



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE[®],
INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE[®]
AND INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE[®]

2018 EDITION

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

2018 EDITION

International Code Council

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Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Plumbing Code*[®], *International Mechanical Code*[®], *International Fuel Gas Code*[®] 2018 Edition is to familiarize plumbing and mechanical officials, building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the building construction industry with many of the important changes to these codes. 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 their code-adoption process.

Only portions of the total number of code changes to the *International Plumbing Code*, *International Mechanical Code*, and *International Fuel Gas Code* 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 2018 I-Codes: Successful and Public Comments*, available in 2018 from the International Code Council[®] (ICC[®]) online store, <http://shop.iccsafe.org>. This resource collection provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2018 *International Plumbing Code* and *International Mechanical Code*.

Throughout this *Significant Changes* book, each change is 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, and new code text is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual 2018 code language is provided as well as a comparison with the 2015 language, so that the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code, International Fuel Gas Code* 2018 Edition is best used as a companion to the 2018 IPC, 2018 IMC and 2018 IFGC. Because only a limited discussion of each change is provided, the reader should reference the code itself 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 IRC. 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 Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code and International Fuel Gas Code*

Code officials, design professionals, contractors, and others involved in the building construction industry recognize the need for modern, up-to-date codes addressing the design and installation of plumbing, mechanical and fuel gas systems through both prescriptive and performance requirements. The 2018 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 the public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The IPC, IMC, and IFGC are kept up to date through ICC's open code-development process. The provisions of the 2015 editions, along with those code changes approved through 2016, make up the 2018 editions.

The IPC, IMC and IFGC are three codes in a family of International Codes® published by 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.

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Gregg Gress, author of the IMC and IFGC portions of this book, thanks fellow ICC staff, the graphic artists and all those who donated photographs.

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About the International Code Council[®]

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. 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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