

Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Building Code® 2012 Edition* is to familiarize 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 Building Code® (IBC®). This publication is designed to assist those code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, understanding the reason behind the change. 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 IBC 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*, available from the International Code Council® (ICC®). The resource collection provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2012 IBC since the 2009 edition.

This book is organized into seven general categories, each representing a distinct grouping of code topics. It is arranged to follow the general layout of the IBC, including code sections and section number format. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those significant code changes that occur in the 2012 IBC.

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 a format similar to the style utilized for code-change proposals. Deleted code language is shown with a strike-through, 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.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the International Building Code 2012 Edition* is best used as a study companion to the 2012 IBC. 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 IBC. 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@icc-safe.org.

About the International Building Code®

Building 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 through requirements emphasizing performance. The *International Building Code* (IBC), in the 2012 edition, is intended to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The IBC is kept up to date through the open code-development process of the International Code Council (ICC). The provisions of the 2009 edition, along with those code changes approved through 2010, make up the 2012 edition.

The ICC, publisher of the IBC, was established in 1994 as a nonprofit 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 IBC is 1 of 14 International Codes® published by the ICC. This comprehensive building code establishes minimum regulations for building systems by means of prescriptive and performance-related provisions. It is founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new building designs. The IBC is available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Its use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference, in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws.

Acknowledgments

A special thank you is extended to Scott Stookey, Senior Technical Staff with ICC for his assistance with the fire protection portions of this text. Thanks also to ICC staff members Alan Carr, Kim Paarlberg, Bill Rehr, and Kermit Robinson for their valued review and input.

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Douglas W. Thornburg is the Technical Director of Product Development for the International Code Council (ICC), where he provides leadership in technical development and positioning of support products for the council. In addition, Doug develops and reviews technical products, reference books, and resource materials relating to construction codes and their supporting documents. Prior to employment with the ICC in 2004, he spent nine years as a code consultant and educator on building codes. Formerly Vice-President/Education for the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), Doug continues to present building code seminars nationally and has developed numerous educational texts and resource materials, including *the IBC Handbook—Fire- and Life-Safety Provisions*. He was presented with ICC's inaugural Educator of the Year Award in 2008, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education and professional development. A graduate of Kansas State University and a registered architect, Doug has more than 30 years of experience in building code training and administration, including 10 years with the ICBO and 5 years with the City of Wichita, Kansas. He is certified as a building official, building inspector, and plans examiner, as well as in seven other code enforcement categories.

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John R. Henry is a Principal Staff Engineer with the International Code Council (ICC) Business and Product Development Department, where he is responsible for the research and development of technical resources pertaining to the structural engineering provisions of the *International Building Code (IBC)*. John also develops and presents technical seminars on the structural provisions of the IBC. He has a broad range of experience that includes structural design in private practice, plan-check engineering with consulting firms and building department jurisdictions, and 14 years as an International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO)/ICC Staff Engineer. John graduated with honors from California State University in Sacramento with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Civil Engineering and is a Registered Civil Engineer in the State of California. He is a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and the Structural Engineers Association of California (SEAOC) and is an ICC Certified Plans Examiner. John has written several articles on the structural provisions of the IBC that have appeared in *Structure Magazine* and *Structural Engineering and Design* magazine's Code Series. He is also the coauthor with S. K. Ghosh, PhD, of the *IBC Handbook—Structural Provisions*.

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Jay is a senior staff architect with the ICC's Business and Product Development department and works out of the Lenexa, Kansas, Distribution Center. His current responsibilities include serving as the Secretariat for the ICC A117.1 standard committee and assisting in the development of new ICC publications.

With more than 28 years of experience in building design, construction, code enforcement, and instruction, Jay's experience provides him with the ability to address issues of code application and design for code enforcement personnel as well as architects, designers, and contractors. Jay has previously served as the Secretariat for the ICC's *International Energy Conservation Code* and the *International Building Code's* Fire Safety Code Development committee.

A graduate of the University of Kansas and a registered architect, Jay has also worked as an architect for the Leo A. Daly Company in Omaha, Nebraska; as a building Plans Examiner for the City of Wichita, Kansas; and as a Senior Staff Architect for the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) prior to working for the ICC. He is also author of *Significant Changes to the A117.1 Accessibility Standard 2009 Edition*.

About the ICC

The 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 the ICC is to provide the highest-quality codes, standards, products, and services for all concerned with the safety and performance of the built environment. The 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 ICC is also dedicated to innovation, sustainability, and energy efficiency. In addition, the ICC Evaluation Service, an ICC subsidiary, issues Evaluation Reports for innovative products and Reports of Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation (SAVE).

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