



Significant Changes to the INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE®

2009 Edition

Scott Stookey

Significant Changes to the International Fire Code 2009 Edition is a comprehensive analysis of the changes from the 2006 to the 2009 *International Fire Code® (IFC)* that are significant to design professionals, code officials, and builders. Updates to the code cover a broad range of subjects, including construction requirements for ambulatory health care occupancies, emergency responder radio coverage, fire protection system requirements for aircraft hangars, educational and mercantile occupancies, fire alarm and detection systems, fire service access elevators, building means of egress, hazardous materials such as silane and the use of hydrogen in fuel cells and vehicles, and fire protection of marinas. Each change analysis contains the affected code sections and identifies whether the text is new language, a modification of existing language, or has been deleted. With a clear, straightforward approach and detailed explanations, this is an invaluable tool for understanding the new and revised requirements in the 2009 *IFC*.

Look Inside for These Outstanding Features:

- full-color detailed line art and photographs illustrate correct application of the code provisions and correct designs and installations
- "Change Significance" section describes why each change is important and how it can be applied in the field, providing readers with a thorough understanding of the code revisions as they pertain to the real world
- includes a summary of the code change for a quick and easy reference
- each change analysis also includes supporting technical documentation to assist readers in understanding the details of the requirements

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INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE

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ICC World Headquarters

500 New Jersey Avenue, NW

6th Floor

Washington, DC 20001-2070

Telephone: 1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233)

Website: **<http://www.iccsafe.org>**

Delmar

5 Maxwell Drive

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Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Fire Code 2009 Edition* is to familiarize fire officials, building officials, plans examiners, fire inspectors, design professionals, and others with the many important changes in the 2009 IFC. This publication is designed to assist those code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, to assist them in understanding the reason behind the change. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions in their code adoption process.

This book is arranged to follow the general layout of the IFC, including code sections and section number format. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in the use of this publication, allows for quick identification of these significant code changes that occurred in the 2009 IFC.

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 the same format used for code-change proposals. Deleted language is shown with a strike-through, and new code text is identified by underlining. This book presents the 2009 code text as well as a comparison of the 2006 provisions so that the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the International Fire Code 2009 Edition* is best used as an analysis to the 2009 IFC. Because only a limited discussion of each code change is provided, the IFC itself should 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 author and do not necessarily represent the official position of the ICC. In addition, they may not represent the opinions of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render interpreta-

tions of the IFC. In many cases the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by the proponent of the code change and consultation with industry experts.

Comments concerning this publication are encouraged and may be directed to the ICC at significantchanges@iccsafe.org.

About the International Fire Code

Many believe that the *International Fire Code*® (IFC) is a building maintenance document. This assumption is incorrect. The IFC is a design document, because one cannot construct or erect any building without fire department access, a water supply, and the required fire-protection systems. Add a variable involving hazardous materials or processes such as a refrigeration system, stationary lead acid battery system, or emergency power using a diesel fuel or liquefied petroleum gas supplied emergency generator and other requirements of the IFC must be satisfied.

The International Code Council (ICC), the publisher the IFC, was established in 1994 as a not-for-profit organization dedicated to developing, maintaining, and supporting a single national set of comprehensive and coordinated model building and 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 IFC is 1 of 14 *International Codes*® published by the ICC. This comprehensive fire code establishes minimum regulations for firefighter safety, fire-protection systems, and safe storage and use of hazardous materials using prescriptive and performance-based provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new building designs. The IFC is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions. 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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About the Author

Scott A. Stookey
Senior Technical Staff
International Code Council, Austin, Texas

Scott Stookey is a Senior Technical Staff member with the International Code Council. He is responsible for the production of various ICC publications, including the *IFC Study Companion*, the *High-Piled Combustible Storage Application Guide*, and the *Flammable Finishes Application Guide*. Mr. Stookey developed the current versions of the ICC seminars for fire-protection systems, hazardous materials, fundamentals of the IFC, and high-piled combustible storage.

Previously Scott was the Fire Protection Engineer for the Phoenix (AZ) Fire Department's Special Hazard Unit and was an Engineering Associate with the Austin (TX) Fire Department Hazardous Materials Engineering section. He is a graduate of the Fire Protection and Safety Engineering Technology program at Oklahoma State University. Mr. Stookey was formerly the Chairman of the NFPA 30A technical committee for motor vehicle fueling and repair garages and was also a member of the NFPA 58 technical committee for liquefied petroleum gases.

Scott is a member of the Underwriters Laboratories Fire Council and the Building and Fire Code Board of Appeals for the City of Austin, Texas.



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