
International Building Codes (IBC) 2021 Edition Update



Purpose of building codes

- Promotes higher quality construction
 - Reduces potential hazards
 - Provides higher safety standards for the public and first responders
- Protects investments
- Promotes energy conservation/lower utility bills



Why update codes?

- Updated technology and methods
- ISO Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule
 - Scores municipalities on codes (loss risks) and provides them to insurance providers, can affect insurance premiums
 - Municipalities with effective, well-enforced codes should demonstrate lower losses and lower insurance rates
- Industry standard
 - Streamlines permitting process
 - Many nearby communities are on newer codes



Comparable cities

Municipality	Building Code	Fire Code
Bellaire	2021	2021
Humble	2018	2018
West University Place	2021	2021
Katy	2021	2021
Stafford	updating to 2024	updating to 2024
Pearland	2021	2021
Webster	2021	2021
Friendswood	2018	2018
Jersey Village	2018	2018
Conroe	2009	2009



Why the urgency?

- ISO review of the City
 - Prior BCEGS rating of Class 4
 - Current BCEGS rerating of Class 9 (lower number is better)



Proposed updates

- 2023 National Electric Code
- 2021 International Code Council (ICC) Editions
 - International Residential Code
 - International Building Code
 - International Mechanical Code
 - International Plumbing Code
 - International Fuel Gas Code
 - International Energy Conservation Code
 - International Swimming Pool and Spa Code
 - International Property Maintenance Code
 - International Existing Building Code
 - International Performance Code
 - International Solar Energy Provisions Code



What has been done so far?

- Purchased updated code books
- Training on 2021 codes
 - Building Officials, Plan Reviewers, and Inspectors
- Informed the development community of the proposed update



Significant code changes

- Outlined in background information
- Mostly just clarifications
- Allows for new technology
- Consistency with state-mandated Energy Conservation Code (2021 IECC)
- 2021 codes have become the industry standard
 - Anticipate little to no impact on permitting matters



Adoption schedule

- City Council Workshop
 - December 2, 2024
- Planning & Zoning Commission
 - December 9, 2024
- Regular City Council
 - December 16, 2024 - first reading of ordinance
 - January 6, 2025 - second reading of ordinance

