

## **2003 International Building Code** **Overview of Changes**

The scope of the International Building Code (IBC) applies to the construction, alteration, movement, enlargement, replacement, repair, use and occupancy, location, maintenance, and removal or demolition of buildings or structures. The IBC establishes the minimum requirements to safeguard the public health, safety and general welfare through structural strength, proper exits, and sanitation. The IBC is also designed to provide safety for firefighters and emergency responders from fire and other hazards associated with the build environment.

The 2003 IBC continues to establish minimum regulations for building systems using prescriptive and performance-related provisions. The code changes in this cycle result in technical consistency with the other *International Codes*.

- 105.2 - Work exempt from permits (adds exception #12 - awnings of 54" or less)
- 106.2 - Site plan (adds elevation certificate requirements for construction in flood hazard area)
- 202 - Definitions (several new, changed and deleted definitions)
- 302.1.1 - Incidental use areas (changes to table 302.1.1 clarify options that are available to a designer when a building contains incidental use areas)
- 308 - Institutional uses (language added to help clarify different Group I occupancies)
- 506.4 - Area determination (new language provided for calculating the maximum building area)
- 507.5 Group A-3 buildings (new text allows a one-story A-3 building to be unlimited in area under certain conditions)
- 706.3.7 - Single-occupancy fire areas (new table added designating fire resistance rating for walls separating a single use into different fire areas)
- 716.6.1 - Through penetrations (Establishes exceptions to fire damper requirements for ducts penetrating a fire rated wall)
- 903.2.7 - Group R (all residential occupancies consolidated as they relate to fire sprinkler protection)
- 903.3.1.2.1 - Balconies (new text requires fire sprinkler coverage on balconies of residential wood-framed construction when a sprinkler system is required)
- 905.3.3 - Covered mall buildings (added text provides details on location of standpipes for covered malls)
- 907.9.1.2 - Employee work areas (new section requires wiring that would enable visual fire alarm devices to be integrated into an alarm system for employee work areas at a later date)
- 907.14 - Monitoring (new exceptions added for monitoring of fire alarm systems)
- Chapter 10 - Means of Egress (Chapter 10 is totally reorganized. The new format subdivides the chapter into 25 sections versus the previous nine sections in order to make the provisions for a given topic easier to locate. The content is generally in the same order to provide a smooth transition.)
- 1007.8.2 - Exterior exit stairway (new section requires stairs leading from an exterior area of rescue to be a minimum of 48 inches in width)
- 1008.1.8.5 - Unlatching (new section provides details on hardware operation for exit doors and provides exceptions to the general rule of "one operation")
- 1009.3 - Stair treads and risers (Minimum winder stair depth of 10 inches is required - up from previous 6 inch requirement. Also, winders are prohibited from use in stairs that are part of the required means of egress)
- Table 1016.1 - Corridor fire resistance rating (change allows a reduction in the exit corridor fire rating from 1 hour to ½ hour in sprinklered residential uses)
- Chapter 11 - Accessibility (Chapter 11 was developed using the proposed rule for a new Americans with Disabilities Act Accessibility Guidelines (ADAAG) and Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines with the goal of having the requirements in the new ADAAG and the 2003 IBC as coordinated as possible. The 2003 IBC also contains changes recognized by the Department of Housing and Urban Development as providing a "safe harbor" for compliance with Federal Housing Accessibility requirements. The main areas addressed by these changes included defining the terms associated with accessible residences such as dwelling units and sleeping units. The scoping requirements also changed to include facilities in which people live where the accommodations are not necessarily "dwelling units" such as dorms, boarding houses, extended stay hotels, and shelters.)

1108.2 - Assembly area seating (Requirements for accessible seating in assembly uses were extensively revised. New requirements for box seating, companion seating, and designated aisle seats were added for better coordination with the new ADAAG. The “cluster” requirements for accessible seating were deleted in favor of dispersion seating that will be in ICC/ANSI A117.1.)

1405.15 – Fiber cement siding (new section added addressing the use and installation of fiber cement siding)

1806.1 - Retaining walls (new section addresses the design of retaining walls)

1903.8 - Glass fiber reinforced concrete (new section addresses quality assurance of glass fiber reinforced concrete)

2104.3 - Cold weather construction (section on masonry work during cold weather revised)

2111.11 - Fireplace clearance (new exceptions added for masonry fireplace clearance requirements)

2113.9.1 – Spark arrestors (new section addresses requirements for fireplace spark arrestors, when installed)

2304.3.3 - Shrinkage (new text requires consideration be given to the possible effects that shrinkage of wood-framing would have under certain circumstances)

2308.8.2.1- Engineered wood products (new section prohibits cutting, notching, and drilling of engineered wood products unless considered in the design)

Figure 2308.9.3 – Basic components of the lateral bracing system (new figure for conventional wood-framing lateral bracing system)

2406.3 - Hazardous locations (Item number 11 added that requires safety glazing when the surface of the glass is less than 60 inches “above the nose of the tread” on stairways. Also, new exception added for glazing at stairways, landings and ramps meeting certain requirements.)

3109.5 – Entrapment avoidance (New text added to protect against body or hair entrapment in suction inlets of swimming pools, spas or hot tubs - requires special inlet covers or dual drain separation and an atmospheric vacuum relief system.)