



2015 CHANGES TO THE

**PENNSYLVANIA
UNIFORM
CONSTRUCTION
CODE[®]**

**2015 Changes to the Pennsylvania
Uniform Construction Code®**

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International Code Council

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Preface

The purpose of *2015 Changes to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code*[®] is to familiarize builders, building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors and others in the construction industry with the changes in the 2015 *Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code* (UCC). This publication is designed to assist those code users in identifying the specific code changes that have been adopted and, more important, understanding the reasons behind the changes.

This book is organized into six general categories, each representing a distinct grouping of code topics. The table of contents, in addition to providing guidance in use of this publication, allows for quick identification of those code changes that occur in the 2015 UCC.

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 2015 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the previous language (based on 2009 I-Codes), so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, 2015 Changes to the UCC is best used as a companion to the UCC. 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. In addition, they may not represent the views of any enforcing agency, as such agencies have the sole authority to render interpretations of the UCC. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by the code-change proponent.

The Review and Advisory Council (RAC) did not approve any code change that would have updated the Referenced Standards chapters of the 2009 adopted codes (i.e., IBC Chapter 35, IRC Chapter 44). Therefore they remain at the year referenced in the various 2009 ICC codes. One of the more notable referenced standards that was not changed is NFPA 70[®], the National Electric Code, which remains on the 2008 edition.

Based on the Review and Advisory Council adopted code changes and the promulgation of the regulations by the Department of Labor and Industry, the resulting UCC has some duplication of code section numbers, some references to sections that must be adjusted to the 2009 codes, and other interpretations that have been incorporated into this publication based on the best available information and knowledge of the authors.

About the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC)

The Pennsylvania General Assembly established the Uniform Construction Code process by enacting the PA Construction Code Act (PCCA, Act 45 of 1999). The Uniform Construction Code Review and Advisory Council (RAC) was established by Act 106 of 2008 and its procedures were amended by Act 1 of 2011. Appointed by the governor, the Council is charged with reviewing the latest triennial code revisions issued by the International Code Council contained in the International Codes enforceable under the Uniform Construction Code. The Council is required to submit a report to the secretary of L&I within 12 months following publication of the latest triennial codes specifying each code revision that is to be adopted as part of the Uniform Construction Code. L&I promulgated regulations per PCCA mandate and PA began using 2003 International Codes (I-Codes) in 2004.

In 2009, L&I promulgated the necessary regulations, as required under the Act, and the following 2009 edition of the ICC codes (I-Codes) were adopted by reference: *International Building Code*[®] (IBC[®]), the *International Mechanical Code*[®] (IMC[®]), the *International Fire Code*[®] (IFC[®]), the *International Fuel Gas Code*[®], the *International Residential Code*[®] (IRC[®]), the *International Plumbing Code*[®] (IPC[®]), the *International Existing Building Code*[®] (IEBC[®]), the *International Energy Conservation Code*[®] (IECC[®]) and the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*[®] (IWUIC[®]). The ICC publishes updated new editions of these codes on a 3-year cycle.

In Spring 2015, the RAC adopted 16 updates/revisions of the 2015 I-Codes. On November 28, 2015, the L&I released a proposed rule in the Pennsylvania Bulletin VOL. 45, NO. 48. On December 31, 2015, the 16 amendments were deemed effective.

About Pennsylvania Accessibility Provisions

The PA Construction Code Act, as amended by Act 1 of 2011, mandated that the PA Department of Labor and Industry (L&I) adopt accessibility provisions, Chapter 11 and Appendix E from the *International Building Code*[®] (IBC[®]). The process of adoption of the accessibility provisions is currently under way as this publication is being released and accordingly, PA designers, builders and construction code officials should continue using the 2012 IBC Chapter 11 and Appendix E, and ICC A117.1-2009 as the appropriately referenced standard, until further notice.

About Revised Uniform Construction Code Sections

Within the body of this publication, the 2015 Changes to the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code, in cases where the 2015 ICC Code Section and the 2009 ICC Code Section are different, the 2009 code sections have been shown in parentheses, otherwise the code section in 2009 and 2015 are the same. The title “2015 Code” shown in each change is intended to show the Pennsylvania 2015 Code language as revised from the 2009 adopted edition of the Pennsylvania code. In certain cases a new section has been added to code with a new topic, where the same section number in the 2009 code addresses a different topic. In such cases it was not intended that the 2009 section and topic be eliminated, it was intended that a renumbering take place and both the original 2009 topic and the newly added and the RAC adopted sections remain.

The RAC adopted and L&I promulgated regulations making effective 16 of the ICC code change proposals that were approved in the 2012-2015 ICC Code Development Process. The table below summarizes the adopted code change numbers and code section numbers both for the 2015 and 2009 ICC Codes in the same sequence as listed in the RAC adoption.

2015 RAC-Approved Revisions				
	ICC Code Change Number	Subject	2015 ICC Code Section Number	2009 ICC Code Section Number
1	IBC G28-12	Food processing facilities, commercial kitchens, public toilet facilities	304.1, 306.2, 2902.3 of the 2015 IBC and Section 202 of the 2015 IFC	Same as 2015
2	IBC G30-12	Training and skill-development facilities	304.1 of the 2015 IBC and the definition of “Business Group B” in Section 202 of the 2015 IFC.	Same as 2015
3	IBC G227-12	Replacement windows	406.3 of the 2015 IEBC	IBC 3407.1; IEBC 306
4	IECC RE6-	Insulated siding	Revising the definition of “Insulated Siding” in Section R202 of the 2015 IECC and Section N1101.6 of the 2015 IRC	IECC 202; IRC R202
5	IECC RE58-13	Access hatches and doors	Revising Section R402.2.4 of the 2015 IECC and Section N1102.2.4 of the 2015 IRC.	IECC 402.2.3; IRC N1102.2.3
6	IECC RE60-13	Floor framing cavity insulation and insulation inspection	R402.2.8 of the 2015 IECC and Section N1102.2.8 of the 2015 IRC. This revision also amended the criteria for air barriers and insulation installation for “floors” in Table R402.4.1.1 of the 2015 IECC and Table N1102.4.1.1 of the 2015 IRC.	IECC 402.2.6; IRC N1102.2.6; IECC Table 402.4.2; IRC Table N1102.4.2
7	IECC RE195-13 Part 1	R-value computation	R402.1.3 of the 2015 IECC and Section N1102.1.3 of the 2015 IRC	IECC 402.1.2; IRC N1102.1.1
8	IFC F144-13	Alternative fire extinguishing systems, automatic water mist system	904.2, 904.2.1, 904.11, 904.11.1, 904.11.1.1, 904.11.1.2, 904.11.1.3, 904.11.1.4, 904.11.2, 904.11.2.1, 904.11.2.2, 904.11.2.3 and 904.11.3 of the 2015 IBC and Sections 904.2, 904.2.1, 904.11, 904.11.1, 904.11.1.1, 904.11.1.2, 904.11.1.3, 904.11.1.4, 904.11.2, 904.11.2.1, 904.11.2.2, 904.11.2.3 and 904.11.3 of the 2015 IFC. This revision also added “Automatic Water Mist System” to the definitions in Section 902.1 of the 2015 IBC and Sections 202 and 902.1 of the 2015 IFC	904.2 is the same in both 2009 and 2015 IFC and IBC, all other sections are new to the 2015 IFC and IBC and did not exist in 2009 IFC and IBC

2015 RAC-Approved Revisions				
	ICC Code Change Number	Subject	2015 ICC Code Section Number	2009 ICC Code Section Number
9	IFC F359-13	Smoke alarms near cooking appliances and bathrooms	907.2.11.3 and 907.2.11.4 of the 2015 IFC and Sections 907.2.11.3 and 907.2.11.4 of the 2015 IBC.	Did not exist in 2009 IFC and IBC (New to 2015 IFC and IBC)
10	IMC M106-12	Type I hoods	507.2 of the 2015 IMC	507.2.1
11	IRC RB68-13	Exterior walls	Table R302.1(1) of the 2015 IRC	Table R302.1
12	IRC RB172-13	Sill plates and headers	R316.5.11 of the 2015 IRC.	Same as 2015
13	IRC RB262-13.	Deck lateral load connection	R507.2.4 and Figure R507.2.3 (2) of the 2015 IRC.	R502.2.2.3
14	IRC RB264-13	Wood Columns (Protection when subject to decay), decking, deck joists and beams, deck posts	R317.1.4, R507.1, R507.4, R507.5, R507.5.1, R507.6, R507.7, R507.7.1, R507.8 and R507.8.1; Tables R507.4, R507.5 and R507.8; and Figures R507.5, R507.6, R507.7.1 and R507.8.1 of the 2015 IRC	R317.1.4 is the same in 2009 and 2015; R507.1 is R502.2.2; remainder of sections did not exist in 2009 and are new to 2015 IRC.
15	IRC RM34-13	Makeup air for range hoods	M1503.4 of the 2015 IRC.	Same
16	IRC RM53-13	Duct joints and seams	M1601.4.1, Exception 3 of the 2015 IRC.	Same

Additional information related to the Department of Labor and Industry and the UCC can be found on the L&I website at: <http://www.dli.pa.gov/ucc/>

About ICC International Codes (I-Codes)

Building officials, design professionals, builders, contractors and others involved in the building construction industry recognize the need for modern, up-to-date building construction codes addressing the design and installation of building systems through requirements emphasizing performance. 2015 codes published by the International Code Council (2015 I-Codes) are intended to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard the public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The I-Codes are kept up to date through the open code-development process of the International Code Council (ICC).

ICC Codes establish minimum regulations for buildings systems by means of prescriptive and performance-related provisions founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new building designs as well as maintenance, alteration, addition and change of occupancy in existing buildings.

About Pennsylvania Builders Association

Pennsylvania Builders Association (PBA) is a non-profit statewide trade association chartered in 1952. Affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders and a network of local associations throughout the State of Pennsylvania, PBA is governed by a Board of Directors consisting of representatives from its local affiliates. PBA is the unified voice for the home building industry and the housing consumer. PBA serves its members by providing proactive leadership on state regulatory and legislative issues and by offering services to its 37 local associations that enhance the professionalism of its members. PBA serves Pennsylvania communities and consumers through its efforts to protect homeownership rights and advocate for affordable housing options.

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About the Pennsylvania Department of Labor & Industry

The Department of Labor & Industry (L&I) employs more than 5,000 workers in 200 offices statewide. Established in 1913, the department originally inspected the working conditions in factories around the state. Over time, the department's responsibilities expanded.

L&I administers benefits to unemployed individuals, oversees the administration of workers' compensation benefits to individuals with job related injuries, and provides vocational rehabilitation to individuals with disabilities. The department prepares job seekers for the global workforce through employment and job training services for adults, youths, older workers, and dislocated workers. In addition, L&I enforces various laws and safety standards in the workplace and administers the commonwealth's programs for community service by young Pennsylvanians.

L&I enforces the Pennsylvania Construction Code Act (PCCA) and the Pennsylvania Uniform Construction Code (UCC). The department also promotes economic development and an improved business climate through a variety of initiatives and programs to help Pennsylvania's workforce remain world-class and globally competitive.

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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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