SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

FLORIDA BUILDING CODE: BUILDING AND RESIDENTIAL

7TH EDITION (2020)

SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE FLORIDA BUILDING CODE: BUILDING AND RESIDENTIAL

2020 EDITION

International Code Council

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Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the Florida Building Code: Building and Residential*, 7th Edition (2020) 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 7th Edition (2020) *Florida Building Code, Building* (FBCB), the 7th Edition (2020) *Florida Building Code, Residential* (FBCR) and the 7th Edition (2020) *Florida Building Code, Existing Building* (FBCEB). 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 FBCB, FBCR and FBCEB 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 and http://www.floridabuilding.org. The revision history provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2018 *International Codes* since the 2015 edition. All Florida-specific amendments can be found in the "Proposed Code Modifications" section at http://www.floridabuilding.org.

This book is organized into two main sections: Significant Changes to the 7th Edition (2020) FBCB and Significant Changes to the 7th Edition (2020) FBCR.

This edition also includes a limited number of selected code changes that occurred in the 7th Edition (2020) FBCEB. These changes are addressed in Part 7, which follows the significant changes to the FBCB. Applicable to all existing buildings, the FBCEB 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, each change is 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 7th Edition (2020) code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 6th Edition (2017) language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the Florida Building Code: Building and Residential*, 7th Edition (2020) is best used as a study companion to the 7th Edition (2020) FBCB, FBCR and FBCEB. Because only a limited discussion of each change is provided, one should always reference the code itself 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, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, or the Florida Building Commission. In addition, they may not represent the views of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render interpretations of the FBCB, FBCR and FBCEB. 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 *Florida Building Code*

The *Florida Building Code* is based on national model building codes and national consensus standards, in addition to Florida-specific provisions. The code incorporates all building construction-related regulations for public and private buildings in the State of Florida other than those specifically exempted by section 553.73, Florida Statutes. It has been harmonized with the *Florida Fire Prevention Code*, which is developed and maintained by the Department of Financial Services, Office of the State Fire Marshal to establish unified and consistent standards.

The model codes used for the *Florida Building Code*, 7th Edition (2020) include: the 2018 editions of the *International Building Code*®, the *International Plumbing Code*®, the *International Mechanical Code*®, the *International Fuel Gas Code*®, the *International Residential Code*®, the *International Existing Building Code*®, and the *International Energy Conservation Code*®; the *National Electrical Code*, 2017 edition; or substantive criteria from ASHRAE Standard 90.1-2016. State and local codes adopted and incorporated into the code include the *Florida Building Code, Accessibility* and special hurricane protection standards for the High-Velocity Hurricane Zone.

The code is composed of nine main volumes: the *Florida Building Code, Building*, which also includes state regulations for licensed facilities; the *Florida Building Code, Plumbing*; the *Florida Building Code,*

Mechanical; the *Florida Building Code, Fuel Gas*; the *Florida Building Code, Existing Building*; the *Florida Building Code, Residential*; the *Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation*; the *Florida Building Code, Accessibility*; and the *Florida Building Code*, *Test Protocols for High-Velocity Hurricane Zones*. Chapter 27 of the *Florida Building Code, Building* adopts the *National Electrical Code*, NFPA 70, by reference.

About the Authors

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T. Eric Stafford is a registered professional engineer specializing in wind hazard mitigation and code development activities. He is currently President of T. Eric Stafford & Associates and serves as a building code consultant for various groups including the Institute for Business and Home Safety. Stafford recently partnered with ASCE Press to publish *Significant Changes to the Minimum Design Load Provisions of ASCE 7-16*, *Significant Changes to the Wind Load Provisions of ASCE 7-10* and *Significant Changes to the Earthquake Load Provisions of ASCE 7-10*. Stafford has also partnered with the ICC, Building Officials Association of Florida and AIA Florida to publish Commentaries on the Florida Building Codes and Commentaries on the North Carolina Building Codes. Previously, he served as Vice President/Technical Services for the Federal Alliance for Safe Homes. He has a bachelor of civil engineering and a master of science (structural emphasis) from Auburn University and is a member of ASCE 7 Task Committee on Wind Loads, a previous member of the National Hurricane Conference Planning Committee, Chairman Emeritus of the National Hurricane Conference Engineering Topic Committee, a member of the ICC 600 Committee, Former Staff Liaison to the SBCCI Wind Load Committee and former Staff Liaison to the International Building Code Structural Code Development Committee. Stafford is a national lecturer on the wind provisions of the *International Building Code* and ASCE 7. Stafford also was Manager of Codes for the International Code Council and Director/Code Development for the Southern Building Code Congress. He was the recipient of the 2004 National Hurricane Conference Hurricane Mitigation Award.

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Douglas W. Thornburg, AIA, CBO, is currently Vice-President and Technical Director of Products and Services for the International Code Council (ICC), where he provides administrative and technical leadership for the ICC's product development activities. Prior to employment with the ICC in 2004, he was in private practice as a code consultant and educator on building codes for nine years. Doug also spent 10 years with the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), where he served as Vice-President/Education.

In his current role, Doug also continues to create and present building code seminars nationally and has developed numerous educational texts and resource materials. He was presented with the ICC's inaugural Educator of the Year Award in 2008, recognizing his outstanding contributions in education and training.

A graduate of Kansas State University and a registered architect, Doug has over 37 years of experience in building code training and administration. He has authored a variety of code-related support publications, including the *IBC Illustrated Handbook* and *Significant Changes to the International Building Code*.

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Stephen A. Van Note is the Managing Director of Product Development for the International Code Council (ICC), where he is responsible for developing technical resource materials in support of the International Codes. His role also includes the management, review and technical editing of publications developed by ICC staff members and other expert authors. He has authored a number of ICC support publications, including *Residential Code Essentials* and *Inspector Skills*. In addition, Steve develops and presents *International Residential Code* seminars nationally. He has over 40 years of experience in the construction and building code arena. Prior to joining ICC in 2006, Steve was a building official for Linn County, Iowa. Prior to his 15 years at Linn County, he was a carpenter and construction project manager for residential, commercial and industrial buildings. A certified building official and plans examiner, Steve also holds certifications in several inspection categories.

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Sandra Hyde is a Senior Staff Engineer with the ICC's Product Development Department. She develops technical resources in support of the structural provisions of the International Building, Existing Building and Residential Codes. Sandra reviews publications authored by the ICC and engineering groups, while also developing publications and technical seminars on the structural provisions of the I-Codes for building departments, design engineers and special inspectors.

Prior to the ICC, Sandra worked for Weyerhaeuser/Trus Joist in research and development of engineered lumber products. She has a master's degree in structural engineering from Portland State University and is a Registered Civil Engineer in Idaho and California. She has authored and reviewed support publications including *Significant Changes to the International Residential Code, Special Inspection Manual* and, in conjunction with APA, *Guide to the IRC Wall Bracing Provisions*.

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About the International Code Council®

The International Code Council is a nonprofit association that provides a wide range of building safety solutions including product evaluation, accreditation, certification, codification and training. It develops model codes and standards used worldwide to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. 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 Building Officials Association of Florida

The Building Officials Association of Florida (BOAF) is a member-driven association dedicated to ensuring the health, safety and welfare of the public through safe building practices. BOAF equips building professionals through education, advocacy, leadership and code development. For more information visit www.boaf.net.

About the Florida Home Builders Association

Established in 1947, FHBA is affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) and Florida's local/regional homebuilder associations. FHBA, along with affiliates, work to create the best possible economic and regulatory environment for members to succeed. For more information, visit www.fhba.com.