



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE

2019 EDITION

**SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO
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2019 EDITION**

International Code Council

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Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the California Building Code 2019 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 2019 *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 those changes not included is not to be diminished. Further information on all code changes can be found in the Complete Revision History to the 2018 I-Codes, available from the International Code Council® (ICC®) online store at <http://shop.iccsafe.org>. The revision history provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2018 IBC since the 2015 edition.

The CBC discussion in this book is organized into nine 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 use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those significant code changes that occur in the 2019 CBC.

This edition of *Significant Changes to the California Building Code* includes a ninth Part that addresses a limited number of selected code changes that occurred in the 2019 edition of the *California Existing Building Code* (CEBC). Applicable to all existing buildings, the CEBC is intended to provide flexibility to permit the use of alternative approaches to achieve compliance with minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and welfare. Both structural and nonstructural changes are addressed in this publication.

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 strike-through, whereas new code text is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual 2019 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2016 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 2019 Edition* is best used as a study companion to the 2019 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.

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 2018 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 2015 edition, along with those code changes approved through 2016, make up the 2018 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 1 of 15 International Codes[®] 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.

About the *California Building Code*

Building Officials, design professionals, contractors and others involved in the field of building construction recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date building code addressing the design and installation of building systems through both prescriptive and performance requirements. The *California Building Code* (CBC), 2019 Edition, is intended to meet these needs through the use of the model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The 2019 CBC utilizes the 2018 IBC as its basis and is kept up to date through California's code adoption process. The effective date of the 2019 CBC is January 2020.

The California Building Code is Part 2 of thirteen parts of the official triennial compilation and publication of the adoptions, amendments and repeal of administrative regulations to *California Code of Regulations, Title 24*, also referred to as the *California Building Standards Code*. This comprehensive building code establishes minimum regulations that is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new building materials and new building designs. The *California Building Standards Code* is published in its entirety every three years by order of the California legislature. The California Building Standards Commission is responsible for the administration of each code adoption cycle. Supplements and errata are issued throughout the three-year cycle.

The CBC is applicable throughout the state. However, a city, county, or city and county may establish more restrictive building standards reasonably necessary because of local climatic, geological or topographical conditions. Findings of the local condition(s) and the adopted local building standard(s) must generally be filed with the California Building Standards Commission (or other filing, if required) to become effective. Only the state's significant change amendments are included as part of this publication.

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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 International 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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