SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE®
2012 EDITION
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The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Fire Code*® *2012 Edition* is to familiarize fire officials, building officials, plans examiners, fire inspectors, design professionals, and others with the many important changes in the 2012 International Fire Code® (IFC®). This publication will assist code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, assist them in understanding the reasoning behind the changes. 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 2012 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 strikethrough, and new code text is identified by underlining. This book presents the 2012 code text as well as a comparison of the 2009 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 2012 Edition* is best used in conjunction with the 2012 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 International Code Council® (ICC®). In addition, they may not represent the opinions of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render
interpretations of the IFC. In many cases the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by the proponents of the code change and consultation with industry-experienced professionals.

Comments concerning this publication are encouraged and may be directed to ICC at significantchanges@icc.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 a hazardous process or hazardous materials—such as a refrigeration system, a stationary lead-acid battery system, or emergency power using a generator supplied with diesel fuel or liquefied petroleum gas—and other technical requirements of the IFC also must be satisfied.

The International Code Council (ICC), the publisher of 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 15 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 International Code Council®

The International Code Council (ICC), a membership association dedicated to building safety, fire prevention, and energy efficiency, develops the codes and standards used to construct residential and commercial buildings, including homes and schools. 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. Most cities, counties, and states within the United States choose the International Codes, building safety codes developed by the International Code Council. The International Codes also serve as the basis for construction of federal properties around the world, and as a reference for many nations outside the United States. The Code Council is also dedicated to innovation and sustainability, and a 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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