



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE

2016 EDITION

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THE CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE**

2016 EDITION

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Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the California Residential Code, 2016 Edition*, is to familiarize building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the building construction industry with many of the important changes in the 2016 *California Residential Code* (CRC). This publication is designed to assist code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and understanding the reasons behind the changes. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions in their code adoption process.

Only a portion of the code changes to the CRC 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®). This revision history provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2015 *International Residential Code*® (IRC®) since the 2012 edition.

Significant Changes to the California Residential Code, 2016 Edition, is organized into four parts, each representing a distinct grouping of code topics. It is arranged to follow the general layout of the CRC, 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 CRC.

Throughout the book, changes are accompanied by a photograph or an illustration to assist in and enhance the reader's understanding of the specific change. A summary and a discussion of the significance of the change 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 legislative 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 Residential Code, 2016 Edition*, is best used as a companion to the 2016 CRC. 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 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 CRC. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by code change proponents.

Comments concerning this publication are encouraged and may be directed to ICC at significantchanges@iccsafe.org.

About the *International Residential Code*[®]

Building officials, design professionals, contractors and others involved in the field of residential building construction recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date residential code addressing the design and installation of building systems through both prescriptive and performance requirements. The *International Residential Code*[®] (IRC), *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 IRC is kept up to date through ICC's open code development process. The provisions of the 2012 edition, along with those code changes approved through 2013, make up the 2015 edition.

The IRC is one in a family of International Codes[®] published by ICC. This comprehensive residential code establishes minimum regulations for residential 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 IRC is a comprehensive code containing provisions for building, energy conservation, mechanical, fuel gas, plumbing and electrical systems. The IRC 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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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 U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes® (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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