SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE

FLORIDA BUILDING CODE: BUILDING AND RESIDENTIAL

5TH EDITION (2014)

Significant Changes to the 5th Edition (2014) Florida Building Code: Building and Residential International Code Council

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Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the 5th Edition (2014) Florida Building Code: Building and Residential* is to familiarize building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the construction industry with many of the important changes in the 5th Edition (2014) *Florida Building Code, Building* (FBCB) and the 5th Edition (2014) *Florida Building Code, Residential* (FBCR). This publication is designed to assist those code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, understanding the reason behind the change. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions in their code adoption process.

Only a portion of the total number of code changes to the FBCB and FBCR are discussed in this book. The changes selected were identified for a number of reasons, including their frequency of application, special significance, or change in application. However, the importance of those changes not included is not to be diminished. Further information on code changes can be found in the *Code Changes Resource Collection,* available from the International Code Council® (ICC®) and www.floridabuilding.org. The resource collection provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the base code (2012 *International Building Code*®) since the 2009 Edition. All Florida-specific amendments to base code can be found under the "Proposed Code Modifications" section at www.floridabuilding.org.

This book is organized into seven general categories, each representing a distinct grouping of code topics. It is arranged to follow the general layout of the FBCB and FBCR, including code sections and section number format. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those significant code changes that occur in the 5th Edition (2014) FBCB and FBCR.

Throughout the book, each change is accompanied by a photograph, an application example, or an illustration to assist and enhance the reader's understanding of the specific change. A summary and a discussion of the significance of the changes are also provided. Each code change is identified by type, be it an addition, modification, clarification, or deletion.

The code change itself is presented in a format similar to the style utilized for code-change proposals. Deleted code language is shown with

a strike-through, whereas new code text is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual 5th Edition (2014) code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2010 language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the 5th Edition (2014) Florida Building Code: Building and Residential* is best used as a study companion to the 5th Edition (2014) FBCB and FBCR. Because only a limited discussion of each change is provided, the code itself should always be referenced in order to gain a more comprehensive understanding of the code change and its application.

The commentary and opinions set forth in this text are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position of the ICC, the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation, or the Florida Building Commission. In addition, they may not represent the views of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render interpretations of the FBCB and FBCR. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by the code-change proponent.

Comments concerning this publication are encouraged and may be directed to the ICC at *significantchanges@iccsafe.org.*

About the Florida Building Code

The *Florida Building Code* is based on national model building code and national consensus standards, which are amended where necessary for Florida's specific needs. However, code requirements that address snow loads and earthquake protection are pervasive; they are left in place but should not be utilized or enforced because Florida has no snow load or earthquake threat. The code incorporates all building construction-related regulations for public and private buildings in the State of Florida other than those specifically exempted by Section 553.73, Florida Statues. It has been harmonized with the *Florida Fire Prevention Code*, which is developed and maintained by the Department of Financial Services, Office of the State Fire Marshal, to establish unified and consistent standards.

The base codes for the 5th Edition (2014) of the *Florida Building Code* include: the *International Building Code*®, 2012 Edition; the *International Plumbing Code*®, 2012 Edition; the *International Mechanical Code*®, 2012 Edition; the *International Fuel Gas Code*®, 2012 Edition; the *International Residential Code*®, 2012 Edition; the *International Existing Building Code*®, 2012 Edition; the *International Energy Conservation Code*®, 2012 Edition; the National Electrical Code, 2011 Edition; and, substantial criteria from the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating and Air-conditioning Engineers' (ASRAE) Standard 90.1-2010. State and local codes adopted and incorporated into the code include the *Florida Building Code, Accessibility*, and special hurricane protection standards for the High-Velocity Hurricane Zone.

The code is composed of nine main volumes: the *Florida Building Code, Building*, which also includes state regulations for licensed facilities; the *Florida Building Code, Plumbing*; the *Florida Building Code, Mechanical*; the *Florida Building Code, Fuel Gas*; the *Florida Building Code, Existing Building*; the *Florida Building Code, Residential*; the

Florida Building Code, Energy Conservation; the *Florida Building Code, Accessibility*; and, the *Florida Building Code, Test Protocols for High-Velocity Hurricane Zones*. Chapter 27 of the *Florida Building Code, Building* adopts the National Electrical Code's NFPA 70 by reference.

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Douglas W. Thornburg is the Technical Director of Product Development for the International Code Council (ICC), where he provides leadership in technical development and positioning of support products for the council. In addition, Doug develops and reviews technical products, reference books, and resource materials relating to construction codes and their supporting documents. Prior to employment with the ICC in 2004, he spent nine years as a code consultant and educator on building codes. Formerly Vice-President/Education for the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO), Doug continues to present building code seminars nationally and has developed numerous educational texts and resource materials, including *the IBC Handbook—Fire- and Life-Safety Provisions*. He was presented with ICC's inaugural Educator of the Year Award in 2008, in recognition of his outstanding contributions to education and professional development. A graduate of Kansas State University and a registered architect, Doug has more than 30 years of experience in building code training and administration, including 10 years with the ICBO and 5 years with the City of Wichita, Kansas. He is certified as a building official, building inspector, and plans examiner, as well as in seven other code enforcement categories.

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John R. Henry is a Principal Staff Engineer with the International Code Council (ICC) Business and Product Development Department, where he is responsible for the research and development of technical resources pertaining to the structural engineering provisions of the *International*

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Jay is a senior staff architect with the ICC's Business and Product Development Department and works out of the Lenexa, Kansas, Distribution Center. His current responsibilities include serving as the Secretariat for the ICC A117.1 standard committee and assisting in the development of new ICC publications.

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A graduate of the University of Kansas and a registered architect, Jay has also worked as an architect for the Leo A. Daly Company in Omaha, Nebraska; as a building Plans Examiner for the City of Wichita, Kansas; and as a Senior Staff Architect for the International Conference of Building Officials (ICBO) prior to working for the ICC. He is also author of *Significant Changes to the A117.1 Accessibility Standard 2009 Edition.*

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T. Eric Stafford is a registered professional engineer specializing in wind hazard mitigation and code development activities. He is currently President of T. Eric Stafford & Associates and serves as a building code consultant for various groups including the Institute for Business and Home Safety. Stafford recently partnered with ASCE Press to publish the *Significant Changes to the Wind Load Provisions of ASCE 7-10* and *Significant Changes to the Seismic Load Provisions of ASCE 7-10*. Stafford has also partnered with International Code Council, Building Officials Association of Florida and AIA Florida to publish Commentaries on the Florida Building Codes and Commentaries on the North Carolina

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About the ICC

The International Code Council is a member-focused association. It is dedicated to developing model codes and standards used in the design, build and compliance process to construct safe, sustainable, affordable and resilient structures. Most U.S. communities and many global markets choose the International Codes. ICC Evaluation Service (ICC-ES) is the industry leader in performing technical evaluations for code compliance fostering safe and sustainable design and construction.

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