

ICC Government Relations' Chapter Monthly Update



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FEMA seeking requests to make direct technical assistance for jurisdictions through its BRIC program

With the January 28 grant application deadline nearing, the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) is making [non-financial direct technical assistance \(DTA\)](#) for jurisdictions through the Building Resilience and Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program. FEMA can provide assistance with code adoption and implementation through DTA. The Code Council also has launched an information summary ([click here](#) and [here](#)) to guide your office and code officials on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Jurisdictions of any type and size can apply for DTA and do not need to go through their states or go through the other hoops required for BRIC for funding. They just need to submit a letter to FEMA-BRICDirectTechnicalAssistance@fema.dhs.gov no later than 3 p.m. Eastern on January 28. There is no required format for the letter, but it should contain the following information:

- Point of contact information, including name, position, address, phone number, and email.
- A description of the community's challenges and need for which the service is being requested.
- The extent of the community's capacity to assist in the non-financial Direct Technical Assistance activity and the staff available to commit to participate in the activity.

FEMA may prioritize non-financial Direct Technical Assistance for communities. The prioritization points are listed [at the bottom of this link](#). For the FY2021 BRIC Notice of Funding Opportunity, [click here](#).

Theme for the Code Council's 42nd annual Building Safety Month is "Safety for All: Codes in Action"

The theme for the International Code Council's 42nd annual Building Safety Month is "Safety for All: Codes in Action." The Code Council's Building Safety Month will take place in the month of May 2022. The educational and interactive campaign raises awareness about the importance of building codes in ensuring safety in the spaces in which we live, work, and learn. The weekly themes for 2022 are:

- Week One (May 1–8): "Planning for a Safe & Sustainable Tomorrow"
- Week Two (May 9–15): "Exploring Careers in Building Safety"
- Week Three (May 16–22) "Understanding Disaster Mitigation"
- Week Four (May 23–31) "Creating a Safe & Abundant Water Supply"

The Code Council provides materials to promote events including safety tips, promotional material, and educational packets for elementary school students. [Read more here](#).

Proposals for the Group B code change submittals are due on January 10 through cdpACCESS

The 2022 Group B codes are open for proposed changes through cdpACCESS. The deadline for code change proposal submittals is 11:59 p.m. PT on January 10. [Go to cdpACCESS](#). To submit proposals to the International Energy Conservation Code and Chapter 11 of the International Residential Code, visit our energy section of [cdpACCESS here](#). More information on the 2022 Group B code development cycle is available in the updated 2021/2022 [ICC Code Development Schedule](#). The 2022 Committee Action Hearings will be March 27-April 6 at Rochester, New York. The Public Comment Hearings are slated for September 14-21 in Louisville, Kentucky. [View preliminary results from 2021 Group A here](#).

CEUs earned through ICC Learning Center to be automatically submitted to members' myICC accounts

Starting January 10, continuing education units (CEUs) earned through the Code Council Learning Center will automatically be submitted into members' myICC accounts and put towards their ICC certification renewal requirement. If organizations would like assistance designing training for 2022, they can contact the Learning Center by calling 1-888-422-7233 x33821 or email learn@iccsafe.org for more information.

NEEA/MEEP report aimed at helping jurisdictions understand options using remote virtual inspections

Many state and local jurisdictions are facing challenges in their building construction divisions with inadequate resources to support code enforcement and shortages of building code inspectors. The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated these challenges, but also presented an unexpected opportunity to

research the potential for remote virtual inspections (RVI) as a possible solution to these challenges. The Northeast Energy Efficiency Alliance and Midwest Energy Efficiency Partnership released a report on challenges and opportunities for remote virtual inspection with funding from the U.S. Department of Energy. It explores the current use of remote virtual inspections (RVI) and its barriers and opportunities. The report is informed by independent research, interviews with industry professionals, and a collaborative survey effort. [Read more here.](#)

Cost Impact Guide providing insights on code change proposals is available for public education

The ICC Industry Advisory Committee (IAC) completed development of a Cost Impact Guide that provides information on the requirements of the cost impact statements that are part of every code change proposal. The guide has been endorsed by the ICC Board Committee on the Long Term Code Development Process and approved by the Code Council Board of Directors. Developed with input from IAC members, code officials and Code Council staff, the guide is intended to be a useful and informative resource that will help in understanding the purpose and objective of the cost impact requirements in the code submission process. [Read more here.](#)

More than 600 attended special webinar discussion on Existing Building Maintenance and Inspections

The International Code Council (ICC) recently hosted a virtual discussion on Existing Building Maintenance and Inspections to generate a dialogue to a global audience and to help clarify the types of resources that the building community, building owners, and code administration professionals will need to ensure the continued safety of existing buildings moving forward. One key takeaway from the discussion was that while some jurisdictions already have protocols in place for existing building maintenance and inspections, most still do not. [Read more here.](#) Also, S.K. Ghosh Associates LLC (SKGA) will be offering a four-part [webinar series this month](#) called **Surfside, Florida Building Collapse and ACI 318 Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete.**

General Code's Local Building Codes solution helped simplify updates for Bellevue, Washington

For the city of Bellevue, Washington, the process of inserting state and local amendments into its International Codes (I-Codes) was inefficient and time-consuming. General Codes' Custom Local Building Codes (CLBC) solution helped the city simplify and streamline the amendment process with a consolidated set of digital codes. [Read more here.](#)

Collaboration project produced fully integrated, streamlined new state energy code in Massachusetts

The Code Council and ASHRAE collaborated to help the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER) publish its base and stretch code, titled "[2020 Massachusetts Energy Code.](#)" The streamlined energy code is fully integrated – containing specific requirements designed to meet the needs of its users. Improving the energy efficiency of buildings through adopting new and improved building codes is a key component for many state and local governments seeking to achieve climate and energy goals. The ninth edition of the Massachusetts Building Energy Code is based on the 2018 International Energy Conservation Code and ANSI/ASHRAE/IES Standard 90.1-2019. [Read more here.](#)

SFPE, ICC and Springer Publishing announce new engineering guide on fire safety for very tall buildings

The Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE), the International Code Council (ICC) and Springer Publishing, a leading global scientific and technical publisher, announce the release of a new engineering guide: "[Fire Safety for Very Tall Buildings.](#)" Topics featured in the engineering guide include emergency egress, fire resistance, building envelope, suppression, detection, alarms, and smoke control, with new guidance on considerations for existing buildings, energy storage systems, aerial vehicle platforms, and unique building features such as observation decks and fireworks displays. Additional information in the guide consists of performance-based design and international practices. [Read more here.](#)

Texas' Franklin Legal Publishing and Washington-based Code Publishing Company joined General Code

The International Code Council announced Texas-based Franklin Legal Publishing and Washington-based Code Publishing Company have joined General Code, a member of the Code Council family of solutions. The combined companies will support the growing needs of code officials, municipal planners and zoning officials by providing expanded product offerings and digital solutions. Prior to joining General

Code, Franklin Legal Publishing has been an established and highly respected codification services expert for 25 years. Code Publishing Company is an established codifier on the West Coast. As a woman-led company for over 30 years, Margaret Bustion has provided high-quality digital codification solutions to over 500 customers. [Read more here.](#)

Update available on process to reimagine the ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities

The International Code Council has undertaken a process to reimagine the ICC Performance Code for Buildings and Facilities to understand how the code might be improved in order to expand its use and incorporate best practice elements from the past two decades of increasing use of performance-based codes around the world. The Code Council has updated its landing page for this project and included a substantial amount of content as a resource for interested stakeholders, in the form of useful websites, online resources and media presentations. Members and stakeholders who are interested but have not yet engaged in the effort to view these resources are welcome to join [the LinkedIn discussion forum](#) that has also been created to support this effort. [Read more here.](#)

New strategic plan for 2022-2026 highlights three ambitious goals in FEMA emergency management

FEMA Administrator Deanne Criswell recently released the agency's "2022-2026 FEMA Strategic Plan" outlining three ambitious goals designed to address key challenges the agency faces during a pivotal moment in the field of emergency management. The goals are to instill equity as a foundation of emergency management, lead the whole of community in climate resilience and promote and sustain a ready FEMA and prepared nation. These goals position FEMA to address the increasing range and complexity of disasters, support the diversity of communities we serve and complement the nation's growing expectations of the emergency management community. Building codes are highlighted in the second goal through Objective 2.2 "Build a Climate Resilient Nation." Adopting and enforcing disaster-resistant building codes is given as the example of "system-based, community-wide" efforts that improve resilience on a broader scale. The Plan also recognizes the importance of advancing codes through FEMA programs and partnerships with state and local code officials. [Read more here.](#)

***GOT PULSE?* Dottie Mazzarella and Amy Blankenmiller discuss changes and impacts from COVID-19**

[Episode 43](#) features ICC VP [Dottie Mazzarella](#) talking with National Elevator Industry Inc. Executive Director [Amy Blankenmiller](#) about how COVID will impact building safety, particularly elevators, once employees return to work.



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

Plumbing expert Mark Fasel joins ICC team to develop, coordinate and implement PMG goals

Plumbing expert Mark Fasel recently joined the International Code Council as a Director of Plumbing, Mechanical, and Fuel Gas (PMG) Resources. Fasel will work with the Code Council's team of experts to develop, coordinate, and implement PMG programs and services related to the International Codes (I-Codes). "I am excited to have Mark on our PMG team to help educate and train contractors, code officials, and industry professionals on what the Code Council has to offer when it comes to plumbing, mechanical, fuel gas, and swimming pool/spa codes, standards, and services," says Matt Sigler, Code Council PMG Executive Director. [Read more here.](#)

Plumbing codes, design layouts and fixtures are adjusting to accommodate the aging population

There have been many adjustments made to plumbing fixtures, plumbing codes, building codes, accessibility standards and design layouts to address the elderly population. New in the codes are requirements that address assisted-use plumbing fixtures. These fixtures are different than accessible fixtures in that they are designed for those needing assistance. Also new are adult changing stations installed in public toilet rooms. [Read more here](#) from Plumbing & Mechanical Magazine.



Upcoming from the Learning Center: Institutes, training, webinars, etc.

Online learning is available from the [ICC Learning Center](#). Find course [listings you'd like to attend](#) in the ICC Learning Center using the Search function. Some seminars offering a Virtual Classroom option so you can participate in the event from any location with an internet connection:

- January 11 – [2018 IBC Means of Egress](#).
- January 13 – [2021 IFC Significant Changes](#).
- January 18-20 – [2018 Principles of Building Safety Institute](#).
- January 20 – [Effective Communication](#).
- January 25-28 – [Code Official Institute](#).
- January 27 – [2021 IRC Significant Changes](#).
- January 31 – [2021 IBC Significant Changes](#).
- February 2 - [Procedures for Officers and Inspectors](#).
- February 3 - [2018 IPMC Overview](#).
- February 7-11 – [Upper Great Plains Region III Educational Institute](#).
- February 8 – [2021 IFC Essentials](#).
- February 11 – [Officer Safety Procedures: Compliance Inspections, Drug Awareness & Mental Illness](#).
- February 15 – [2021 IBC Means of Egress](#).
- February 16 – [2021 IRC Essentials](#).
- February 16 – [Leadership Institute](#).
- February 17 – [2018 IBC Special Topics Day 1](#).
- February 18 – [2018 IBC Special Topics Day 2](#).
- February 22 – [2021 IPC, IMC and IFGC Significant Changes](#).
- February 23 – [Basic Code Enforcement](#).
- February 23 – [2018 Fire & Life Safety](#).
- February 24 - [Inspector Skills](#).
- February 28-March 4 – [EduCode](#).

The following are online courses that you can take at any time. Here are some popular online courses:

- [2018 Residential Building Inspector - B1 Study Guide](#)
- [2018 Commercial Building Inspector - B2 Study Guide](#)
- [2018 Commercial Electrical Inspector - E2 Study Guide](#)
- [2015 Commercial Plumbing Inspector - P1 Study Guide](#)
- [2015 IFC® Fire Inspector I - 66 Study Guide](#)
- [Architect and Engineer Design Coordination](#)
- [Basic Blueprint Reading & Related Math](#)
- [Evaluating Preliminary Building Plan Review Requirements](#)
- [Flood Vents](#)
- [Green Building Materials: An Introduction](#)
- [IBC® - Significant Changes from the 2012 to the 2015 Edition](#)
- [International Building Code & More: Code Officials and Code Processes](#)
- [Reducing Risk: Preparing to be an Expert Witness in a Deposition and Trial](#)
- [Residential Energy Inspector/Plans Examiner 79 Online Prep Course](#)
- [Smart Management: Methods for Motivating and Mentoring Your Team](#)
- [Worksite Safety 01: OSHA Safety Introduction](#)

Check out more [upcoming learning opportunities here](#).