

2021 IEBC® Code and Commentary

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PREFACE

The principal purpose of the Commentary is to provide a basic volume of knowledge and facts relating to building construction as it pertains to the regulations set forth in the 2021 *International Existing Building Code*. The person who is serious about effectively designing, constructing and regulating existing buildings and structures will find the Commentary to be a reliable data source and reference to almost all components in the built environment.

Throughout all of this, strenuous effort has been made to keep the vast quantity of material accessible and its method of presentation useful. With a comprehensive yet concise summary of each section, the Commentary provides a convenient reference for regulations applicable to the construction of buildings and structures. In the chapters that follow, discussions focus on the full meaning of application and the consequences of not adhering to the code text. Illustrations and examples are provided to aid understanding; they do not necessarily illustrate the only methods of achieving code compliance.

The format of the Commentary includes the full text of each section, table and figure in the code, followed immediately by the commentary applicable to that text. At the time of printing, the Commentary reflects the most up-to-date text of the 2021 *International Existing Building Code*. As stated in the preface to the *International Existing Building Code*, the content of sections in the code that begin with a letter designation (e.g., Section [BS] 1006.1) are maintained by another code development committee. Each section's narrative includes a statement of its objective and intent, and usually includes a discussion about why the requirement commands the conditions set forth. Code text and commentary text are easily distinguished from each other. All code text is shown as it appears in the *International Existing Building Code*, and all commentary is indented below the code text and begins with the symbol ❖.

Readers should note that the Commentary is to be used in conjunction with the *International Existing Building Code* and not as a substitute for the code. The Commentary is advisory only; the code official alone possesses the authority and responsibility for interpreting the code.

Comments and recommendations are encouraged, for through your input, we can improve future editions. Please direct your comments to the Code and Standards Department.

The International Code Council would like to extend its thanks to Marilyn Kaplan, Rebecca Quinn and the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) whose help as contributing authors made this document possible.

For the complete errata history of this code, please visit: https://www.iccsafe.org/errata-central/

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