



2018 CHANGES TO THE

PENNSYLVANIA UNIFORM CONSTRUCTION CODE

2018 Changes to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code

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Preface

The purpose of the *2018 Changes to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code®* is to familiarize builders, building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors and others in the construction industry with the changes in the *Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code®* (UCC®) made by the UCC Review and Advisory Council (RAC) in 2018. This publication is designed to assist code users in identifying the specific code changes that have been adopted and, more important, understanding the reasons behind the changes.

The updated provisions of the PA UCC went into effect on October 1, 2018. It consists of the 2015 International Codes® (I-Codes®) and referenced standards adopted by Pennsylvania, as amended by the general assembly and by the UCC RAC. The regulations governing the administration of the UCC are issued by the PA Department of Labor & Industry (PA L&I). A summary of these amendments, as well as a completely updated version of the legislation, can be found at <https://www.dli.pa.gov/ucc/Pages/Regulations-and-Statutes.aspx>

This book is organized into six parts, each representing the adopted changes to individual codes. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those code changes that occur in the UCC effective October 1, 2018.

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, replacement, 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. Where a provision is deleted, the legislation requires that the relevant provision of the prior version of the code shall remain in effect, thus the 2009 language is shown as being the current language.

As with any code-change text, this book is best used as a companion to the UCC. Many code changes have occurred since the 2009 editions; those changes are not addressed in this document. Because only a limited discussion of each RAC-approved 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 changes that occurred in the I-Codes between the 2009 and 2015 editions can be found in the ICC 2015 Transition from 2009 publications. For details, see "About ICC Transition Series" on page x.

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 UCC. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by a code-change proponent.

About the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC)

The Pennsylvania General Assembly established the *Uniform Construction Code*® (UCC®) process by enacting the PA Construction Code Act (PCCA, Act 45 of 1999). The UCC Review and Advisory Council (RAC) was established by Act 106 of 2008 and its procedures were amended by Act 1 of 2011, and again by Act 36 of 2017. Appointed by the governor and leadership of the general assembly, the RAC is charged with reviewing the latest triennial code revisions issued by the International Code Council (ICC), that are contained in the I-Codes and are enforceable under the UCC. The RAC is required to submit a report to the secretary of the PA Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) within 12 months following publication of the latest triennial codes specifying each code revision that is to be adopted as part of the UCC.

L&I promulgated regulations in accordance with PCCA mandate and PA began using the 2003 I-Codes in 2004. In 2009, L&I promulgated the necessary regulations, as required under the Act, and the following 2009 editions of the I-Codes were, all or in part, adopted by reference: the *International Building Code*® (IBC®), the *International Mechanical Code*® (IMC®), the *International Fire Code*® (IFC®), the *International Fuel Gas Code*® (IFGC®), the *International Residential Code*® (IRC®), the *International Code Council Performance Code*® for Buildings and Facilities (ICCPC®), the *International Plumbing Code*® (IPC®), the *International Existing Building Code*® (IEBC®), the *International Energy Conservation Code*® (IECC®) and the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*® (IWUIC®). The ICC publishes updated editions of these codes on a 3-year cycle.

In spring 2018, the RAC adopted the 2015 editions of the I-Codes listed above with 26 amendments, effective October 1, 2018 (with the exception of the ICCPC, which remains on the 2009 edition and the IFC which is only adopted as referenced in IBC Chapter 35). Act 36 of 2017 revisions/additions to RAC process now requires that RAC must wait 21 months after the publication of a new edition of the ICC I-Codes to begin its review process and then has 24 months to produce its report.

About Pennsylvania Accessibility Provisions

The PA Construction Code Act, as amended by Act 1 of 2011 and Act 36 of 2017, mandated that the PA Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) adopt accessibility provisions, Chapter 11 and Appendix E from the *International Building Code*® (IBC®).

The process of adoption of the 2018 accessibility provisions under Chapter 11 and Appendix E of the 2018 IBC, and any other accessibility requirements in the 2018 I-Codes referenced by the *Uniform Construction Code*, was completed with publication of the regulation in the June 15, 2019 Pennsylvania Bulletin and as such these regulations are effective this date.

About the ICC

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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www.iccsafe.org

About the PA UCC Review and Advisory Council

The Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council was established by the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (PCCA). The Council consists of 21 members, with appointments made by the governor and the general assembly. The members represent industry sectors that participate in the various aspects relating to building—including building component design, construction, building code enforcement and local government representation. The Council is charged with making recommendations to the governor, the general assembly and labor & industry regarding proposed changes to the PCCA. The Council is also charged with reviewing the most recent triennial building code updates published by the International Code Council (ICC). The PCCA requires the Council to submit a report to Labor & Industry's Secretary, within a prescribed timeline, specifying the updates that are to be adopted as part of Pennsylvania's *Uniform Construction Code*® (UCC®).

About the PA Department of Labor & Industry

The Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) administers benefits to unemployed individuals, oversees the administration of workers' compensation benefits to individuals with job-related injuries, and provides vocational rehabilitation to individuals with disabilities. The department prepares job seekers for the global workforce through employment and job training services for adults, youths, older workers, and dislocated workers. In addition, L&I enforces various laws and safety standards in the workplace and administers the Commonwealth's programs for community service by young Pennsylvanians.

L&I enforces the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (PCCA) and the Pennsylvania *Uniform Construction Code*® (UCC®). The department also promotes economic development and an improved business climate through a variety of initiatives and programs to help Pennsylvania's workforce remain world-class and globally competitive.

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651 Boas Street
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About the Pennsylvania Building Officials Conference

Pennsylvania Building Officials Conference (PENNBOC) is a chapter of the International Code Council (ICC) with several regional subchapters. ICC chapters are groups of code officials and industry-related professionals run by volunteers who support and promote the mission and goals of the Code Council. Chapters create partnerships with members of the building community, and increase public awareness about the value of code officials in our everyday lives.

About the Pennsylvania Chapter of the American Institute of Architects

Founded in 1909, AIA Pennsylvania is the state-wide component of the American Institute of Architects. AIA Pennsylvania, headquartered in Harrisburg, is governed by a Board of Directors representing eight local AIA chapters across the Commonwealth. Our Association serves approximately 2,900 members and advocates on behalf of architects in the Commonwealth.

About the Pennsylvania Builders Association

Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) is a non-profit statewide trade association chartered in 1952. Affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders and with a network of 33 local associations throughout the State of Pennsylvania, PBA is governed by a Board of Directors representing all aspects of the residential construction industry. PBA is the unified voice for the home building industry and the housing consumer. PBA serves its members by providing proactive leadership on state regulatory and legislative issues and by offering services and benefits that enhance the professionalism of its members. PBA serves Pennsylvania communities and consumers through its efforts to protect homeownership rights and as the state's premier advocate for safe and affordable housing options.

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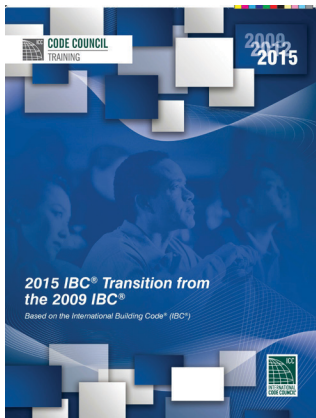
Walter G. M. Schneider III, Ph.D., P.E., CBO, MCP, The Pennsylvania State University

About ICC Transition Series

ICC Model Codes 2015 Edition Transitions from 2009 Editions

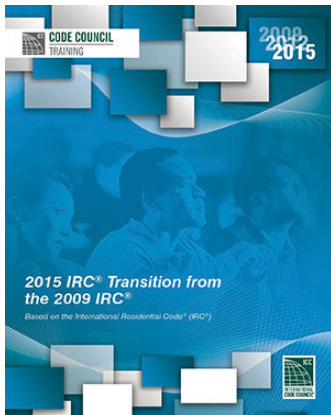
The *2018 Changes to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code* publication covers those changes in the *Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code* (UCC) that were made by the UCC Review and Advisory Council (RAC) in 2018. These changes are critically important to understand the design, application and administration of the PA UCC.

There were also numerous changes that took place between the 2009 to 2015 editions of the International Codes® (I-Codes®). These changes can be found in the Transition Series published by the International Code Council (ICC) as shown below. Obtaining the publications listed below from the ICC online store will complement the information in the *2018 Changes to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code* to provide the complete picture of all changes that building safety professionals must be aware of (search the ICC online store for 2015 transition from 2009).



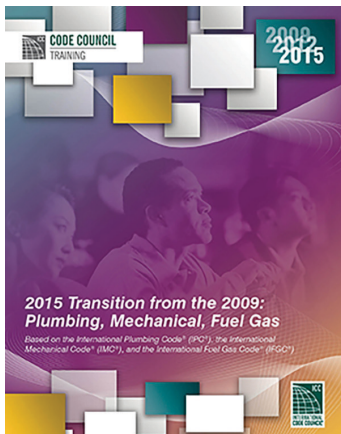
2015 IBC Transition from 2009 IBC
(Item #: 8950P700)

<https://shop.iccsafe.org/2015-ibc-transition-from-the-2009-ibc-pdf-download.html>



2015 IRC Transition from 2009 IRC
(Item #: 8950P701)

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2015 Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas Transition from 2009
(Item # 8950P698)

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