

What's New in the 2009 I-Codes®? Key changes include:

2009 IBC®

- Include new requirements for storm shelters, based upon the new ICC/NSSA Standard, ICC 500-2008.
- Contains provisions for fire service access elevators and emergency evacuation elevators in high rises more than 120 feet in height.
- Establishes standards for Live/Work units.
- New, simplified Alternate All-heights Method for wind design based on and in compliance with the ASCE 7 Analytical Procedure (Method 2).
- Requires an additional stairway in high rises more than 420 feet in height
- Requires improved structural and fire resistance standards for high-rises over 420 feet in height.
- Allows 'open mall' complexes to be considered under covered mall standards
- Established the 'Ambulatory Health Care Center' category to enhance occupant safety at day surgery centers.
- Allows Bed and Breakfast establishments with up to 10 transient visitors to meet standards for R-3 rather than R-1.
- Removed the special inspection exemption for Group R-3 occupancies and clarified the requirements pertaining to special inspector qualifications.
- The prescriptive use of wood structural panels in lieu of impact-resistant glazing or impact-resistant covering is now limited only to buildings of Group R-3 or R-4 occupancy.
- The exception in IBC Section 1707.3 for special inspection of wood light frame construction where the fastener spacing of the sheathing is more than 4 inches on center also applies to cold-formed steel light frame construction.



2009 IRC®

- Automatic sprinklers are required in townhouses beginning in 2009, and one and two-family dwellings beginning in 2011.
- Plumbing provisions now offer a new, more affordable alternative multi-purpose plumbing system for fire sprinklers in residential buildings.
- Updated standard for construction in high wind regions based upon new standard ICC 600 which replaces standard SSTD 10.
- Include new requirements for storm shelters, based upon the new ICC/NSSA Standard, ICC 500-2008.



2009 IFC®

- Retroactively, all nonsprinklered Group I-2 occupancies will now require automatic sprinkler protection.
- Emergency responder radio coverage is required inside of buildings.
- New requirements address the use of liquid oxygen in a home health care setting.
- All requirements for existing buildings have been compiled into a new chapter.
- The IFC now contains new requirements for fire protection of marinas.
- The requirements for fire alarm and detection systems have been extensively revised and are now correlated to NFPA 72.
- Retroactively, all existing and new high-rise buildings will require photoluminescent exit pathway markings inside of building stair shafts.
- The IFC now addresses the design and construction of pressure vessels used for the storage of hazardous materials.



2009 IECC®

- More stringency throughout the Energy Code.
- Emphasis on energy savings requirements, higher R values in different regions.
- More restrictive window and door U-Factor and SHGC values in warm climate zones.



2009 IMC®

- The outdoor air ventilation requirements of Chapter 4 have been significantly revised to more closely reflect the requirements of ASHRAE 62. This will improve the indoor air quality performance of systems designed to the IMC and allow for some reductions in the amount of outdoor air required.
- The maximum length of a clothes dryer duct was increased from 25 feet to 35 feet to provide more flexibility in the location of clothes dryers in a building.
- A new section 1101.10 was added to require locking access caps on outdoor refrigerant systems to prevent children from having easy access to the refrigerant for purposes of inhaling. In an attempt to get “a buzz”, many children have died from inhaling the refrigerants.



2009 IPC®

- Field installed shower liners must be leak tested to assure that the installation is watertight.
- Building occupant loads are required to be split into male and female numbers before plumbing fixture ratios are applied.
- Frost proof yard hydrants with below grade waste valves are specifically prohibited unless upstream backflow protection is provided and the hydrant is permanently identified with “do not drink” signage.
- Sinks utilized for cleaning food utensils, dishes, pots, pans and serviceware must indirectly connect to the sanitary drainage system by an air gap or air break.
- Water heaters must have a level working space of 30 inches by 30 inches on the control side and equipment and piping/ductwork running to and from unrelated equipment cannot block removal of a water heater.
- Public toilet facilities must have directional signage for the route to the facilities.



2009 IFGC®

- In new Section 310.1.1, bonding requirements were added that specifically pertain to CSST piping systems. The bonding requirements are intended to reduce the chance of damage to the piping from lightning induced electrical energy.
- Section 505.11 was revised in an attempt to eliminate the problem created by appliance/hood interlock arrangements that shut off the gas supply to appliances equipped with standing pilot ignition systems.
- To prevent the entry of combustion products into a building, new Section 503.16 requires all vents that penetrate an exterior wall to be permanently sealed around the penetration.
- New Section 411.3 addresses the special installations involving infrared radiant tube heaters and so called “flexible” gas appliance connectors. The heater installation instructions require a specific connector configuration.
- The maximum length of clothes dryer exhaust ducts has increased to 35 feet and the deduction for the equivalent length of fittings is tied to the type of fitting design and turning radius.
- New Section 630.3 requires special ventilation in any space in which unvented infrared heaters are installed.
- Section 304.4 was reworded to make it quite clear that makeup air must be provided to any space in which exhaust fans, kitchen hoods and/or clothes dryers are capable of depressurizing the space and interfering with the function of appliance vents and chimneys
- The revisions to Section 407.2 make it clear that all materials and devices used to hang or otherwise support gas piping must be constructed of metal.



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