

ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



December 2022

Follow @ICC_GR on [Twitter](#).

[Click here](#) for ICC Government Relations Staff Regional Maps.

Deadlines are approaching for code project applications under FEMA's \$2.3B BRIC grant program

Now in its third year, FEMA's BRIC program is set to award nearly \$2.3 billion for pre-disaster mitigation grants. BRIC prioritizes the adoption and enforcement of hazard-resistant building codes and makes funding available for jurisdictions to adopt or update codes or improve their enforcement, administration, and implementation. Although the Federal deadline to apply for the BRIC program is January 27, 2023, many states have fixed sub-application deadlines that precede the application deadline, as state and local governments must apply through their state emergency management offices. Click [here](#) or contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) to confirm your state's deadline. Click [here](#) to locate your SHMO's contact information. [Click here](#) or contact your State Hazard Mitigation Officer (SHMO) to confirm your state's deadline. [Click here](#) to locate your SHMO's contact information. [Read more here](#).

STARTING JANUARY 1: New DOE efficiency requirements for air conditioning systems have near-term implications for code officials and builders. Download the ICC backgrounder

New regulations from the Department of Energy (DOE) go into effect on January 1, 2023, that address minimum efficiency and new test procedures for air conditioning systems. These new regulations affect code compliance for mechanical equipment regardless of what local code edition has been adopted because federal appliance standards preempt state and local construction codes. In some states, the new regulations could present permitting challenges. [Click here for an ICC backgrounder](#) that includes suggestions to address pain points and stresses the importance of near-term communication with the construction industry to alleviate potential issues.

New changes in code development process uses one combined Online Governmental Consensus Vote

The International Code Council Board of Directors approved a standing motion from the Board Committee on the Long-Term Code Development Process to revise the code development cycle to incorporate two committee action hearings for each code group. This change expands the current process from two independent one-year cycles to a single, continuous three-year cycle. This change will not take effect until the code development cycle beginning in 2024 for the development of the 2027 International Codes. There are three significant changes to the process:

- Adding an additional Committee Action Hearing (CAH) for each of the Code Groups so that the committee considers the original proposals, submitted responses to committee action and testimony a second time. This allows more in-depth vetting of code change proposals. Participants can respond and submit comments on the proposed code changes and the same committee considers the comments and determines their action based on both their previous action and the new information provided. By being able to consider comments submitted in response to their initial action, the process allows for additional testimony on the new information provided and the committee can evaluate and discuss these comments before taking action on the code change that will be subjected to the public comment process at the Public Comment Hearing.
- There will be a Public Comment Hearing (PCH) in the third year for both Group A and B codes.
- The PCH will be followed by an Online Governmental Consensus Vote for both code groups.

Check out [this infographic](#) on the new process compared to the current process. [Read more here](#), especially the Frequently Asked Questions section which goes into significant detail.

IT'S A LIFE CHANGER: December 21 is deadline to apply for funding from Emory R. Rodgers Fellowship

Are you looking for an opportunity to change the course of your career for something better? Just ask Colorado's **Andre Jaen**, recipient this year of funding through the Emory R. Rodgers Leadership in

Building Safety Fellowship. Jaen is pursuing his master's degree. Named for one of the Code Council's greatest mentors, the Fellowship funding is available annually to a building safety professional who wants to further develop leadership skills through an eligible executive development program. The fellowship **provides up to \$20,000** to cover the education program. If you know of anyone who is eligible and deserving of this fantastic opportunity, please direct them to [apply here](#). Applications for the 2023 recipient will be accepted until **December 21**. [Read more here](#).

Karla Higgs transitions from ICC Membership to ICC Training to capitalize on her chapter experience

Long-time Vice President of Member Services Karla Higgs is taking on a new role with ICC's Training Department. She will be using her experience with membership to continue to improve training and educational offerings. Karla has been a committed employee and membership advocate for many years, and we're all excited to see her lead in her new position. Vice President of Membership Ron Piester will remain at the helm of the Membership Department with support from Membership Manager Tamika Dunning who joined the team earlier this year. Question? Please reach out at membership@iccsafe.org.

New Code Council specialist will assist communities in funding and executing energy code activities

The International Code Council, in collaboration with the NMR group, Performance Systems Development, and Southeast Energy Efficiency Alliance, announce the formation of the Strategic Energy Code Implementation Team (SECIT). Leading efforts of the SECIT, the Code Council welcomes **Stella Carr** as the Energy and Resiliency Project Manager. In this role, Carr will assist state, local, tribal and territorial governments and other partners to successfully identify, develop and implement grant-funded programs that support the [adoption and implementation of energy and resilience codes](#). The SECIT, a multi-functional project team of leading energy experts with specialized building energy code knowledge, will support state and local governments seeking competitive grant funding made available under the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE) \$225 million [Resilient and Efficient Codes Implementation \(RECI\) program](#). The goals of the SECIT expand the Code Council's [suite of resources](#) to help communities access federal funding for the implementation of building codes. [Read more here](#).

Group B Online Governmental Consensus Vote preliminary results are released and posted on website

The 2022 Group B Online Governmental Consensus Vote was conducted from October 17 through November 1 and the preliminary results are [posted here](#). The next step is to have multiple third-party auditors validate the current cycle process and then the results of those audits will be presented to the ICC Board of Directors. This is in accordance with Section 10.1 of CP 28 Code Development. Once the results are presented and assuming no issues are found, the [2022 Group B Final Action](#) results will be officially posted to the ICC website. [Read more here](#).

ICC offers new Revit Add-In to help the design community streamline schematic design workflows

The Code Council announced the release of [the ICC Digital Codes Premium Revit® Add-In](#), the new add-in which allows architects, designers, engineers and building safety professionals to access and reference building codes and standards directly from within Autodesk Revit. The add-in is compatible with Autodesk Revit 2023, Autodesk Revit 2022, and Autodesk Revit 2021 on 64-bit Microsoft® Windows® 10 or Windows® 11 operating systems and is available on both the Code Council website and the Autodesk App Store. [Read more here](#).

Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation and ICC collaborate to create new safety credential

The Code Council recently introduced its first credential dedicated to the safety of Code Official personnel. The Code Official Safety Credential of Learning Achievement (CLA), developed in collaboration with the [Code Enforcement Officer Safety Foundation](#) (CEOSF) following the deaths of a number of code officials in the line of duty. It will educate code officials and inspectors in all disciplines with officer safety skills that set the standard in the code enforcement profession. The Code Official Safety CLA assessment will be offered via the Code Council's [Proctored Remote Online Testing Option](#) (PRONTO), which will verify subject matter comprehension and competency. The Code Council and CEOSF joined forces in May 2021 to expand career development resources for safety and increase collaboration between the two organizations. [Read more here](#).

Code Council continues its leadership in global discussions about the role of the built environment

The International Code Council, the largest international organization of building safety professionals and a member of the Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (GlobalABC), recently presented at the 27th annual Global Climate Change Conference (COP27), in Egypt. The Code Council's Ryan Colker, Vice President of Innovation, and Judy Zakreski, Vice President of Global Services made presentations that were live-streamed. The work of the Code Council, alongside other participating business and government networks, is to recognize the role buildings play in our changing climate, as well as to promote solutions to prevent additional carbon output from construction and operations of buildings, and to ensure that buildings are designed to withstand future hazards.. Zakreski's presentation was titled "[Adaptation and Mitigation of Buildings in Emerging Economies: The Importance of a Focused Approach to Regulatory Compliance.](#)" You can see Zakreski's [30-minute presentation here](#).

International Code Council presents plaque recognizing 100 years of service by Standards Australia

Neil Savery, Managing Director of ICC Oceania, recently presented a plaque on behalf of the Code Council to Adrian O'Connell, Chief Executive Officer of Standards Australia, honoring Standards Australia's 100 years of contributing to order and safety, quality of life and the promotion of economic development in Australia. In 1922, Standards Australia's first committee designed the bolts that hold the iconic Sydney Harbour bridge together and in 1947, Standards Australia helped establish the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). In 1998, Standards Australia was recognized as the peak non-government standards development organization in Australia and today it has over 28,500 standards and technical publications across all sectors of the economy. In tribute to this milestone, the International Code Council, its Board of Directors, staff and worldwide membership formally recognized the dedication and leadership of Standards Australia with the gifting of the plaque.

Global team of code developers and researchers create free tool to increase resilience of buildings

The Global Resiliency Dialogue, a collaborative forum comprised of representatives from the International Code Council, the Australian Building Codes Board, the National Research Council of Canada, and the New Zealand Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, has published the Global Building Resilience Guidelines. The guidelines are the culmination of a three-year effort to share knowledge and research outcomes that inform how to best integrate climate science into building codes. The Global Resiliency Dialogue was launched in late 2018 to address the challenges of increasing intensity and frequency of natural hazard events over the past decade, along with the higher cost of damage sustained by buildings. [Read more here](#).



ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates

Boso and Sigler join U.S. team of water leaders to tour Israeli water desalination and reuse facilities

ICC PMG Executive Director Matt Sigler and ICC Board Member Mike Boso visited Israel to learn first-hand about the innovative approaches the country is taking to ensure adequate and resilient water supplies, despite its arid climate and growing population. They were part of a U.S. delegation of 42 water leaders comprised of utilities, state regulators, federal agencies, private sector water experts and standard developers which included the Code Council and the American Water Works Association. The group visited the [Sorek water desalination plant](#), one of the world's largest reverse osmosis desalination facilities, and the Emek Hefer Water Reclamation Project, which supplies treated wastewater for agricultural irrigation. They learned about how Israel continues to mitigate potential long-term impacts of reuse water on crop and soil quality as well as Israel's ability to tighten non-revenue water losses, which in some areas was less than five percent due to policies requiring regular meter replacements. These lessons, and more, are expected to be shared in more detail during the December Board meeting.



ICC Evaluation Services updates

ICC-ES approved as conformity assessment body by the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Org

ICC Evaluation Service ([ICC-ES](#)) has been approved as a conformity assessment body by the Saudi Standards, Metrology and Quality Org (SASO). This cooperation will help manufacturers looking to expand internationally by providing product evaluation reports that can be accepted in the Middle East.

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has a requirement with regard to imported products, in that such products must comply with the requirement of SASO technical regulations and maintain SASO certification. ICC-ES is now approved to conduct such certification. The approval is for several product categories under the Type 3 Scheme of the SALEEM product safety program, including metals, insulation, hydraulic links, bricks, and pipes used in water, electricity and gas networks. ICC represents in the MENA region through its office at the Dubai Association Centre Office in the United Arab Emirates. [Read more here.](#)