

# ICC Government Relations' Monthly Update



**June 2022** Follow @ICC\_GR on [Twitter](#) for breaking news & announcements throughout the month. Click [here](#) for ICC Government Relations Staff Regional Maps.

**Public comment submissions due June 20 for consideration at Public Comment Hearings in Louisville**  
Public Comments on the Group B code updates are due June 20 and will be heard at the Public Comment Hearings in Louisville, Kentucky. And while we're on the subject, it's not too soon to be thinking of arrangements to attend the [2022 Annual Conference, Expo and Group B Public Comment Hearings](#) at the **Kentucky International Convention Center** in Louisville. The annual conference will be September 11-14 and the Public Comment Hearings will be September 14-20. Also, you won't want to miss the [2022 Expo](#) September 11-12 also at Louisville. Participants can [take advantage of the early bird discounts](#) by registering for the event **before Monday, August 1**. Early bird registrants will also receive a free conference polo shirt. [Register now to get the early bird discount](#).

- This is the beginning of a new three-year code cycle, which means that all governmental member voting representatives need to be validated, even if you validated your voters during a previous cycle. View the [Voter Validation Process FAQs](#) page to get more information. Voting representatives will need to have their credentials validated no later than **Monday, August 15, 2022**. The [validation site](#) is open, so don't delay – validate today!
- The 2022 Group B current code development cycle [can be seen here](#) and videos of testimony at the Committee Action Hearings in Rochester, New York, last spring [are available here](#).
- More information about the Group B process, including the Cost Impact Guide for the 2022 Group B Code Changes [can be reviewed here](#).
- *Need to demonstrate why the Code Council's conference is a good investment? We've got you covered with our justification letter template. [Use this template to explain](#) what you'll get out of attending the event, and how much it will cost. Feel free to customize as needed.*

**Non-members registering delegates to get free one-year Building Safety Professional ICC Membership**  
Code Council non-members registering as a delegate will receive a **free one year "Building Safety Professional" ICC membership**. For details and a list of exclusive member benefits and services included in this offer, [click here](#). Membership begins December 1. Ask at the Registration Desk to sign you up.

**Live webinar series event slated for June 14 to train members about Digital Codes Premium Complete**  
The next in a series of live webinars is set for June 14 to help ICC members learn more about ICC Digital Codes Premium Complete and how to search codes faster, collaborate seamlessly, share access, organize notes and never miss a code update. Click this link to register and learn more:

- [Tuesday, June 14, at noon Central](#)

Since 2020, ICC has tripled the amount of content to over 700 titles and continually growing across codes, standards, supplementary materials and more. The Code Council will continue to enhance the features and functionality and add new content.

**White House announces National Initiative to Advance Building Codes based on International Codes**  
The U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Administrator Deanne Criswell announced a National Initiative to Advance Building Codes, a new government-wide effort to boost national resiliency and reduce energy costs. Under the initiative, federal departments and agencies will review funding and financing of building construction to ensure projects follow updated model codes and provide incentives and support for communities to adopt modern building codes. Members of the Mitigation Framework Leadership Group (MitFLG) will review their infrastructure grantmaking processes to ensure that they align with and support the adoption and use of current editions of the International Residential Code (IRC) and International Building Code (IBC). Here is the link to the final White House Fact Sheet: [FACT SHEET: Biden-Harris Administration Launches Initiative to Modernize Building Codes, Improve Climate Resilience, and Reduce Energy Costs | The White House](#). See the AP news coverage: [Here's how the government wants to disaster-proof your home | AP News](#). [Read more here](#).

### **New online Wildland-Urban Interface resource is now available on the Code Council website**

Today's wildland fires [are more frequent, larger and more intense than in the past](#). And while many people believe that wildfires are a western states issue, in truth, more than 46 million residences located in 70,000 communities throughout the United States are at risk from wildland fire – fires happening in what's known as the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). These areas pose tremendous challenges and put millions of people and their homes in danger. The Code Council website now includes this new, excellent online overview of the International Wildland-Urban Interface Code and strategies to protect lives, properties and communities. [Read more here](#).

### **International Code Council and Building Talent Foundation announce collaboration to shape careers**

The Code Council and the Building Talent Foundation (BTF) announced that they will be combining efforts to support and strengthen the residential construction and building safety workforce. The two organizations will promote careers in construction and better align education and training for emerging professionals with the changing needs of the industry. Under the new memorandum of understanding, both parties will collaborate to assist jobseekers in connecting to potential job opportunities in the building and construction field, support youth who are exploring careers in construction, provide access to pertinent resources, and promote building safety skills training programs. [Read more here](#).

### **Code of Honor Scholarship application deadline is June 30 to attend the Public Comment Hearings**

If you are an ICC Governmental Member Voting Representative, don't miss your chance to apply for a Code of Honor Scholarship to support your attendance at the Code Council's Public Comment Hearings Sept. 14-20, 2022, in Louisville, Kentucky. The scholarships help ensure that the International Codes reflect the consensus view of officials at all levels of government by providing funding to Governmental Member Voting Representatives seeking to attend and participate in the Public Comment Hearings. The application site is now open and will close on Thursday, June 30, 2022.

### **Free new courses on SolarAPP+ for solar and storage systems are available through SEAC website**

The National Renewable Energy Laboratory has built a free online permitting platform — Solar Automated Permit Processing Platform (SolarAPP+) — that instantly reviews rooftop solar and storage applications for code compliance, processes payments, and issues permits. New CEU-bearing SolarAPP+ energy storage courses such as "How to Use SolarAPP+ for Solar and Storage Projects" and "Inspecting a SolarAPP+ System: PV + Energy Storage" are now available on the Sustainable Energy Action Committee's Clean Energy Clearinghouse website. [Read more here](#).

### **'Reduce Flood Risk' website finds information, resources tailored to individual situations and needs**

A Reduce Flood Risk website by the Association of State Floodplain Managers provides information and resources tailored to specific situations and needs. Learn why flood risk is relevant, identify and explore flood risk reduction strategies, understand the benefits of flood insurance, and find and network with professionals who can help reduce flood risk. [Read more here](#).

### **ICC Code Connect API software integration enhances access to codes and standards through platforms**

As part of the Code Council's digital transformation strategy, a new software intermediary, **ICC Code Connect API**, was created to empower organizations with instant, digital access to the latest building code requirements within their existing workflow applications. This software establishes a direct connection to the Code Council's codes and standards from within the user organization's workflow tool via the application programming interface (API). ICC Code Connect API provides organizations seamless command over the Code Council's Code Content Integration in an efficient way. The software contains simplified search tools, the latest code content, confidence in accuracy and the ability to streamline common code references within existing workflow tools. [Read more here](#).

### **Code Council and Pool & Hot Tub Alliance publish standards improving energy efficiency and safety**

The International Code Council and Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) have collaborated to publish ANSI/PHTA/ICC-15 2021 *American National Standard for Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Energy Efficiency* which was approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This standard is a

revision and redesignation of ANSI/APSP/ICC-15 2011 *American National Standard for Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Energy Efficiency* and is intended to meet the new requirements of the [Department of Energy's \(DOE\) Dedicated Purpose Pool Pump \(DPPP\) Rule](#), which applies to all pumps, regardless of their use or purpose. [Read more here.](#)

### **Special fellowship fund provides up to \$20,000 for safety professional career development education**

For 40 years, Emory Rogers was devoted to the building safety profession and the creation and development of the International Codes. To honor him, the Code Council created the Emory R. Rodgers Leadership in Building Safety Fellowship. It opens phenomenal opportunities for an emerging building safety professional to develop leadership skills through an eligible executive development program. The Fellowship awards up to \$20,000 to cover the full cost of the educational program. Applications are being accepted for the 2022 Fellowship. The application deadline is December 21. [Read more here.](#)

### **ICC's Matthew Winn: Attracting new talent to building industry starts with education and awareness**

Society is currently experiencing "The Great Resignation" and it only continues to be exasperated by the pandemic. Yet, for many industries, building safety especially, this is not a new phenomenon. In an article for [Construction Executive](#), Matthew Winn, senior vice president of training and education at the International Code Council, discusses how for skilled trades like construction, the shortage of incoming talent has long been a challenge. [Read more here.](#)

### **IAEI and the Code Council collaborate to update 2023 edition of NEC Analysis of Changes publication**

The International Association of Electrical Inspectors (IAEI) and the International Code Council are collaborating on the upcoming industry-leading *Analysis of Changes – National Electrical Code (NEC) 2023* publication. This essential resource makes key changes to the 2023 version of [NFPA 70, National Electrical Code \(NEC\)](#),<sup>®</sup> easy to quickly identify, understand and apply effectively. [Read more here.](#)

### **Florida Legislature passes bill requiring stricter and more frequent inspections for condominiums**

The Florida Legislature passed and the Governor signed into law SB 4-D which will require milestone inspections of condominiums three stories in height and within three miles of the coast when the buildings reach 25 years of age and of buildings more than three miles inland when they reach 30 years of age. Buildings will then be required to have an inspection every 10 years thereafter with inspection records made available to buyers, renters and unit owners. The bill comes nearly one year after the Champlain Towers South condominium collapse in Surfside, Florida, that killed 98 people and sparked the demand for stricter requirements for the inspection and maintenance of condominiums and other high-rise buildings throughout the state legislation. [Read more here.](#)

### **International Door Association official shares insights on improvements in garage door performance**

Garage doors are generally the largest product in a single-family home — and with automatic openers — are very complicated assemblies. With safety of the installed assembly first and foremost, Michael Fischer, executive director at the International Door Association, describes how the industry has seen numerous innovations that improve the performance of these access systems while reducing the potential for injury to building occupants. [Read more here.](#)

### **GOT PULSE? Update to the 2021 International Residential Code on under-slab vapor barriers**

[Episode 46: Steve Jones](#), Code Council Lead Senior Government Relations Regional Manager, talks with [Dario Lamberti](#), General Manager of the Engineered Films Division at ISI Building Products on a recent update to the 2021 International Residential Code on under-slab vapor retarders. They go in-depth on the significance of this code update; the manufacturing, installation and selection of high-performance vapor barriers; and the overall importance of engaging in the code development process. This episode is sponsored by ISI Building Products.



## **ICC Plumbing, Mechanical and Fuel Gas updates**

**New website launched to provide code officials, businesses and stake holders on ICC's PMG Codes**

The Code Council's PMG Team has a new website that provides information needed on services, extensive information on ICC's PMG Codes, team bios, and digital resources for our members and website visitors. The PMG codes are a vital part of a complete building safety system. When adopted as a family of codes, alongside the other I-Codes, they provide a consistent system of regulations that designers, builders, and regulators can rely upon around the world. [Read more about it here.](#)

### **2021 energy efficiency standard for swimming pools and spas meets new DOE requirements**

The International Code Council and the Pool & Hot Tub Alliance (PHTA) have collaborated to publish ANSI/PHTA/ICC-15 2021 American National Standard for Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Energy Efficiency which was approved by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This standard is a revision and re-designation of ANSI/APSP/ICC-15 2011 American National Standard for Residential Swimming Pool and Spa Energy Efficiency and is intended to meet the new requirements of the Department of Energy's Dedicated Purpose Pool Pump Rule, which applies to all pumps, regardless of their use or purpose. [Read more here.](#)

### **Accredited test labs ensure plumbing fixtures will perform as intended with durability and suitability**

Did you know that the manufacturer's labeling on plumbing fixtures such as toilets and sinks is required as part of the certification? Fixtures must also undergo a rigorous testing regime to prove durability, performance and suitability. Accredited test labs ensure that products will perform as intended. Justin Mann, lab operations manager for ICC NTA, goes over specified requirements, certification, testing and accreditation — and what it all means — in an article for PHCP Pros Magazine. [Read more here.](#)

### **ICC PMG Executive Director provides insights on the plumbing industry's battle with Legionella**

There's no doubt the plumbing industry has had a hyper-focus on Legionella and prevention over the past few years. Yet recent outbreaks have occurred in Illinois, Hawaii and California within the past two months and underlay the need for better plumbing design and mitigation efforts. "As bacteria is formed and spread through water, the older America's water infrastructure becomes, the chances for Legionella outbreaks increases, especially in states that have warmer climates," explains Matt Sigler, PMG executive director for the International Code Council in an article for Plumbing & Mechanical Engineer. [Read more here.](#)

### **International Plumbing Code: Providing personal privacy options for modern public restroom designs**

From its inception, the International Plumbing Code (IPC) has prioritized privacy for occupants of public restrooms. In fact, the original 2000 edition of the IPC included a section requiring a separate compartment with walls or partitions and a door for each water closet in a public restroom. Subsequent editions of the codes, up to and including the 2021 IPC and International Building Code, continued to offer a toolbox of practical and safe solutions for the design community. [Read more here.](#)

### **Significant changes article focuses on drain, waste and vent systems testing in the 2021 IRC**

A modification to Section P2503.5.1 (Drain, Waste and Vent Systems Testing) of the 2021 International Residential Code states that the head pressure for a water test of drain, waste and vent (DWV) systems has increased from 5 feet to 10 feet. Air vacuum testing is now permitted for plastic piping DWV systems. For more from "Significant changes to drain, waste and vent systems testing in the 2021 International Residential Code," [read here.](#)



## **ICC Evaluation Services updates**

### **Product meets one-hour fire-resistance-rated full scale test for horizontal fire endurance conditions**

[Firefree Coatings](#) has published another listing with ICC-ES based on the most recent successful full scale test on wood assembly with its premier intumescent coating [Firefree 88®](#). The Firefree 88® intumescent coating is a water-based latex non-toxic coating that is applied by either brush, roller or airless spray gun. The coating was evaluated and tested in accordance with ASTM E119 (IBC 703.2) and meets the one-hour fire-resistance-rated full scale test under horizontal fire resistance endurance conditions. ESL-1411 complements the Firefree 88® listing ([ESL-1371](#)) in accordance with ASTM E3408. [Read more here.](#)



## Upcoming from the Learning Center: Institutes, training, webinars, etc.

Online learning is available from the [ICC Learning Center](#). Find course [listings you'd like to attend](#) in the ICC Learning Center using the Search function. Some seminars offering a Virtual Classroom option so you can participate in the event from any location with an internet connection:

- **June 2 - [Basic Code Enforcement](#).**
- **June 3 - [Officer Safety Procedures: Hazmat, Hoarding & Joint Enforcement Safety](#).**
- **June 6 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Building Planning](#).**
- **June 7 - [2018 Property Maintenance and Housing Inspector Certification Test Academy](#).**
- **June 13 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Footings and Foundations](#)**
- **June 14-16 - [2018 Fire Inspector I Certification Test Academy](#).**
- **June 20 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Wall Construction](#).**
- **June 27 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Public Safety and Special Construction Part I](#).**
- **July 6 - 2021 Commercial Building Inspector Webinar Series: [Public Safety and Special Construction Part II](#).**

### **END NOTE: Two code officials team up to explain how code officials play a critical role everywhere**

With the 2022 Building Safety Month now in the rearview mirror, we are left with many excellent videos, documentaries, photos and testimonials on how building code officials serve a critically important need in every American jurisdiction. Jeff Stehman and Kathryn Gruber, Illinois Council of Code Administrators, managed to hit the nail on the head with their editorial, “**The Code Official: The Role and Its Positive Effect on Your Municipality.**” [Read more here.](#)