

Scope: The International Building Code (IBC) serves as a foundational framework for ensuring the safety, health, and welfare of the public through standardized construction practices. For municipalities, the IBC provides a consistent and enforceable set of guidelines that govern the design, construction, alteration, and maintenance of buildings and structures. By adopting the IBC, a city ensures that development aligns with nationally recognized safety standards while allowing for local amendments that reflect the unique needs and priorities of the community.

Significant Changes (including changes made in the 2021 version and the 2024 version, noted in parentheses on which year the change took effect):

The intent of the content below is not intended to capture each change to the text of the code for all items related to restructuring or moving content, updates to definitions/clarifications, or minor provisions with insignificant impact. More context can be provided upon request for any of the changes that have occurred in each of the code editions.

Chapter 1 Scope and Administration

- Updated role and responsibility of the building official to extend to granting this individual the right to determine compliance with the code as well as items that can be requested to confirm said compliance (2024).
- Requires all fences that serve as a pool barrier to be permitted regardless of height (2024).

Chapter 2 Definitions

- Included a definition for change of occupancy. This further solidifies a distinction between the requirements of new construction (IBC) and existing building renovations/additions (IEBC) (2021).
- Includes thresholds that separate “Computer Rooms” and “Data Centers” based on the energy usage per area. This helps clarify when certain life safety protections are needed (2024).
- High-rise building definition now includes an occupied roof in the height threshold to be more clear (2024).

Chapter 3 Occupancy Classification and Use

- More robust outlining of the uses related to Battery Energy Storage Systems, including testing, storage of systems not in use, and active backup power systems (2024).

Chapter 4 Special Detailed Requirements Based on Occupancy and Use

- Additional requirements for special amusement areas such as puzzle rooms (2021 & 2024).

Chapter 5 General Building Heights and Areas

- Updates to requirements for incidental uses in I-2 Occupancies, which are typically hospitals (2024).

Chapter 6 Types of Construction

- Reclassification of heavy timber buildings (2021 & 2024)

Chapter 7 Fire and Smoke Protection Features

- Various clarifications made to provisions throughout the chapter to provide determination on how to properly ensure fire separation (2021 & 2024).

Chapter 8 Interior Finishes

[No significant changes]

Chapter 9 Fire Protection and Life Safety Systems

- Additional requirements/thresholds for distilled spirits, upholstered furniture and mattresses, and parking garage with mechanical access (2021).
- Additional requirements/thresholds for batteries and associated uses (2024).
- A decrease (and subsequent increase) in allowable height for an R-2 Occupancy, usually apartments, when utilizing NFPA 13R System, an alternative option to a traditional sprinkler system (2021 & 2024).

- Addition of the requirement for fire alarm systems in self-storage facilities that exceed 2 stories or do not have a sprinkler system (2021).
- Additional smokeproof enclosure options (2021).
- Fire Command Center requirements for large storage facilities (2021).
- Addition of the requirement for fire alarm systems in uses related to batteries (2024).
- New standpipe requirements to better communicate configuration to fire department (2024).
- Carbon monoxide detection is now required in all occupancies that are normally occupied (2024).

Chapter 10 Means of Egress

- Guidance provided for egress elements for occupiable roofs (2021 & 2024).
- Low level exit signage for R-1 occupancies is eliminated in sprinklered buildings (2024).
- New requirement for lateral distance to handrails (2024).

Chapter 11 Accessibility

- The referenced standard ICC A117.1 has been updated from the 2009 to the 2017 edition, which includes many new requirements for accessible spaces (2021).
- Automatic doors are now required in buildings with certain uses and occupant loads (2021 & 2024).
- A minimum number of accessible vehicle charging stations are now required (2021).
- Bottle filling stations are now required to be accessible and within maximum reach ranges (2021).
- Adult changing stations are now required in certain uses (2024).
- Laundry equipment, where located in a space required to be accessible, should meet accessibility requirements (2024).

Chapter 12 Interior Environment

- Minimum acoustic requirements are now required in some educational occupancy spaces (2021).
- Screening is now required at the entry to the restroom (2021).

Chapter 13 Energy Efficiency

[Modifications to Energy Provisions are captured in the IECC Significant Changes]

Chapter 14 Exterior Walls

- With the advent of Insulated Metal Panel and rising popularity, there are updates to the requirements of this product (2024).

Chapter 15 Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures

[No significant changes]

Chapter 16 Structural Design

- The referenced standard ASCE 7 has been updated from the 2016 to the 2022 edition, which includes many new design criteria based on climate and ecological data (2021).
- Updates to the risk categories for facilities with large assembly spaces, hospitals, correctional facilities or large-scale solar electric energy production systems (2021 & 2024).
- Design requirements are now included for the consideration of tornado loads for Risk Category III and IV buildings (2024).

Chapter 17 Special Inspections and Tests

- Precast concrete diaphragms, mass timber, and firestopping in residential occupancies are required to have special inspections performed (2021).
- Pre-engineered metal building systems are required to have special inspections performed (2024).
- Risk category III buildings are now subject to structural observation, usually done by the structural engineer (2024).

Chapter 18 Soils and Foundations

- Various updates to design standards and testing criteria (2021 & 2024).

Chapter 19 Concrete

- Various updates to design standards and testing criteria (2021 & 2024).

Chapter 20 Aluminum

[No significant changes]

Chapter 21 Masonry

- The referenced standards TMS 402 and 602 have been updated from to the 2022 editions, which includes many new requirements for accessible spaces (2021).

Chapter 22 Steel

- Various updates to design standards and testing criteria (2021 & 2024).

Chapter 23 Wood

- Various updates to design standards and testing criteria (2021 & 2024).

Chapter 24 Glass and Glazing

- Various updates to design standards and testing criteria (2021 & 2024).

Chapter 25 Gypsum Panel Products and Plaster

[No significant changes]

Chapter 26 Plastic

[No significant changes]

Chapter 27 Electrical

[Modifications to Electrical Provisions are captured in the NEC Significant Changes]

Chapter 28 Mechanical Systems

[Modifications to Mechanical Provisions are captured in the IMC Significant Changes]

Chapter 29 Plumbing Systems

[Modifications to Plumbing Provisions are captured in the IPC Significant Changes]

- Significant alternation to this chapter includes regulations to address issues of gender and equality of access (2021).
- Significant alternation to this chapter includes regulations to sync with best practices in healthcare (2024).

Chapter 30 Elevators and Conveying Systems

- Emergency elevator communication systems are required to have both text and audible modes for accessible elevators (2021).

Chapter 31 Special Construction

- Inclusion of requirements and design criteria for use of shipping containers to keep with industry practice (2021).
- Including of a number of requirements and standards for the installation of temporary structures and equipment. (2024).

Chapter 32 Encroachments Into the Public Right-of-Way

[No significant changes]

Chapter 33 Safeguards During Construction

- Increase in requirements for water supply for construction sites based on type of construction (2021).

Chapter 34 Reserved

[No significant changes]

Chapter 35 Referenced Standards

- Updates to most standards based on newer editions.

Note: only modified Appendices have been included in the list below.

Appendix B Board of Appeals

- Establishing detailed provisions for application, membership, meetings, etc (2021).

[Appendix O Performance-Based Application](#)

- New appendix outlining a performance-based approach to code compliance (2021).

[Appendix P Sleeping Lofts](#)

- New appendix outlining requirements for sleeping lofts in residential occupancies (2024).