tunnels connecting two buildings are addressed in Section 3104. Safeguards for swimming pool safety are addressed by a reference to the *International Swimming Pool and Spa Code*® (ISPSC®) in Section 3109. Standards for temporary structures, including permit requirements, are provided in Section 3103. Structures as varied as awnings, marquees, signs, telecommunication and broadcast towers and automatic vehicular gates are also addressed (see Sections 3105 through 3108 and 3110). Unique types of buildings, such as membrane structures, greenhouses, relocatable buildings and intermodal shipping containers (Sections 3102, 3112, 3113 and 3114) are also addressed in this chapter.

Chapter 32 Encroachments into the Public Right-of-Way.

Buildings and structures may be designed to extend over a property line and into the public right-of-way. Local regulations outside of the building code usually set limits to such encroachments, and such regulations take precedence over the provisions of this chapter. Chapter 32 establishes parameters for such encroachments, not only at grade but also above and below grade. Pedestrian walkways must also comply with Chapter 31.

Chapter 33 Safeguards During Construction.

Chapter 33 provides safety requirements for the job site during construction and demolition of buildings and structures. In addition, it provides requirements intended to protect the public from injury and adjoining property from damage.

Chapter 34 Reserved.

Chapter 35 Referenced Standards.

Chapter 35 lists all of the product and installation standards and codes that are referenced throughout Chapters 1 through 33 and includes identification of the promulgators and the section numbers in which the standards and codes are referenced. As stated in Section 102.4, these standards and codes become an enforceable part of the code (to the prescribed extent of the reference) as if printed in the body of the code.

Appendix A Reserved.

Appendix B Board of Appeals.

Appendix B contains the provisions for appeal and the establishment of a board of appeals. The provisions include the application for an appeal, the makeup of the board of appeals and the conduct of the appeal process.

Appendix C Group U—Agricultural Buildings.

Appendix C provides special consideration for the construction of agricultural buildings reflective of their specific usage and limited occupant load. The provisions of this appendix allow reasonable heights and areas commensurate with the risk of agricultural buildings.

Appendix D Fire Districts.

Appendix D establishes a framework by which a jurisdiction can establish a portion of a jurisdiction as a fire district where limiting the potential spread of fire is a key consideration. Fire district standards restrict certain occupancies within the district, as well as setting higher minimum construction standards.

Appendix E Supplementary Accessibility Requirements.

The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (U.S. Access Board) has revised and updated its accessibility guidelines for buildings and facilities covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the Architectural Barriers Act (ABA). Appendix E includes scoping requirements contained in the *2010 ADA Standards for Accessible Design* that are not in Chapter 11 and not otherwise mentioned or mainstreamed throughout the code. Items in this appendix address subjects not typically addressed in building codes (for example, communication features in transient lodging and transportation facilities).

Appendix F Rodentproofing

The provisions of Appendix F are minimum mechanical methods to prevent the entry of rodents into a building.

Appendix G Flood-Resistant Construction.

Appendix G is intended to fulfill the flood-plain management and administrative requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) that are not included in the code. Communities that adopt the IBC and Appendix G will meet the minimum requirements of NFIP as set forth in Title 44 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Appendix H Signs.

Appendix H gathers in one place the various code standards that regulate the construction and protection of outdoor signs.

Appendix I Patio Covers.

Appendix I provides standards applicable to the construction and use of patio covers. It is limited in application to patio covers accessory to dwelling units. Covers of patios and other outdoor areas associated with restaurants, mercantile buildings, offices, nursing homes or other nondwelling occupancies would be subject to standards in the main code and not this appendix.

Appendix J Grading.

Appendix J provides standards for the grading of properties. This appendix also provides standards for administration and enforcement of a grading program including permit and inspection requirements.

Appendix K Administrative Provisions.

Appendix K primarily provides administrative mechanisms for enforcing NFPA 70—the *National Electrical Code* (NEC). The provisions in this appendix are compatible with administrative provisions in Chapter 1 of the IBC and the other I-Codes. Section K110 also contains technical provisions that are unique to this appendix and are in addition to technical standards of NFPA 70.

Appendix L Earthquake Recording Instrumentation.

The purpose of Appendix L is to foster the collection of ground motion data, particularly from strong-motion earthquakes. When this ground motion data is synthesized, it may be useful in developing future improvements to the earthquake provisions of the IBC.

Appendix M Tsunami-Generated Flood Hazards.

Addressing a tsunami risk for all types of construction in a tsunami hazard zone through building code requirements would typically not be cost effective, making tsunami-resistant construction impractical at an individual building level. However, Appendix M does allow the adoption and enforcement of requirements for tsunami hazard zones that regulate the presence of high-risk or high-hazard structures.

Appendix N Replicable Buildings.

Appendix N provides jurisdictions with a means of incorporating replicable building requirements contained in the ICC G1-2010, *Guideline for Replicable Buildings*, into their building code adoption process. The intent is to streamline the plan review process at the local level by removing redundant reviews.

Appendix O Performance-Based Application.

Appendix O provides an optional design, review and approval framework for use by the building official. It extracts relevant administrative provisions from the *International Code Council Performance Code® for Buildings and Facilities* (ICCPC®) into a more concise, usable appendix format for a jurisdiction confronted with such a need.

PREFACE

Appendix P Sleeping Lofts.

Appendix P provides allowances for, and limitations on, spaces intended to be used as sleeping lofts, while differentiating these spaces from mezzanines and other habitable spaces.

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