



PUBLIC WORKS & ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT



BUILDING CODE ENFORCEMENT

Transportation, Technology & Infrastructure Committee

City of Houston Building Codes

October 12, 2015



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BUILDING CODES - HOUSTON PROCESS

- ◆ **3 YEAR CYCLE (SKIPPED 2009 – PROPOSAL IS TO ADOPT 2012 CODES)**
- ◆ **BUILDING OFFICIAL REQUEST TO CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CIC)**
- ◆ **CIC COMMITTEES**
- ◆ **RECOMMENDATION FROM CIC TO THE CITY**
- ◆ **LEGAL DEPARTMENT, TAMU (ENERGY), PUBLISHER**
- ◆ **CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE**
- ◆ **CITY COUNCIL**
- ◆ **MINIMUM 30 DAYS FROM ADOPTION (STATE LAW)**



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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CIC)

- ◆ **CREATED BY CITY COUNCIL IN 1957**
- ◆ **REPRESENTS ASSOCIATIONS WHICH ARE PROFESSIONALLY, FINANCIALLY OR MANAGERIALLY RESPONSIBLE FOR BUILDING CONSTRUCTION AND LIFE SAFETY ASSOCIATED WITH MAN-MADE STRUCTURES**
- ◆ **LARGE EXTENT VOLUNTEER HOURS**



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CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CIC)

◆ ASSOCIATIONS:

Air Conditioning Contractors Association / American Fire sprinkler Association
Association of Chief Operating Engineers / American Forest & Paper Association American
Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Engineers
American Institute of Architects / American Society of Plumbing Engineers / American
Society of Sanitary Engineers / Associated General Contractors / Associated Builders
and Contractors / Building Owners and Manager Association / Construction
Specifications Institute / Greater Houston Builders Association / Greater Houston
Restaurant Association / Gulf Coast Building & Construction Trades Association Houston
Apartment Association / Houston Area Glass Association / Houston Contractors
Association / Houston Real Estate Council / Houston Sheet Metal Contractors Association
/ Independent Electrical Contractors / Institute of Real Estate Management / Mechanical
Contractors Association / National Association of the Remodeling Industry / National
Electric Contractors Association / National Fire Sprinkler Association /Plastic Pipe and
Fitting Association / Plumbing, Air Conditioning and Mechanical Contractors Association /
Plumbing Heating Cooling Contractors / Society of Fire Protection Engineers / Structural
Engineers Association of Texas / Texas Electrical Safety Association / Texas Fire Sprinkler
Contractors Association / Texas Institute of Building Design / Texas Society of
Professional Engineers / US Green Building Council / City of Houston Code Enforcement /
Houston Fire Department



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TYPES OF CODE CHANGES

- ◆ **CLARIFICATIONS**
- ◆ **CLEANUP**
- ◆ **LOCAL CONSTRUCTION PRACTICES**
- ◆ **MORE OR LESS STRINGENT**



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CONSTRUCTION CODES *PROPOSED HOUSTON ADOPTED CODES*

- ◆ **2006 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (2012)**
- ◆ **2006 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE (2012)**
- ◆ **2006 INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE (2012)**
- ◆ **2014 NATIONAL ELECTRICAL CODE (ADOPTED)**
- ◆ **2006 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE (2012)**
- ◆ **2006 UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE (2012)**
- ◆ **2007 ASHRAE 90.1 (COMMERCIAL ENERGY) (ADOPTED)**
- ◆ **2009 IECC / 2009 IRC (RESIDENTIAL ENERGY) (ADOPTED)**



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2012 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

- ◆ **ADDITIONAL EXIT STAIRWAYS: BUILDINGS OVER 420FT NEED ONE(1) MORE STAIRWAY THAN MINIMUM (403.5.2)**
- ◆ **SPRINKLED HIGH RISE, I 2 AND I 3 OCCUPANCIES REQUIRE ENCLOSED, RATED ELEVATOR LOBBIES (713.14.1, EXCEPTION 4)**
- ◆ **FIRE BARRIERS RATED MORE THAN ONE-HOUR PENETRATED BY DUCTED HVAC SYSTEMS REQUIRE FIRE DAMPERS (717.5.3)**
- ◆ **FOR OTHER THAN H AND I 2 OCCUPANCIES, BUILDINGS WITH FIRE SPRINKLERS AND AN EMERGENCY VOICE/ALARM COMMUNICATION SYSTEM MAY REDUCE THE REQUIRED EXIT WIDTH FOR STAIRS BY 33% FROM .3 INCH PER OCCUPANT TO .2 INCH PER OCCUPANT SERVED. (1005.3)**



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2012 INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE

- ◆ **CODE PROVISIONS NOW ADDRESS INCREASED SECURITY CONCERNS. MAGLOCKS MAY NOW BE USED ON EGRESS DOORS AT LOCATIONS THAT REQUIRE PANIC HARDWARE. (1008.1.9.9)**
- ◆ **WIND MAPS WITH THREE (3) BASIC WIND SPEEDS FOR VARIOUS BUILDING CATEGORIES (1609.3)**
- ◆ **LIGHTED STAIRS REQUIRED DURING CONSTRUCTION OVER 50 FEET HIGH UNLESS PERMANENT STAIRS INSTALLED (3310.1)**
- ◆ **WATER SUPPLY REQUIRED ONSITE PRIOR TO ACCUMULATION OF COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS (3313)**



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2012 UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE

- ◆ **HOUSTON 2012 AMENDMENTS INCREASE ACCESS AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTIC ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT (304.2.1)**
- ◆ **HOUSTON 2012 AMENDMENTS INCREASE SAFETY REQUIREMENTS FOR ROOF ACCESS TO SERVICE EQUIPMENT (304.2.1.1)**
- ◆ **INCREASED REQUIREMENTS FOR ROOF PLATFORMS FOR FURNACES AND REFRIGERATION EQUIPMENT TO INCREASE SAFETY (304.2.1.3)**



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2012 UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE

- ◆ **NEW CODE PROVISION SPECIFICALLY ADDRESSES CONFLICTS BETWEEN THE UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE (UMC) AND UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE. (UPC) REQUIRE UPC TO PREVAIL (101.4)**
- ◆ **PER 2014 STATE LAW, 1.28 GALLONS "OR HIGH EFFICIENCY" WATER CLOSETS ARE REQUIRED (403.2)**
- ◆ **PER 2015 STATE LAW, 0.5 GALLON URINALS ARE REQUIRED (403.3)**
- ◆ **KEEP HOUSTON AMENDMENT TO PROHIBIT RETURNING WATER USED FOR COOLING TO THE POTABLE WATER SYSTEM (603.5.8.1)**



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RECOMMENDATION

ADOPT ORDINANCE TO UPDATE VERSIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE, INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE, UNIFORM MECHANICAL CODE, UNIFORM PLUMBING CODE AND INTERNATIONAL FIRE CODE ALONG WITH PROPOSED LOCAL AMENDMENTS.

SCHEDULE

RCA TO COUNCIL – OCTOBER 2015

NEW CODE EFFECTIVE DATE: JANUARY 4, 2015



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QUESTIONS ?