

ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



INTERNATIONAL
CODE
COUNCIL®

August 2023

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Help the Code Council pass the Pro Codes Act with outreach to some key Members of Congress

The development of top-quality safety codes is being undermined by court decisions that have enabled for-profit companies to sell unpermitted and erroneous copies of these codes. To ensure code developers like the International Code Council can continue to invest in the future, ICC's Government Relations staff will soon seek assistance from Chapters, ICC members and key stake holders to support the [Protecting and Enhancing Public Access to Codes Act](#), or **Pro Codes Act**. This bill, which has received bipartisan support, ensures America's standards developing organizations (SDOs) that make their codes viewable for free online retain the copyright for codes that governments use by incorporating them by reference into law. If passed, this legislation will help to preserve the cost-effective, public-private partnership through which the private sector develops up-to-date safety codes that are vetted and utilized by public officials for the American people. These vitally important copyright protections have been challenged in recent years by for-profit companies selling unpermitted and erroneous copies of codes and standards carefully developed by various SDOs. *Thank you in advance for your help!*

August 15 webinar walks grant preparers through BRIC application process and uses in communities

Join the Code Council for an informative and FREE webinar to learn more about the process to apply for the Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program. [Register here to participate in the webinar set for 3-4 p.m. Eastern on Tuesday, August 15](#). The Code Council worked closely with state and local governments, as well as other industry stakeholders, to develop proposals that align with community needs and the funding opportunity guidelines. This work is instrumental in driving sustainability, fostering resilience and promoting energy efficiency. [Stella Carr](#), Energy and Resilience Project Manager at the Code Council, is the lead staff member working with members to prepare strong applications to take advantage of this historic funding. If you are interested in [learning more](#), please contact Stella at scarr@iccsafe.org.

PTN and WICED are seeking sponsorships and volunteers for the 2023 Day of Service on October 7

For the last several years during the ICC Annual Conference, PermitTechNation (PTN) and Women in Code Enforcement and Development (WICED), in partnership, have volunteered with [A Day of Service](#) at a local Habitat for Humanity ReStore or construction site or at a Veterans' residential village doing rehab. This year, PTN and WICED will volunteer at both [Habitat for Humanity](#) and [MOVE STL](#), a Veterans organization, on Saturday, October 7. PTN and WICED are reaching out to the ICC Membership Councils and to any ICC member who'd like to chip in and help out for a day on the building projects. They also are seeking sponsorships to help provide food and drinks, safety items, such as gloves and safety glasses, etc., and promotional items for 70 volunteers. [Read more here](#).

Style, format changes within the 2024 I-Codes deliver a unified experience to members and customers

Excitement is brewing as the International Code Council continues to work on the development of the highly anticipated 2024 [International Codes®](#) (I-Codes). As an essential resource for building safety professionals worldwide, the I-Codes undergo continuous updates and improvements to ensure they reflect the latest advancements and best practices within the industry. However, the upcoming 2024 I-Codes will hold more than just updated content – they will arrive in a new style and format, tailored to meet the evolving needs of customers and members. As part of the Code Council's digital transformation strategy, these changes will not only streamline accessibility but also promote a more unified user experience. [Read more here](#).

CALL FOR COMMITTEE: Off-Site Construction Tiny Houses Standard Consensus Committee

The Code Council is seeking manufacturers, builders, code officials, design professionals, government regulators and other industry stakeholders to volunteer for the Off-Site Construction Tiny Houses

Standard Consensus Committee (IS-OSMTH). As an ANSI-accredited standards developing organization, the Code Council is partnering with the Tiny Home Industry Association (THIA) in the development of a new comprehensive standard to address minimum requirements for the design, construction, inspection, certification and regulatory compliance of tiny houses used for permanent occupancy to assure public safety, sustainability and resilience. Once appointed, this committee will convene to develop the new ICC/THIA 1215-202x standard entitled, Design, Construction, Inspection and Regulation of Tiny Houses for Permanent Occupancy. **The application deadline is August 31.** [Read more here.](#)

Nominations are due August 10 for candidates for the 2023–2024 Code Council Board of Directors

Nominations are now being accepted for candidates for the 2023–2024 Code Council Board of Directors. Elections for officers and vacant positions on the board will be held on October 9 during the Annual Business Meeting in St. Louis, Missouri. All candidates need to submit a letter of interest, current resume, a letter of support from their jurisdiction and any other information necessary to support their candidacy by August 10. [Read more here.](#)

Monograph of Public Comments on the IECC-R and IECC-C are posted, awaiting recommendations

The Monograph of Public Comments to the IECC-C, IECC-R, IRC Chapter 11 Public Comment Draft #2 is now posted [here](#). The proposals have been assigned to subcommittees for review and recommendation to the consensus committees. Here is the [link](#) to subcommittee meeting master schedule. Most subcommittees began meeting in late July. The IECC Com Electrical will begin August 7 and IECC Com Envelope will begin August 10. Subcommittee agendas will be posted on the [IECC Committee webpages Commercial & Residential](#). Consensus Committees will meet weekly starting the first week of August until all comments have been resolved. Further updates to the schedule will be posted in the weekly IECC interested party updates.

NAHB announces its resolution supporting the adoption of ICC/MBI Standard 1200 series

The National Association of Home Builders has announced a resolution endorsing the adoption of the ICC/MBI Standard 1200 series at the federal, state and local levels, including beneficial amendments made during the adoption process. [Read more here.](#)

OFF-SITE CONSTRUCTION CLA: ICC/MBI collaborate to create new Credential of Learning Achievement

The Code Council's partnership with the Modular Building Institute has produced a new Credential of Learning Achievement (CLA) to ICC members and customers. The ICC/MBI Off-site Construction CLA will provide individuals with an opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills to applicable off-site construction codes and standards enforcement of modular and off-site projects. [Read more here.](#)

DOE analysis finds the 2021 IECC can reduce deaths from extreme heat by as much as 80 percent

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently published a new report "[Enhancing Resilience in Buildings Through Energy Efficiency: Standardized Methodology and Resulting Analysis Demonstrating the Value of Codes and Above Code Measures to Hazard Resilience](#)," outlining the resilience benefits of the 2021 [International Energy Conservation Code®](#) (IECC) in response to more frequent and intense extreme weather events. The report was developed by a team of energy experts from [DOE's Building Energy Codes Program](#), [Pacific Northwest National Laboratory](#), [National Renewable Energy Laboratory](#) and [Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory](#). Their study examined the ability of existing and new residential buildings to withstand extreme temperatures and the associated impacts on occupants and property. It included single-family homes and multifamily apartment buildings located in six U.S. cities that span three diverse geographic regions: Portland (OR), Minneapolis-St. Paul, Los Angeles, Houston, Atlanta and Detroit. The IECC's improved envelope efficiency in buildings can permit occupants to shelter in place safely during a disaster-induced outage for more than four days, extending habitability by as much as 120 percent during extreme cold and 140 percent during extreme heat. These improvements will ultimately reduce deaths by up to 80 percent. [Read more here.](#)

August 16 is the deadline to submit your jurisdiction's feedback on FEMA's BRIC grant program

The Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) is seeking feedback on the [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#) grant program. This is an opportunity for stakeholders

to share their thoughts and experiences since the launch of the program. This BRIC 2023 Stakeholder Engagement effort builds on the [Stakeholder Feedback Summary in March 2020](#) that helped inform the design of the current program. This effort aims to identify successes and opportunities for reducing barriers to access BRIC funding for state, local, tribal and territorial partners. There are multiple ways that stakeholder feedback will be collected. The deadline for all submissions is Aug. 16. [Read more here.](#)

Department of Energy Awards Grants to eight projects supported by the International Code Council

In a move to enhance energy efficiency and building resilience, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) announced plans to allocate \$90 million in grants to aid the implementation of stronger building energy codes for new and renovated structures. DOE will distribute the grants to 27 projects across 26 states and the District of Columbia. Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm announced the funding during a recent visit to a Louisiana Home Builders Association training facility. The International Code Council will lead a project to develop a digitization roadmap to support small and under-resourced jurisdictions in their transition to digital code enforcement processes. “This is an unprecedented investment towards supporting community efforts to cut energy bills and reduce climate impacts. Given the resource challenges so many departments face, this funding will have a real impact,” said International Code Council CEO Dominic Sims, CBO. The adoption of modernized energy codes also provides significant savings for households, with an average reduction of [\\$751 in utility bills](#). [Read more here.](#)

PRO Housing grants offer \$85 million for ALJs taking steps to remove barriers to affordable housing

Pathways to Removing Obstacles to Housing ([PRO Housing](#)) grants are being offered through the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to support communities who are actively taking steps to remove barriers to affordable housing, such as:

- Barriers caused by outdated zoning, land use policies, or regulations.
- Inefficient procedures.
- Gaps in available resources for development.
- Deteriorating or inadequate infrastructure.
- Lack of neighborhood amenities.
- Challenges to preserving existing housing stock such as increasing threats from natural hazards, redevelopment pressures, or expiration of affordability requirements.

A total \$85 million was appropriated for competitive grant funding for the identification and removal of barriers to affordable housing production and preservation. Congress has directed HUD to undertake a competition using the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) statutory and regulatory framework. [Read more here.](#)

Public comments sought until August 28 on the draft for ‘Guideline 6 on Advanced Panelization’

The draft for *Guideline 6 on Advanced Panelization* is now open for a 30-day public comment period. Comments are sought on the entire drafted guideline and should be submitted in legislative format (strikethrough and underline) to Joseph Sollod, *International Code Council Sustainability, Resilience and Innovation Associate*, at jsollod@iccsafe.org. The deadline for public comments is **Monday, August 28, 2023, at 11:59 PM ET**. [Read more here.](#)

CALL FOR COMMITTEE: Ad hoc committee will explore uses and recycling of energy storage systems

The International Code Council is seeking code officials, fire protection experts, architects, engineers, industry representatives, and other related stakeholders to volunteer for the Ad Hoc Committee on Batteries and Energy Storage. Established by the Code Council Board of Directors, this ad hoc committee will explore how building safety is impacted by the manufacturing, storage, use and recycling of batteries and energy storage systems. The committee will follow the Code Council’s established procedures and is expected to conduct its activities through the 2024/2025/2026 Code Development Cycle. [The deadline for applications is August 14.](#) [Click here](#) for more information and to apply.

Consumer Product Safety Commission releases report on importance of swimming pool and spa safety

[The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission](#) (CPSC) recently released its [annual drowning and submersion report](#) that studied the estimated number of pool or spa-related nonfatal drowning injuries and fatal drownings between 2020 and 2022. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death

among children ages 1-4 and this report aims to raise awareness of the importance of water safety around pools and spas. According to the report, the potential for fatal drownings and nonfatal drowning injuries remains high for children under the age of 15. The report uncovered the following:

- Between 2018 and 2020, there were an average of 371 pool or spa related fatal drownings reported per year.
- On average, from 2020 through 2022, there were an estimated 6,300 pool or spa related, hospital emergency department treated, nonfatal drowning injuries each year. Seventy-six percent of these nonfatal drowning injuries involved children younger than 5 years of age.
- The number of estimated non-fatal drowning injuries in 2022 was 6,400, the same as 2021.
- For children younger than five years of age, the total number of fatal drownings in 2020 (279 fatalities), was higher than the total number of fatal drownings in 2019 (254 fatalities).

Read the Code Council's 10 Important Tips for Backyard and Pool Safety [here](#). [Read more here](#).

A117.1 Accessibility Standard has been essential to the built environment for more than six decades

As technology advances, code updates must be made to accommodate changing needs. Achieving accessibility has been an evolving process for building safety professionals and all who are involved in developing, refining and updating the A117.1 Accessibility Standard. Operating on a five-year cycle, the most recent A117.1 standard was updated in 2017. One of the latest additions involves enhancements to classroom acoustics to reduce ambient noise and other auditory distractions. Another is a adjustment to sign language interpreter stations will better indicate where the interpreter would be positioned and provide adequate seating for optimum viewing. [Read more here](#).

With rise in U.S. malaria cases, International Property Maintenance Code can provide safeguards

The [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) recently issued a [health advisory](#) in response to reported cases of malaria in Florida and Texas this summer. This marks the first time locally acquired infections of malaria have been detected in the U.S. in 20 years. Malaria can become life-threatening, affecting vital organs and leading to severe complications. How buildings are designed, constructed and maintained can have an impact on the occurrence of diseases, such as malaria. For example, the International Code Council's [International Property Maintenance Code](#)® (IPMC) requires screens for insect control and proper drainage to minimize stagnant water. Proper installation of insect screens in homes and reducing spawning grounds lessens the ability of infections to spread. [Read more here](#).

Federal agencies update the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program's strategic plan

Over the past three years, [the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program](#) — composed of the National Institute of Science and Technology, National Science Foundation, United States Geological Survey and FEMA— collaborated to produce a Strategic Plan. This legislative requirement is now final after Office of Management and Budget clearance. The plan can be found on the [NEHRP.gov](#) for downloading and review. NEHRP will use the document to create a management plan.

Code Council's Vice President of Fire and Disaster Mitigation named to wildland urban interface group

Karl Fippinger, the Code Council's Vice President of Fire and Disaster Mitigation, was recently appointed to serve on the newly formed [Wildland Urban Interface Advisory Committee](#) (WAC) to [UL's Fire Safety Research Institute](#) (FSRI). The WAC brings together experts in fields relating to [wildland-urban interface](#) fire safety to leverage their experience, knowledge and insights to inform FSRI's research and related efforts. As part of the WAC, Fippinger will collaborate with fire service leaders and researchers to advance the science around wildfire and public safety in the urban interface. [Read more here](#).

ICC's Senior Vice President of Global Operations and Solutions appointed to serve on ITAC 15

Judy Zakreski, International Code Council Senior Vice President of Global Operations and Solutions, was recently appointed to serve on the [Industry Trade Advisory Committee on Standards and Technical Trade Barriers](#) (ITAC 15). Committee members are appointed jointly by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce and the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR) to provide valuable expertise and advice to the U.S. government on international trade matters. On ITAC 15, Zakreski will represent the viewpoint of the International Code Council and its members in the U.S. building standards industry. [Read more here](#).

Contributing to Canadian standards underscores ICC's mission to advance global building safety

The International Code Council is the latest standards-developing organization (SDO) to receive accreditation from the Standards Council of Canada (SCC). As a global leader in providing building safety solutions, the Code Council joins a select group of organizations that contribute to the development of National Standards of Canada for the benefit of Canadians. The Code Council has an established presence in Canada, with three provincial building associations having chapter status and many Canadian building safety professionals participating in Code Council membership councils and accessing Code Council training. The ICC Conformity Assessment Group also has a long history of activity in Canada, facilitating North American harmonization and market access efforts for manufacturers, testing laboratories and other facilities through the accreditation of the ICC Evaluation Service to certify product listings to Canadian standards. [Read more here.](#)

Utah takes significant step toward ensuring the safety, efficiency and resiliency of its communities

The International Code Council commends the state of Utah for adopting the 2021 International Codes® (I-Codes). This adoption of the latest I-Codes ensures the safety of Utah residents and workers and standardize building regulations and practices statewide. The adoption of the 2021 I-Codes is made possible through the passage of [House Bill 532](#). This legislation, with certain statewide amendments, requires the adoption of the Code Council's 2021 edition of various codes, including the [International Building Code®](#) (IBC) with Appendices C and J. Additionally, the bill covers specific provisions of the [International Residential Code®](#) (IRC) along with Appendices AE and AQ, [International Plumbing Code®](#) (IPC), [International Mechanical Code®](#), [International Fuel Gas Code®](#) (IFGC), commercial provisions of the [International Energy Conservation Code®](#), [International Existing Building Code®](#) (IEBC) and [International Swimming Pool and Spa Code®](#). [Read more here.](#)



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

Code Council's Plumbing and Mechanical Codes are paving the way for more resilient communities

As hazardous events continue to grow in both frequency and severity, the need to create and maintain a resilient built environment becomes increasingly important. A resilient building is built to withstand the major impacts of hazardous events such as earthquakes, hurricanes, floods, tornadoes and wildfires. Adopting and implementing modern and up-to-date building codes can help to minimize the damage caused by these events and reduce the risk of injuries, loss of life and costly repairs. The PMG codes are a vital part of a complete building safety system that assures resiliency and sustainability. When adopted as a family of codes, alongside the other I-Codes®, they provide a consistent and cohesive system of regulations that designers, contractors, builders and regulators can rely on worldwide. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) recognizes the I-Codes within their [Consensus-Based Codes, Specifications and Standards for Public Assistance](#) (CBCSS) document for the construction of homes and buildings that are hazard-resilient with specific references to the [International Plumbing Code®](#) (IPC®) and the [International Mechanical Code®](#) (IMC®). [Read more here.](#)

Why should your state or local jurisdiction adopt the International Plumbing Code?

The International Plumbing Code (IPC) is the most widely adopted plumbing code across the United States. The IPC is currently adopted in 37 states across the U.S. and is also adopted in Puerto Rico and Guam. Approximately 252 million people, or 75 percent of the US population, live in areas that have adopted the IPC. The IPC is also used in Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Columbia, Mexico, and other countries around the world. That's because resiliency matters. In today's rapidly evolving world, the need to create and maintain a resilient built environment becomes increasingly important. The IPC stands out as the most resilient plumbing code available, with provisions addressing areas such as fire, flood/water intrusion, grid resiliency, passive survivability and more. [Read more here.](#)

Colorado strengthens state's building safety and resilience by adopting the 2021 IPC and IFGC

The state of Colorado has adopted the 2021 Colorado Plumbing and Fuel Gas Codes which incorporates the 2021 [International Plumbing Code®](#) (IPC), [International Fuel Gas Code®](#) (IFGC), and the plumbing provisions of the [International Residential Code®](#) (IRC). This decision comes after careful consideration by the [Colorado Department of Regulatory Agencies Plumbing Board](#) and is a testament to the state's

commitment to upholding the highest standards in building construction and maintenance. By aligning with the 2021 IPC, Colorado strengthens its eligibility for federal funding with programs such as the [Federal Emergency Management Agency's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\) program](#), which plays a vital role in facilitating the recovery process during emergencies and natural disasters, and specifically articulates the importance of updating codes such as the IPC. [Read more here.](#)



ICC Evaluation Services updates

ICC-ES offers the new IRC Equivalency Evaluation Report to complement products' existing reports

The IRC Equivalency Evaluation Report (EER), an innovative new offering from ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES), highlights an ICC-ES evaluated product's end-use application with relevant technical drawings in a clear, streamlined report. An EER complements a product's existing ICC-ES Evaluation Report with focus on schematic plans, details and tables for residential project applications, providing proof of compliance to relevant sections of the International Residential Code® (IRC) - all in a user-friendly and familiar format. [Read more here.](#)



ICC Community Development Solutions update

Municipality® Vacancy & Landlord/Rental Registration program simplifies the tracking of properties

The Vacancy & Landlord/Rental Registration program of work helps building safety staff track vacant and multi-family properties effectively which saves time and increases efficiency. More features:

- Track and manage landlord registrations, occupants, and tenants on parcel record.
- Set up recurring inspections and tasks from within the registration record.
- Generate letters, fees, reports, or registration renewal reminders.
- Pair registration process with foreclosure management to track property vacancies.

[View the PDF](#) or join a [Municipality Overview Webinar August 10 at 1 p.m. EST/10 a.m. PST.](#)

Next Premium Code Insights webinar explores access to custom I-Codes on Thursday, August 17

Join your fellow Code Council members as we continue to enhance your user experience by providing an overview of our latest feature, Premium Code Insights. During this session, we will explore the following key features of Premium Code Insights to enhance your code compliance research. Supplemental information is presented across relevant sections to provide even more context regarding the code requirements. The next webinar is 1 p.m. ET Thursday on [ICC Digital Codes Premium Webinar Custom I-Codes](#). You can review webinars exploring various aspect of using Digital Codes by [reading more here.](#)

Summer edition of IAEI Magazine is available here for downloading and catching up on IAEI news

The latest issue of IAEI Magazine, produced by the International Association of Electrical Inspectors focuses on summer safety. Catch up on commercial and residential electrical appliance safety and the latest on PV installation and inspecting to ensure system longevity. [Download your edition here.](#)