



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

# CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE

2016 EDITION

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO  
THE CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE**

**2016 EDITION**

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# Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the California Building Code, 2016 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 2016 *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 reasons behind the changes. 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 the changes not included is not to be diminished. Further information on all code changes can be found in the *Complete Revision History to the 2015 I-Codes*, available from the International Code Council® (ICC®). The revision history provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2015 *International Building Code*® (IBC®) since the 2012 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 the use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those significant code changes that occur in the 2016 CBC.

Throughout the book, changes are 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 strikethrough, whereas new code text is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual 2016 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2013 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, 2016 Edition*, is best used as a study companion to the 2016 CBC. 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 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 *International Building Code*<sup>®</sup>**

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 2015 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 2012 edition, along with those code changes approved through 2013, make up the 2015 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 IBC is one of 15 International Codes<sup>®</sup> published by the ICC. 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 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.

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## **About the International Code Council®**

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