

# ICC Government Relations Monthly Update – **May 2021**

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## **Code Council's 41st annual Building Safety Month keeps the spotlight on safety and resiliency**

This week marks the start of the [2021 Building Safety Month](#) (BSM) to raise awareness about the importance of building codes and the role of building safety professionals in ensuring our communities remain safe, sustainable and resilient. This year's theme is "**Prevent, Prepare, Protect. Building Codes Save.**" [Week 1](#) highlights [energy codes and standards](#) as an essential component to increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gasses. According to the U.S. Department of Energy, model building energy codes like the International Energy Conservation Code are projected to save homeowners and businesses \$126 billion in annual energy costs. Each subsequent week will focus on a specific theme critical to building safety: [Training the Next Generation](#) (week 2), [Water Safety](#) (week 3) and [Disaster Preparedness](#) (week 4). Click [here](#) to download your Building Safety Month poster. The [2021 Proclamation Guide is available here](#). Has your ICC Chapter President [signed a proclamation](#)? Also, don't miss the opportunity to have 2021 BSM proclamations signed by your mayors, county commission chairs, state legislators, Governors and associations and businesses.

**NOTE:** So far, more than 100 jurisdictions and organizations have issued 2021 Building Safety Month proclamations, including U.S. President Joe Biden: "Investing in our infrastructure and adopting and implementing modern building codes are the most effective mitigation measures communities can undertake." View the proclamation for National Building Safety Month, [here](#).

## **Series of free virtual educational events are planned during the 2021 Building Safety Month campaign**

Throughout Building Safety Month, a series of free virtual educational sessions are available, including:

- [International Energy Conservation Code: 2021 Changes, Getting Involved in the 2024 Process](#), This webinar – cohosted by the Code Council, AMCA and RESNET – provides information on the significant changes in the 2021 IECC and background on the 2024 IECC development process;
- A free webinar to "[Meet the ICC Membership Councils](#)."
- [Codes and Standards: How are they different and how are codes developed?](#), a webinar that provides an overview of the codes and standards development process, hosted by Women in Standards and featuring the Code Council's Senior Vice President of Government Relations Sara Yerkes.
- [Building Safety Month Speed Networking](#), a Code Council mentor virtual networking event sponsored by the American Concrete Institute.
- [Hot Water Safety](#), a panel discussion with chief plumbing inspectors about 2021 plumbing code changes and hot water safety topics.

## **IT'S FREE: Signup starts for Code Council's popular Chapter Leadership Academy set for June 8 online**

It's been held in convention centers in Oklahoma City and Denver, but the 2021 Chapter Leadership Academy will be only as far away as your computer. This year's Academy will be a one-day event and will be held Tuesday, June 8, starting at 10 a.m. Eastern, 9 a.m. Central and 8 a.m. Mountain. Please [register by clicking here](#), so we can send additional details and session information closer to June 8th! If you have any questions, please email [chapters@iccsafe.org](mailto:chapters@iccsafe.org).

## **IT'S OFFICIAL: The 2021 ICC Annual Conference and Public Comment Hearing to be held in Pittsburgh**

With the virtual [2021 Group A Committee Action Hearings](#) ending May 5, preparations are under way to produce a live 2021 ICC Annual Conference and [Public Comment Hearings](#) September 19-28 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, this year's event will have additional measures in place to allow our members, stakeholders and employees to gather safely. Some sessions will be offered virtually. More details about the schedule are forthcoming. [Read more here](#).

## **Code Council members offered new digital badges to display credentials and membership online**

The Code Council is offering a new and innovative way to share your credentials and membership. A Digital Badge represents an authenticated accomplishment, skill, or participation. The badge is housed

and managed online. Much like a traditional physical badge or certificate, the digital badge is used as a display to validate your credential/membership and engage conversation among peers and employers. They are useful on a member's resume, in social media, web pages, email signatures and any digital platform where members want to be noticed. [Read more here how to access and share badges.](#)

### **Nearly 350 applications received for 2024 International Energy Conservation Code committees**

With nearly 350 applications submitted for the 2024 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) Development Committees, interest has been impressive among members hoping to serve on these committees and to help advance energy efficiency and building safety in America's communities. Next, the Code Council Board of Directors will consider the nominations and appoint the committees. Committee members will be informed via email of their appointment and the first meeting of the committees is scheduled to start this summer. The applicants represent:

- All nine identified interest groups — government regulators, public segments, consumers, manufacturers, builders, standards promulgators/testing laboratories, users, utilities and insurance.
- Federal, state and local government regulators.
- Forty-two U.S. states and 14 climate zones.
- Building safety professionals, including code officials, architects, engineers, interior designers, energy raters, electricians, home builders, contractors and building owners.
- Wood, masonry, steel, concrete, electrical, mechanical, water, insulation, HVAC, brick, fenestration and envelope manufacturers.

The Development Committees will establish workgroups that will allow for greater deliberation or focus on particular topic areas. [Read more here.](#)

### **Application deadline is June 29 for International Code Council's 2021 Sponsored Scholarship cycle**

The 2021 [Application Form](#) and the [Scholarship Recommendation Form](#) for [all five of the Sponsored Scholarships](#) are available and due by June 29. Only ONE application is needed to apply for all of the scholarships in the program, which include:

- [ICC General Scholarship Fund](#)
- [William J. Tangye Scholarship](#)
- [J.W. "Bill" Neese Scholarship](#)
- [C.D. Howard Scholarship](#)
- [Charlie O'Meilie Scholarship](#)

The scholarships are funded by contributors and Code Council Chapters. Recipients are selected by a committee of volunteers. Separate policies are in effect for each scholarship that details the selection and administrative guidelines, eligibility requirements, and the selection criteria.

### **Report is available from last fall's four-part virtual summit on the importance of equitable resilience**

FEMA recently released the report from a four-part virtual forum conducted last fall by the Resilient Nation Partnership Network, FEMA and NOAA. The report is titled "Building Alliances for Equitable Resilience: Advancing Equitable Resilience through Partnerships and Diverse Perspectives." Calling attention to a growing body of research, the report states that "one of the most cost-effective ways to safeguard the whole community against natural disasters is to adopt and follow hazard-resistant building codes." The report also supports the "nationwide adoption and use of up-to-date building codes" and making "equity a central part of planning and building code efforts" as some of the best ways to keep people safe in their homes and reduce the disproportionate impacts of natural hazards. Over four weeks, 33 speakers from 28 organizations convened to share perspectives and personal and professional insights related to equity. The Code Council was represented by Ryan Colker, Vice President of Innovation and Executive Director of ANCR. Nearly 2,200 viewers representing over 500 organizations from diverse sectors and industries attended the virtual sessions. [Download report here.](#)

### **New Table 4G in NDS supplement on multi-species and country grade marked lumber available**

A [recent edition of the American Wood Council's WoodPost](#) featured multi-species grade stamps that require the designer to check each specie's design values and use the lowest design value among the different species for each design property. These new multi-species grade marks are the result of certain

mills producing lumber from two or more species without separating them in production. Lumber with these grade stamps could be any of the species and countries shown on the grade mark. To help designers and code officials navigate this relatively new approach to grade marking, the lumber grading agencies, working with the American Lumber Standards Committee and AWC staff, have developed a new table of design values for multi-species lumber grade marks. This new table, titled *Table 4G, Reference Design Values for Multi-Species and Country Grademarked Visually Graded Dimension Lumber (2"-4" thick)*, has been approved and included as an addendum to AWC's 2018 NDS Supplement. The new Table 4G can be viewed and downloaded [here](#).

### **Code Council CEO Dominic Sims weighs in on bipartisan Built to Last Act infrastructure legislation**

Dominic Sims, CBO, Chief Executive Officer of the International Code Council, was quoted in a congressional press release on [the Built to Last Act](#), a bill introduced by Senators Marco Rubio (R-FL) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI). The bill is intended to help local communities and private firms build stronger, more climate resilient infrastructure to better withstand extreme weather events. It would require NOAA to identify a consistent, federal set of best available forward-looking metrological information and require NIST to make that information available to SDOs. Other sponsors of the bill are the SmarterSafer Coalition, American Society of Civil Engineers, American Planning Association, Enterprise Community Partners, Environmental Defense Fund, Federal Alliance for Safe Homes, Inc., National Ready Mix Concrete Association, R Street, and Taxpayers for Common Sense. The Congressional Budget Office reports annual economic losses from damage caused by hurricanes and storm-related flooding is \$54 billion to households, businesses and government. [Read more here](#).

### **The Code Council announces new partnership with International Association of Electrical Inspectors**

The International Code Council and the International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) recently entered into a new partnership that will allow the Code Council and IAEI to further equip and educate electrical professionals, including inspectors, electrical installers and contractors, electrical engineers, testing agencies, standards organizations, manufacturers, and distributors. The agreement allows IAEI and the Code Council to co-brand and reciprocally cross-promote select publications, and the educational products, offerings and services of each organization that are beneficial to their respective member bases, expanding what the associations currently offer their members. It also encourages the participation, knowledge and expertise of subject matter experts on respective technical initiatives, including committees and councils. [Read more here](#).

### **International Accreditation Service implements new Building Department Recognition (BDR) program**

The International Accreditation Service (IAS) has implemented a new Building Department Recognition (BDR) program that recognizes building and code enforcement departments — as well as third-party companies providing building department services — that have demonstrated a commitment to service, safety and continuous improvement. Through the BDR program, organizations are recognized for quality, permitting, plan review, inspection and property maintenance code enforcement services. The Building Department Recognition process is online-based, and IAS representatives work closely with applicants to complete the process in an efficient and timely manner. [Read more here](#).

### **American infrastructure scores a C- on new American Society of Civil Engineers' 2021 report card**

The American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) released its 2021 Report Card for America's Infrastructure. The report, published once every four years, gave the United States a C- overall grade, up from a D+ in 2017, marking the first time in two decades the country has received a grade in the C range. However, according to the ASCE, the overall grade still means the nation's infrastructure is in mediocre condition, has deficiencies and needs attention. [Read more here](#).

### **International Code Council joins Global Alliance for Building and Construction's efforts for resiliency**

The International Code Council recently became the newest member of the [Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction](#) (GlobalABC), the leading global platform for governments, the private sector, civil society and intergovernmental and international organizations to achieve a zero-emission, efficient and resilient buildings and construction sector. As the global leader in developing model building codes and standards, the Code Council is uniquely positioned to both share data and best practices from the U.S.

experience as well as to bring proven outcomes and lessons learned from the alliance partners from around the world to the Family of Solutions. [Read more here.](#)

### **Code Council to lead the U.S. Technical Advisory Group to ISO Technical Committee on buildings**

The International Code Council was recently appointed as the U.S. Technical Advisory Group (US TAG) administrator to the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) Technical Committee 59 (ISO/TC 59), which has oversight over the development of ISO standards related to buildings and civil engineering works. As the US TAG administrator, the Code Council is responsible for formulating the official United States position to proposals and within activities under the responsibility of ISO/TC 59, as well as for bringing to ISO any new work items that would support the broad efforts in the U.S. in this area of standardization. To ensure that all interested parties have an opportunity to contribute to the development of the U.S. position on key issues that are considered by ISO/TC 59, the Code Council is now soliciting stakeholders to participate in the US TAG. [Read more here.](#)

### ***GOT PULSE?* Sara Yerkes interviews Bob Raymer about California's code adoptions and his career**

In [Episode 39](#) of ICC's Pulse Podcast, [Sara Yerkes](#), Code Council Senior VP of Government Relations talks with [Bob Raymer](#), Senior Engineer and Technical Director at CBIA Sacramento, about his experience with California's code adoptions and on his career as a code official. [Read more on upcoming topics.](#)

### **Upcoming from the Code Council 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. Single-day training events are an opportunity to focus on topics to ensure your code knowledge stays up to date, with some seminars offering a Virtual Classroom option so you can participate in the event from any location with an internet connection:

- **May 3-7 - [2018 Residential Building Inspector - B1 Certification Test Academy.](#)**
- **May 4 - Code Enforcement Webinar Series: [Gang Awareness for the Code Enforcement Officer.](#)**
- **May 5 - 2018 IPC Webinar Series: [Chapters 9 and 10.](#)**
- **May 11 - Code Enforcement Webinar Series: [Mental Illness and Code Enforcement.](#)**
- **May 12 - 2018 IPC Webinar Series: [Chapters 11-14.](#)**
- **May 12-14 - [2018 Building Plans Examiner - B3 Certification Test Academy.](#)**
- **May 13 - [Complaint Management from Start to Finish.](#)**
- **May 17-19 - [2018 Permit Tech Certification Test Academy.](#)**
- **May 18 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [General Inspection Administration.](#)**
- **May 20 - Leadership Webinar Series: [Get Connected.](#)**
- **May 24-28 - [2018 Commercial Building Inspector - B2 Certification Test Academy.](#)**
- **May 25 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [General Provisions for Fire Safety, Part I.](#)**
- **May 26 - [Report Writing for the Code Official.](#)**
- **May 27 - [Basic Code Enforcement.](#)**
- **June 1 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [General Provisions for Fire Safety, Part II.](#)**
- **June 8 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [Special Occupancies and Operations.](#)**
- **June 9 - [Applying the Codes to Cannabis Facilities.](#)**
- **June 10 - [2018 Accessibility & Usability.](#)**
- **June 15 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [Regulated Materials and Processes.](#)**
- **June 14-16 - [2018 Property Maintenance & Housing Inspector - 64 Certification Test Academy.](#)**
- **June 15 - 2018 Fire Inspector Webinar Series: [Regulated Materials and Processes.](#)**
- **June 17 - Leadership Webinar Series: [Say What You Mean and Mean What You Say.](#)**
- **June 21-23 - [2018 Fire Inspector I - 66 Certification Test Academy.](#)**
- **June 29 - [2019 CRC Essentials.](#)**
- **June 30 - [2019 CBC Essentials.](#)**
- **July 7 - [2018 IRC Essentials.](#)**
- **July 8 - [2018 IPC Essentials.](#)**
- **July 13-15 - [2018 Residential Mechanical Inspector - M1.](#)**
- **July 20-22 - [2018 Fire Inspector II - 67.](#)**
- **July 21 - [Inspector Skills.](#)**

- July 23 – [2018 IBC Means of Egress](#).
- July 26-28 – [2018 Principles of Building Safety Institute](#).
- July 29 - [2021 IPC, IMC, and IFGC Significant Changes](#).
- August 10-12 - [2018 Residential Plumbing Inspector - P1](#).

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

**May 16-21 – [CALBO's 2021 Summer Conference & Mini-Education Week](#), Newport Beach, California.**