ICC G5-2019
Guideline for the Safe Use of ISO Intermodal Shipping Containers Repurposed as Buildings and Building Components
Preface

Introduction

The principal purpose of the ICC Guideline series is to provide a state-of-the-art volume of knowledge that will contribute to public health, safety and general welfare in the built environment. Guideline projects are established based on market relevancy, demand, and the realization that existing technical information, regulations or standards, if any, do not adequately address the subject or that such existing technical information needs to be enhanced, clarified and made more user friendly. ICC Guidelines are in-depth topic-specific technical publications that have global relevancy and may be used internationally. They are different from codes or standards in that they will generally use nonmandatory language.

Development

Development of the ICC Guideline series was approved by the ICC Board of Directors in September 2008. ICC Policy GP33 Guideline Development governs the development of ICC Guidelines and can be viewed on the ICC website at www.iccsafe.org. ICC Guidelines are developed with the establishment of a Guideline Development Committee (GDC). The GDC is made up of a diverse stakeholder population and the participants are focused on ensuring high-quality and timely technical information for the built environment’s usage. Upon the GDC reaching consensus, the final draft is posted for a “Public Comment” period for 30 days. The GDC considers all public comments, revises the public comment draft as appropriate and sends its recommendations to ICC for publication.

Maintenance

ICC Guidelines are not required to be updated on a specific cycle; however, they will be reviewed periodically and may be updated through a GDC-established process as needed based on changing trends, technology or relevant technical information.
About This Guideline

ICC G5-2019 Guideline for the Safe Use of ISO Intermodal Shipping Containers Repurposed as Buildings and Building Components

This ICC Guideline is intended to help state and local jurisdictions—as well as owners, architects, builders and engineers—in their assessment as to how to design, review and approve International Organization for Standardization (ISO) intermodal shipping containers as a building element.

Benefits of This Guideline

Local jurisdictions and state administrative programs are reacting to the growing trend of shipping container repurposing but are behind in terms of regulations and compliance. A patchwork of regulations has emerged, creating potentially conflicting or duplicative requirements. This ICC Guideline is intended to provide guidance in this process.

The development of this ICC Guideline will greatly contribute to the health, safety and welfare of the built environment. Aside from the ICC-ES AC462 criteria, there are no current codes, guidance or references that exist to assist code officials and the business industry navigate this process in a predictable and safe manner. (See Appendix 3 for “New Provisions for Shipping Containers in the 2021 IBC”.)

Local authorities having jurisdiction (AHJ) need guidance on what to look for and how to address new or repurposed containers that are being considered as a building element in their jurisdiction.

About the International Code Council®

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 US communities and many global markets choose the I-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 Modular Building Institute

Founded in 1983, the Modular Building Institute (MBI) is the international non-profit trade association serving modular construction. Members are manufacturers, contractors and fleet owners in two distinct segments of the industry—permanent modular construction (PMC) and relocatable buildings (RB). Associate members are companies supplying build-
ing components, services and financing. MBI strives to keep up with the latest trends of the modular/offsite construction industry and has expanded its membership over the years to include architects, owner/developers and general contractors.

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**Other Guidelines of the Series**

- ICC G1-2010 Guideline for Replicable Buildings
- ICC G2-2010 Guideline for Acoustics
- ICC G3-2011 Global Guideline for Practical Public Toilet Design
- ICC G4-2018 Guideline for Commissioning
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