Significant Changes to the International Building Code®

2024 Edition

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Contents



PART 1 Administration		1	403.5.3 High-Rise Building Stairway Door Operation	
•	104	-	404.6 Enclosure of Atriums	31
	Building Official Duties and Powers 105.2, Item 2	2	407.4.4.4 Circulation Paths within a Care Suite	33
	Fences Not Exempt from Permit 202	7	411 Puzzle Rooms	35
	Definition of High-Rise Building 202	9	411.3 Special Amusement Area Alarms	37
	Definition of Limited Verbal or Physical Assistance	11	423.4.1, 423.5.1 Storm Shelter Design Occupant Capacity	39
Βι	ART 2 iilding Planning		503.1.4.1 Occupiable Roof Enclosures	42
Cł	apters 3 through 6 304.1	13	Table 509.1 Incidental Uses	44
	Group B Occupancy Classification 306	15	510.2 Horizontal Building Separations	47
	Group F Occupancy Classification 307.1.1, 414.1	17	602.4.2 Exposed Mass Timber in Type IV-B Construction	50
	Group H Occupancy Exemptions	19	602.4.4.3	
	310 Group R Occupancy Classification	24	Concealed Spaces in Type IV-HT Buildings 603.1	55
	311 Group S Occupancy Classification	27	Vapor Retarders in Types I and II Construction	57

Fi	ART 3 re Protection	50	903.2 Sprinklers Based on Occupancy—Batteries	102
	napters 7 and 9 704.2, 704.3	59	903.3.1.1.1 Sprinkler System Exempt Locations	105
	Protection of Structural Members	61	903.3.1.2	
	705.6, 705.7, 705.12.1 Fire-Resistance-Rated Exterior Wall Continuity	64	NFPA 13R Sprinkler Systems	107
	705.7.1	04	903.4 Sprinkler System Supervision and Alarms	109
	Exterior Wall/Floor Intersections in Type III Construction	67	■ 905.3, 905.4 Standpipe installations	112
	706.1.2, 706.2 Fire Walls—Deemed to Comply	70	905.3.4, 905.5.1 Standpipes for Stages	114
	707.6, 707.7 Openings in Shaft Enclosures	72	907.2.1 Group A Fire Alarms	116
	707.8 Fire Barrier Joints	74	907.2 Fire Alarm and Detection Systems	118
	707.9, 715.2, 715.6 Continuity Head-of-Wall Systems	75	907.2.11 Smoke Alarms Near Cooking Appliances	121
	708.4.1, 709.4.2, 710.4.1 Walls Enclosing Elevator Lobbies	78	907.5.2.1.3 Audible Alarm Signal Frequency	123
	710.4 Continuity of Smoke Partitions in Group I-2	80	915 Carbon Monoxide Detection	125
	713.13.4 Chute Discharge Room Opening Protection	82		
	714.5.1, 714.5.1.2 Through Penetration Firestop Systems in Parking Garages	84	PART 4 Means of Egress Chapter 10	131
	715.4, 715.5 Exterior Curtain Wall and Floor Intersections	86	■ 1006.3 Egress from Stories or Occupiable Roofs	133
	716.2.6.1 Fire Door Closing for Storm Shelters	88	■ 1008 Means of Egress Illumination	137
	717.2.4, 717.2.4.1 Controls in Air Duct Systems	90	■ 1009.2.1 Elevator Required for Accessible Means of Egress	140
	717.6.1 Through Penetrations for Group I-2 and I-3	92	■ 1009.2.2 Maneuvering Clearances at Doors	142
	718.2.1 Fireblocking Materials	94	■ 1010.1.1, 1010.4 Size of Doors	144
	Table 721.1(2) Rated Fire-Resistance Periods for Various Walls and Partitions	96	■ 1010.2.4, 1010.2.5 Locks and Latches	146
	Table 721.1(3) Minimum Protection for Floor and Roof Systems	98	■ 1010.2.6 Unlocking of Stairway Doors	150
	903.2, 903.3.1.1.3 Sprinkler Protection for Batteries	100	■ 1010.2.9 Access Control Door Locking Systems	152

	1010.2.14, 3006.4 Elevator Lobby Exit Access Doors	154	■ 1108.6.2.2.1 Showers for Type A Units	196
	1011.5.5.1 Nosing Projection Size and Uniformity	156	■ 1110.4 Adult Changing Stations	198
	1013.2 Low-Level Exit Signs in Group R-1	158	■ 1110.6 Accessible Laundry Equipment	201
	1013.5.1 Photoluminescent Exit Signs	160	■ 1112.6 Accessible Room Designation Signage	203
	1014.3 Lateral Location of Handrails	162	PART 6	
	1014.7, 1014.8 Handrail Extensions and Clearance 1015.3	164	Building Envelope, Structural Systems and Construction Materials Chapters 12 through 26	205
	Guard Height within Dwelling Units 1015.8 Window Openings in Group R-2 and R-3 Buildings	167 170	■ 1202.3 Unvented Attic and Unvented Enclosed Rafter Assemblies	208
	1016.2 Egress through Intervening Spaces	170	Dwelling Unit Size 1211.1	211
	1017.2.3 Group H-5 Exit Access Travel Distance Increase 1023.7	175	UV Germicidal Irradiation Systems1402.8Vertical and Lateral Flame Propagation	213
	Interior Exit Stairway Exterior Wall and Roof Protection 1029.3	177	Compliance Methods1403.13, 1403.14, 1404.19Exterior Wall Materials and Installation	215217
	Wall and Opening Protection at Egress Courts 1030.9.5	179	■ 1404.3 Vapor Retarders	219
	Dead-End Aisles in Assembly Spaces	181	■ 1409 Insulated Metal Panel	224
	RT 5 cessibility		■ 1502.3 Roof Drainage Scuppers	229
Ch	apter 11 1103.2.11, 1108.6.3	183	■ 1504.8 Wind Resistance of Aggregate-Surfaced Roofs	230
	Group R-1 or R-3, Accessible and Type B Units 1105.1.1	184	■ 1507.8.1, 1507.9.1 Roof Deck Requirements for Wood Shingles	
	Power-Operated Doors at Public Entrances 1106.3, 1106.7.1	186	and Shakes 1512.1, 1512.2	233
	Accessible Parking for Groups R-2, R-3 and R-4	189	Reroofing 1604.4	235
	1107.2 Electrical Vehicle Charging Stations	191	Flexible Versus Rigid Diaphragms 1604.5	238
	1108.6.1.1 Bathtubs and Showers in Accessible Units	193	Risk Category—PV Systems, Parking Garages and Multiple Occupancies	241

vi CONTENTS

	Table 1604.5 Risk Categories for I-2 and I-3 and Public		Chapter 22 Steel	298
	Utilities 1607.8.2	245	■ 2210 Metal Building Systems	303
-	Fire Truck and Emergency Vehicles	248	2211	303
	1607.9 Loads on Handrails and Guards	250	Industrial Boltless Steel Shelving	305
	1608	250	2212 Industrial Steel Work Platforms	307
	Snow Loads	252	2213	
	1609 Wind Loads	256	Stairs, Ladders and Guarding for Steel Storage Racks and Industrial Steel Work Platforms	309
	1609.5 Tornado Loads	260	2303.2 Fire-Retardant-Treated Wood	311
	1609.7, 1612.2, 1613.5, 3001 Elevator Loads	264	2303.2.6.3 FRT Strength Adjustments for LVL	314
	1611 Rain Loads	266	■ Table 2304.6.1 Wood Structural Panel Wall Sheathing	316
	1613 Earthquake Loads	269	2304.10.1 Fire Protection of Connections	318
	1613.6 Seismic Loads for Sprinklers	274	2305.1 Wood Shear Walls and Diaphragms	320
	1705.2.6 Special Inspection of Metal Building Systems	275	2306.1, 2307.1 ASD and LRFD for Wood	322
	Table 1705.3 Special Inspection of Reinforcing Bar Welding	277	2308.2.7 Hillside Light-Frame Wood Construction	324
	1803.5.4 Groundwater	279	2308.11.4 Wind Uplift	326
	1807.2.5 Guards on Retaining Walls	281	2309.1 Wood Frame Construction Manual	329
	1809.14, 1810.3.12 Grade Beams	283	2406.1 Multipane Glazed Assemblies	331
	1810.3.2.8 Justification of Higher Allowable Stresses	285	2406.4.3 Glazing in Windows	332
	1901.2.1 Structural Concrete with GFRP Reinforcement	287	2407.1.1 Loads on Glass Guards and Handrails	335
	1905 Seismic Requirements for Structural Concrete	289	PART 7	
	Chapter 21 Masonry	292	Building Services, Special Devices and Special Conditions	
	2103.2.4		Chapters 27 through 33	337
_	Mortar for Adhered Masonry Veneer	295	■ Table 2902.1 Minimum Number of Fixtures for Institutional	
	2109 Empirical Design of Adobe Masonry	296	Facilities	338

2902.1.2 Plumbing Fixture Calculations	340	■ 309.2.1 Automatic Sprinkler Systems	388
2902.2.1 Toilet Facility Designations	342	401.2 Work on Nondamaged Components	390
2902.3.6 Door Locking of Multiple-User Toilet Facilities	344	405.1.1 Concrete Repairs	392
3001.2 Elevator Emergency Communication Systems	346	502.1, 1101, 1102, 1302.1.3 Additions	394
3006.2, 3006.3 Elevator Hoistway Door Protection	348	■ 502.2, 1103.3, 1303.1.3 Flood Hazard Areas	398
■ 3007.6 Fire Service Access Elevator Lobbies	351	■ 502.5, 503.16, 902.2, 1101.5 Group I Smoke Barriers	401
■ 3103 Temporary Structures	353	■ 503.11, 906.2 Substantial Structural Alteration	404
■ 3111.3.5 Elevated PV Support Structures	362	■ 503.13, 805.4 Voluntary Seismic and Wind Retrofit	406
3114 Public Use Restrooms in Flood Hazard Areas	364	503.15, 503.17, 804.4, 902.3 Ambulatory Care Facilities	409
		506.5.3, 1006.3 Seismic Loads	411
PART 8 Appendices Appendix A through P	367	803.2.2, 803.2.5 Municipal Water	413
Appendix P Sleeping Lofts	368	804.11-804.14 Stairways and Escalators	415
		■ 908 Communications Enhancement	418
PART 9 2024 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)		■ 1001.2, 1004.1, 1011.1, 1011.2 Fire Alarm and Sprinkler Threshold	420
Chapters 1 through 16, Appendices A through E and Resource A	373	■ 1011.2.1.1 Removal of Sprinkler Systems	423
■ 104 Code Official Duties	375	■ 1011.5 Rooftop Exception	425
202 Dangerous	376	■ 1201.2 Report—Historic Buildings	428
202 Disproportionate Earthquake Damage	378	■ 1205.1 Repair—Historic Buildings	430
■ 303 Storm Shelters	380	■ Appendix E Temporary Structures and Emergency Uses	432
■ 306.5 Change of Occupancy	382	DART 10	
306.2, 306.6, 306.7 Accessible Additions and Alterations	384	PART 10 Code Changes	439

CONTENTS **vii**

Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Building Code® 2024 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 2024 *International Building Code®* (IBC®). This publication is designed to assist those code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more importantly, 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 IBC are discussed in this book. The changes selected were identified for several 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 *Revision History to the 2024 I-Codes: Successful Changes and Public Comments*, available from the International Code Council® (ICC®) online store. The resource collection provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2024 IBC since the 2021 edition.

The IBC discussion in this book is organized into eight general categories, each representing a distinct grouping of code topics. It is arranged to follow the general layout of the IBC, including code sections and section number format. The table of contents, in addition to guiding the use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those significant code changes that occur in the 2024 IBC.

This edition of Significant Changes to the International Building Code includes a ninth part that addresses a limited number of selected code changes that occur in the 2024 edition of the International Existing Building Code® (IEBC®). Applicable to all existing buildings, the IEBC is intended to provide flexibility to permit the use of alternative approaches to achieve compliance with minimum requirements to safeguard public health, safety and welfare. Both structural and nonstructural changes are addressed in Part 9 of 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 2024 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2021 code language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

Part 10 is a table summarizing the code changes that affect each section in the *Significant Changes to the International Building Code*. This table provides code change numbers from the ICC code change cycle (2021 Group A/2022 Group B) corresponding to the significant changes discussed in this publication. More information about the original proposals, committee modifications or public comment modifications is available on the ICC website by searching for the code change number. Note also that Digital Codes Premium subscribers have direct access to this information via Digital Codes Premium.

As with any code-change text, Significant Changes to the International Building Code, 2024 edition, is best used as a study companion to the 2024 IBC. Because only a limited discussion of each change is provided, the code itself should always be referenced to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the code change and its application.

The commentary and opinions outlined 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 IBC. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by the code-change proponent.

The authors have also reviewed the best available information regarding certain IBC-referenced codes and standards. When an existing code or standard is updated or is newly referenced, background is sometimes provided to assist in understanding its impact. However, each code or standard development organization should be consulted for information on and interpretation of their respective standards.

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), 2024 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 2021 edition, along with those code changes approved in the most recent code development cycle, make up the 2024 edition.

As part of the ICC's ongoing effort to make the codes easier to read in paper and digitally, as well as an effort to give readers more information, print and digital versions of the IBC will look dramatically different in the 2024 edition. This is the biggest change in the format of the I-Codes since their introduction.

The style and formatting changes implemented in the print version of the 2024 I-Codes aim to create a consistent experience with enhanced access to information. The changes, promoting a cleaner, more modern look and enhancing readability, include:

- Switching from double- to single-column text.
- Streamlined lists.
- Shading added to table headers and notes.
- Modernized font styles.
- Consistent grouping of associated content.
- The addition of QR codes to access information on changes to text.

For printed versions of the IBC, a QR code is placed at each updated code section replacing previous marginal markings. If there is no QR code, there are no technical changes to that section. Scanning the QR code using a phone or tablet, or typing an access code into a computer, provides access to information that was previously only available in the electronic publication Complete Revision History or through Digital Codes Premium. Scanning the QR code sends the user directly to the digital version of the code change.

The IBC is one of 15 International Codes® published by the ICC. This comprehensive building code establishes minimum regulations for building systems utilizing prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broadbased 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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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.

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About the International Code Council®

The International Code Council is the leading global source of model codes and standards and building safety solutions that include product evaluation, accreditation, technology, codification, consulting, training and certification. The

International Code Council's codes, standards and solutions are used to ensure safe, affordable and sustainable communities and buildings worldwide.

The International Code Council family of solutions includes the ICC Evaluation Service (ICC ES), S. K. Ghosh Associates, the International Accreditation Service (IAS), General Code, ICC NTA, ICC Community Development Solutions, Alliance for National & Community Resilience (ANCR) and American Legal Publishing.

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