SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE®,
INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE®,
AND INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE®

2012 EDITION
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The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code, and International Fuel Gas Code® 2012 Edition* is to familiarize plumbing and mechanical officials, building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the construction industry with many of the important changes in the 2012 *International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code*, and *International Fuel Gas Code* (IPC/IMC/IFGC). This publication is designed to assist code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, in understanding the reasons behind the changes. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions in the code-adopter process.

Only portions of the total number of code changes to the IPC/IMC/IFGC 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 *Code Changes Resource Collection*, published by the International Code Council® (ICC®), which provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2012 IPC and 2009 IMC.

Throughout this significant changes 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 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 strikethrough, whereas new code text is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual 2012 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2009 language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

Gas Code 2012 Edition is best used as a study companion to the 2012 IPC, 2012 IMC, and 2012 IFGC. 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 code. 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 the ICC at significantchanges@iccsafe.org.

About the International Plumbing, International Mechanical, and International Fuel Gas Codes

Code 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, including plumbing, mechanical, and fuel gas systems, through requirements emphasizing performance. The 2012 editions of the International Plumbing Code® (IPC), International Mechanical Code® (IMC), and International Fuel Gas Code® (IFGC) are intended to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The IPC/IMC/IFGC are kept up to date through the ICC’s open code-development process. The provisions of the 2009 editions, along with those code changes approved through 2010, make up the 2012 editions.

The ICC, publisher of the I-Codes, was established in 1994 as a non-profit 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 IPC, IMC, and IFGC are three of the 13 International Codes® published by the ICC. These comprehensive codes establish minimum regulations for plumbing, mechanical, and fuel gas systems by means of prescriptive and performance-related provisions and are founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new system designs. The IPC, IMC, and IFGC are available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Their use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference, in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction’s laws.
Acknowledgments

Lee Clifton, author of the IPC section, thanks the PMG members of the ICC for their assistance in the preparation of this book.

Lee is grateful to his father, Bill Clifton, and his mother, Lila Lee Clifton, both of the Tampa, Florida family run plumbing business, William E. Clifton Plumbing Inc., where Lee began learning the plumbing trade and was blessed with encouragement and patience of his parents.

He thanks his wife, Mary Lou, for understanding and supporting his decision to retire from his 25 year principal plumbing inspector position with the City of Los Angeles to pursue his career with the ICC.

Bob Guenther, author of the IMC and IFGC portions of this book, would like to thank the ICC staff members that assisted with this publication, in particular Alexandria Pearce, Audrie Cetina, and Doug Thornburg.

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About the International Code Council®

The International Code Council® (ICC®) is a nonprofit membership association dedicated to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of people by creating better buildings and safer communities. The mission of ICC is to provide the highest quality codes, standards, products and services for all concerned with the safety and performance of the built environment. ICC is the publisher of the family of the International Codes® (I-Codes®), a single set of comprehensive and coordinated model codes. This unified approach to building codes enhances safety, efficiency and affordability in the construction of buildings. The Code Council is also dedicated to innovation, sustainability and energy efficiency. Code Council subsidiary ICC Evaluation Service issues Evaluation Reports for innovative products and reports of Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation (SAVE).

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