



# The Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council

May 1, 2018

**The Honorable W. Gerard Oleksiak, Secretary  
Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry  
1700 Labor & Industry Building  
651 Boas Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17121**

## **Re: Re-review of the 2015 I-codes for adoption as the Uniform Construction Code**

Mr. Secretary;

As Chair of the Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council, I am pleased to submit the Council's report on our review of the 2015 codes, as required by Act 45 of 1999.

On December 13, 2017 by a unanimous vote, the UCC RAC determined that the changes to the 2012 codes would be reviewed as "additional sections" as defined by Act 36 of 2017. The RAC then voted unanimously to commence the re-review of the 2015 codes, including the "additional sections". A thirty-day public comment period was offered, and a single public hearing was held in Harrisburg, PA on February 13, 2018.

The RAC Subcommittees reviewed all the updated and additional sections, as well as over 300 public comments that included support for adoption of the codes, proposals for amendments to specific provisions, and recommendations for deletion of specific sections. Over the course of four RAC meetings in Harrisburg (March 6, March 20, April 3 and April 17), the RAC voted by the required 2/3 margin to adopt two of the 2015 codes without amendment (the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code* and the *International Fire Code*), and to adopt seven of the 2015 codes with modest amendments (see attached). By an oversight, the RAC neglected to review and update the *International Performance Code*, which indicates that the 2009 version would remain in place.

As required under Act 36 of 2017, these new and amended codes shall take effect on October 1 of this year.

Submitted on behalf of the UCC Review and Advisory Council,

**Maureen Guttman, AIA  
Chairman**

**UCC Review and Advisory Council  
OFFICIAL Record of 2015 I-Code Review**

May 1, 2018

| <b>CODE</b>   | <b>ACTION</b> | <b>AMENDMENTS</b>  |
|---------------|---------------|--|
| 2015 ADMIN    | ADOPT         | None   |
| 2015 IWUIC    | ADOPT         | None   |
| 2015 IFC      | ADOPT         | None   |
| 2015 IBC      | ADOPT         | Delete Section 913.2.2 Circuits supplying fire pumps.<br><i>(This does not exist in 2009 and is simply a deletion)</i>   |
|               |               | Modify Section 2609.4, Exception 3:<br>“...occupied for growing <u>or maintaining</u> plants...”<br><i>(This is 2018 language)</i>   |
| 2015 IECC – C | ADOPT         | Delete Section C104.2.6<br><i>(Reverts to 2009 Section 104.3)</i>  |
|               |               | Delete Section C408.2.4<br><i>(This does not exist in 2009 and is simply a deletion)</i>   |
| 2015 IEBC     | ADOPT         | Add exception to Section 101.2 Scope:<br>“ <b>Exception:</b> <u>Detached one- and two-family dwellings and multiple single-family dwellings (townhouses) not more than three stories above grade plane in height with a separate means of egress and their accessory structures shall comply with this code or the <i>International Residential Code.</i>”<br/><i>(This is a slightly modified version of the 2018 language.)</i></u>  |
| 2015 IFGC     | ADOPT         | Add new:<br>“ <b>Section 310.1.2 Arc-resistant CSST.</b> <u>This section applies to corrugated stainless steel tubing (CSST) that is listed with an arc-resistant jacket or coating system in accordance with ANSI LC 1/CSA 6.26. The CSST shall be electrically continuous and bonded to an effective ground fault current path. Where any CSST component of a piping system does not have an arc-resistant jacket or coating system, the bonding requirements of Section 310.1.1 shall apply. Arc-resistant-jacketed CSST shall be</u> |

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|              |       | <p>considered to be bonded where it is connected to an appliance that is connected to the appliance grounding conductor of the circuit that supplies that appliance.”</p> <p><b>(This is 2018 language, renumbered)</b></p>  |
| 2015 IPC – C | ADOPT | None   |
| 2015 IMC – C | ADOPT | None   |
| 2015 IRC     | ADOPT | <p>Amend Section R302.5.1:</p> <p>“<b>R302.5.1 Opening protection.</b> Openings from a private garage directly into a room used for sleeping purposes shall not be permitted. Other openings between the garage and residence shall be equipped with solid wood doors not less than 1-3/8 inches (35 mm) in thickness, solid or honeycomb-core steel doors not less than 1-3/8 inches (35 mm) thick, or 20-minute fire-rated doors, <del>equipped with a self-closing device.</del>”</p> <p><b>(This mirrors 2009 language.)</b></p>   |
|              |       | <p>Delete Section R322.2.1</p> <p><b>(Reverts to 2009 R322.2.1)</b></p>  |
|              |       | <p>Delete Section R322.3.2</p> <p><b>(Reverts to 2009 R322.3.2)</b></p>  |
|              |       | <p>Amend Section R325.5:</p> <p>“<b>R325.5 Openness.</b> Mezzanines shall be open and unobstructed to the room in which they are located except for walls not more than <del>42 inches (1067 mm)</del> <u>36 inches (914mm)</u> in height, columns and posts.</p> <p><b>Exceptions:</b></p> <p>1. Mezzanines or portions thereof are not required to be open to the room in which they are located, provided that the aggregate floor area of the enclosed space is not greater than 10 percent of the mezzanine area.</p> <p>2. <del>In buildings that are not more than two stories above grade plane and equipped throughout with an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13R or NFPA 13D, a mezzanine having two or more means of egress shall not be required to be open to the room in which the mezzanine is located.</del>”</p> <p><b>(This is 2018 language.)</b></p> |
|              |       | <p>Delete Table R507.6 and replace with Table R507.5 from 2018 IRC.</p>  |
|              |       | <p>Amend Section R602.3.1 by adding Exception 3:</p> <p>“3. <u>Exterior load-bearing studs not exceeding 12 feet (3658 mm) in height provided in accordance with Table R602.3(6). The minimum number of full height studs adjacent to openings shall be in accordance with Section R602.7.5. The building shall be located in</u></p>  |

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|   |  | <p><u>Exposure B, the roof live load shall not exceed 20 psf (0.96 kPa), and the ground snow load shall not exceed 30 psf (1.4 kPa). Studs and plates shall be No. 2 grade lumber or better.</u></p> <p>and by adding new Table R602.3(6).<br/> <b>(This is 2018 language and table)</b></p>   |
|   |  | <p>Amend Section R602.7.5:<br/> <b>“R602.7.5 Supports for headers.</b> Headers shall be supported on each end with one or more jack studs or with approved framing anchors in accordance with Table R602.7(1) or R602.7(2). The full-height stud adjacent to each end of the header shall be end nailed to each end of the header with four-16d nails (3.5 inches × 0.135 inches). <del>The minimum number of full height studs at each end of a header shall be in accordance with Table R602.7.5.”</del><br/> and delete Table R602.7.5.</p> |
|   |  | <p>Delete Section E3901.7<br/> <b>(Reverts to 2009 E3901.7)</b></p>  |
|   |  | <p>Amend Section E3901.11:<br/> <b>“E3901.11 Foyers.</b> Foyers that are not part of a hallway in accordance with Section E3901.10 and that have an area that is greater than 60 square feet (5.57 m2) shall have a receptacle(s) located in each wall space that is <del>3 feet (914 mm)</del> <u>6 feet (1829 mm)</u> or more in width, <u>but a minimum of one receptacle.</u> Doorways, door-side windows that extend to the floor, and similar openings shall not be considered as wall space.”</p>                                       |
| <p>2015 IRC-P<br/> [NOTE: In accordance with the intent to have the language in the IRC Chapter 11 mirror the language in the IECC Residential Code, the changes identified here shall also apply to the corresponding sections of the IRC Chapter 11.]</p> |  | <p>Delete Section P2503.5.1<br/> <b>(Reverts to 2009 language allowing air testing)</b></p>  |
| <p>2015 IRC-M<br/> [NOTE: In accordance with the intent to have the language in the IRC Chapter 11 mirror the language in the IECC Residential Code, the</p>  |  | <p>Amend Section M1601.4.1, Exception 3:<br/> “3. For ducts having a static pressure classification of less than 2 inches of water column (500 Pa), additional closure systems shall not be required for continuously welded joints and seams and locking-type joints and seams. <u>This exception shall not apply to snap-lock and button-lock type joints and seams that are located outside of conditioned spaces.</u>”</p>   |

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| changes identified here shall also apply to the corresponding sections of the IRC Chapter 11.]  |       |  |
|   |       | Amend Section M1602, item 2:<br>“2. The amount of return air taken from any <u>perimeter</u> room or space shall be not greater than the flow rate of supply air delivered to such room or space.”   |
| 2015 IECC-R<br>[NOTE: In accordance with the intent to have the language in the IRC Chapter 11 mirror the language in the IECC Residential Code, the changes identified here shall also apply to the corresponding sections of the IRC Chapter 11.] | ADOPT | Delete Section R102.1.1<br><b>(Reverts to 2009 language, which is exactly the same as the 2015 language)</b>   |
|   |       | Chapter RE 2 Add definition:<br>“Framing Factor. The fraction of the total building component area that is structural framing.”  |
|   |       | Amend Table R402.1.2, Climate Zone 6 Wood Frame Wall R-value to add:<br>“or 18 + 6.5 <sup>h</sup> ”  |
|   |       | Amend Table R402.1.2 by adding footnote:<br>“j. R-18 insulation shall be permitted in place of R-20 requirement provided the wall framing factor is 20% or less or exterior walls with 24” o.c. nominal vertical stud spacing.”  |
|   |       | Add new Sections R403.3.6 and R403.3.7<br><b>(This is 2018 language.)</b>  |
|   |       | Amend Section R402.4.1.2:<br>“ <b>R402.4.1.2 Testing.</b> The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate not exceeding five air changes per hour <del>in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and three air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8.</del> ” |
|   |       | Delete Section R403.3.5<br><b>(Reverts to 2009 language Section R403.2.3)</b>  |
|   |       | Delete Section R403.5.2 Demand recirculation systems.  |

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|  |  | <p>(This does not exist in 2009 and is simply a deletion)</p> <p>[NOTE: While the record of voting refers to a Public Comment identifying Section R403.5.1, the text of the Public Comment and substance of the intent was to delete Section R403.5.2.]</p> |
|  |  | <p>Amend Section R405.2 to add:</p> <p>“.....shall be insulated to a minimum of R-6. <u>Compliance with this section requires that the mandatory provisions identified in Section R402.4.1.2 be met.</u>”</p>   |

|              |                                  | <p>Amend Table R406.4 and add footnote “a”:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">TABLE R406.4<br/>MAXIMUM ENERGY RATING INDEX</p> <table border="1" style="margin-left: auto; margin-right: auto;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: center;">CLIMATE ZONE</th> <th style="text-align: center;">ENERGY RATING INDEX<sup>1</sup></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">1</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><del>52</del> <u>57</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">2</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><del>52</del> <u>57</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">3</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><del>51</del> <u>57</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">4</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><del>54</del> <u>62</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">5</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><del>55</del> <u>61</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">6</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><del>54</del> <u>61</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">7</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><del>53</del> <u>58</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">8</td> <td style="text-align: center;"><del>53</del> <u>58</u></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>a. Where on-site renewable energy is included for compliance using the ERI analysis of Section R406.4, the building shall meet the mandatory requirements of R406.2 and the building thermal envelope shall be greater than or equal to the levels of efficiency and SHGC in Table R402.1.2 or Table R402.1.4.</p> <p>(This is 2018 language)</p> | CLIMATE ZONE | ENERGY RATING INDEX <sup>1</sup> | 1 | <del>52</del> <u>57</u> | 2 | <del>52</del> <u>57</u> | 3 | <del>51</del> <u>57</u> | 4 | <del>54</del> <u>62</u> | 5 | <del>55</del> <u>61</u> | 6 | <del>54</del> <u>61</u> | 7 | <del>53</del> <u>58</u> | 8 | <del>53</del> <u>58</u> |
|--------------|----------------------------------|---|--------------|----------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|---|-------------------------|
| CLIMATE ZONE | ENERGY RATING INDEX <sup>1</sup> |   |              |                                  |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |
| 1            | <del>52</del> <u>57</u>          |   |              |                                  |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |
| 2            | <del>52</del> <u>57</u>          |   |              |                                  |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |
| 3            | <del>51</del> <u>57</u>          |   |              |                                  |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |
| 4            | <del>54</del> <u>62</u>          |   |              |                                  |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |
| 5            | <del>55</del> <u>61</u>          |   |              |                                  |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |
| 6            | <del>54</del> <u>61</u>          |   |              |                                  |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |
| 7            | <del>53</del> <u>58</u>          |   |              |                                  |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |
| 8            | <del>53</del> <u>58</u>          |   |              |                                  |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |   |                         |