**Significant Changes to the International Energy Conservation Code®**

**2024 Edition**

**Jerica Stacey**

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# Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Energy Conservation Code®, 2024 Edition* is to familiarize building officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors and others in the construction industry with many of the important changes in the 2024 *International Energy Conservation Code®* (IECC®). 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 IECC is discussed in this book. The changes selected were identified for a number of reasons, including the 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. This resource provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2024 IECC since the 2021 edition.

The discussion in this publication addressing significant code changes is arranged to follow the general layout of the IECC, including code sections and section number format. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in the use of this publication, allows for the quick identification of the significant code changes that occur in the IECC.

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, either an addition, modification, clarification or deletion.

The code change itself is presented in a format similar to the style utilized for code-change proposals where such formatting allows. Deleted code language is shown with a strike-through, and 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.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the International Energy Conservation Code, 2024 Edition* is best used as a study companion to the 2024 IECC. 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.

At the end of the book is a table summarizing the code changes that affect each section in the *Significant Changes to the International Energy Conservation Code.* The table allows quick reference to all code changes that impact a single section. 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 plus hearing videos via Digital Codes Premium.

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 IECC. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by the code-change proponent.

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

# About the *International Energy Conservation Code*

The IECC is a comprehensive model code that regulates minimum energy-efficient provisions for new buildings and additions and alterations to existing buildings. The IECC contains two separate sets of provisions—commercial and residential. These provisions apply to the building thermal envelope and mechanical, service water heating and electrical power and lighting systems of applicable building types. Administrative provisions and definitions specific to each set of requirements are also included. The IECC integrates easy-to-understand prescriptive provisions for compliance as well as performance criteria that make possible the use of new and innovative materials, equipment and building designs.

The IECC is one of many codes in the family of International Codes published by the International Code Council (ICC). These codes are maintained and updated through an open code development process. Building officials, design professionals and others involved in the building construction industry recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date energy code addressing the design and installation of building systems through requirements emphasizing energy efficiency. The IECC, in the 2024 edition, is intended to meet these needs through model code regulations for energy efficient buildings in all communities, large and small.

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 IECC will look dramatically different in the 2024 cycle. This is the biggest change in the format of the I-Codes in 25 years.

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
- Addition of QR codes to access information on changes to text

Tables have consistently been an issue in the organization of a code book. The movement of tables to the end of a chapter has been unpopular, while placing full-page tables into an available space can place the table pages behind the section referencing it. The new single column format allows a table to be located immediately after the code section. The solution for Digital Codes Premium is to use a link in the section to reference the table. Simply click the link and go directly to the table. Switch back and forth between table and section as needed.

For printed versions of the code, links to tables and information about how code text has changed is not as easy to show. To give useful information about how the code text changed, a QR code is placed at each section of the IECC in place of previous marginal markings. If there is no QR code, there are no technical changes to that section. Click on the QR code using a phone or tablet camera or click on the QR code on a computer to access information that was previously only available in the *Complete Revision History* or Digital Codes Premium. Clicking on the QR code sends you directly to the digital version of the code change, which uses blue text to show the changes to the code text.

# About the Author

**Jerica Stacey**

Director of Technical Training, International Code Council

Jerica Stacey is the Director of Technical Training at the International Code Council. In this role, Ms. Stacey manages a team of instructors with expertise in various building specialties and oversees the offering of new and innovative training solutions in support of the Code Council's International Codes. Ms. Stacey's own expertise is in the development, adoption and implementation of building energy codes and standards. With this experience, Ms. Stacey supports the Code Council's energy code and sustainability initiatives, contributes to energy codes and standards technical development, and advances the Council's business interests related to energy codes and standards for both the national and international markets.

Ms. Stacey works closely with the Code Council's Sustainability Membership Council as its staff liaison; serves on the RESNET Standard Development Committee 900 which oversees RESNET's quality assurance and sampling technical standards; participates in ad hoc committees and task groups related to energy code compliance and enforcement; and is an active member of the Idaho Energy Code Collaborative where she supports energy code education in her home state.

Ms. Stacey has authored a wide variety of energy code support publications and studies, including the *2021 Energy Code Essentials; 2018 CARICOM Energy Code Essentials; Attributing Codes and Standards Savings to Program Administrator Activities: Review of Approaches in Canada and the United States; Giving Credit Where Credit Is Due: Assessing Attribution and Savings from a Building Energy Code Compliance Enhancement Program; Compliance Verification Paths for Residential and Commercial Energy Codes;* and numerous impact and process evaluations for utilities, state government offices and program administrators.

# 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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