



SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO THE
INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE[®],
INTERNATIONAL MECHANICAL CODE[®],
AND INTERNATIONAL FUEL GAS CODE[®]

2012 EDITION



Australia • Brazil • Japan • Korea • Mexico • Singapore • Spain • United Kingdom • United States

**Significant Changes to the International
Plumbing Code, International Mechanical
Code, and International Fuel Gas Code
2012 Edition
International Code Council**

Delmar Cengage Learning Staff:

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ICC World Headquarters

500 New Jersey Avenue, NW
6th Floor
Washington, DC 20001-2070
Telephone: 1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233)
Website: <http://www.iccsafe.org>

Delmar

5 Maxwell Drive
Clifton Park, NY 12065-2919
USA

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Contents



PART 1		
International Plumbing Code	1	
(Chapters 1 through 14)		
■ 202		
Plumbing Fixture Definition	4	
■ 202		
Plumbing Appliance Definition	5	
■ 202		
Grease Interceptor Definition	6	
■ 303.1, 303.4		
Material Identification and Third-Party Certification	8	
■ 308.9		
Parallel Water Distribution Systems	10	
■ 315.1		
Sealing of Annular Spaces at Penetrations	11	
■ Table 403.1		
Minimum Number of Required Plumbing Fixtures	13	
■ 403.2		
Separate Toilet Facilities in Group M Occupancies	14	
■ 403.2.1		
Family or Assisted-Use Toilet Facilities Serving as Separate Facilities	16	
■ 403.3.2		
Relationship of Toilet Rooms and Food Preparation Areas	17	
■ 403.3.6		
Locking of Toilet Room Doors	19	
■ 403.5		
Drinking Fountain Locations	20	
■ 405.3.1		
Minimum Water Closet Compartment Size	21	
■ 405.4		
Floor and Wall Drainage Connections	23	
■ 407.2		
Bathtub Waste Outlets and Overflows	24	
■ 410		
Minimum Required Number of Drinking Fountains	25	
■ 417.5.2.6		
Shower Pan Liner Materials	27	
■ 424.9		
Water Closet Personal Hygiene Devices	28	
■ 504.4.1		
Water Heater Storage Tank Relief Valves	29	
■ 504.7		
Water Heater Pans	30	
■ 605		
Polyethylene of Raised-Temperature (PE-RT) Plastic Tubing	31	

iv CONTENTS

■ Table 605.3 Polyethylene (PE) Water Service Pipe	33	■ 1003.1 Interceptors and Separators	61
■ Table 605.3 PEX Water Service Pipe	34	■ 1003.3.1 Alternate Grease Interceptor Locations	62
■ 606.7 Labeling of Water Distribution Pipes in Bundles	35	■ 1003.3.4 Hydromechanical Grease Interceptors	63
■ 607.1.1 Water-Temperature-Limiting Means	36	■ 1105 Roof Drain Strainers	65
■ 607.2 Hot or Tempered Water Supply to Fixtures	37	■ 1107 Siphonic Roof Drainage Systems	67
■ 607.5 Hot Water Piping Insulation	38	■ Chapter 13 Gray-Water Recycling Systems	69
■ 608.8 Identification of Nonpotable Water	39	PART 2	
■ 704.3, 711.2.1 Horizontal Branch Connections	40	International Mechanical Code	72
■ Table 709.1 Drainage Fixture Units for Bathroom Groups	42	(Chapters 1 through 15)	
■ 712.3.3 Sump Pump and Ejector Discharge Pipe and Fittings	43	■ 102.3 Maintenance	74
■ 712.3.5 Sump Pump Connection to the Drainage System	44	■ 202 Environmental Air	75
■ 715.1 Fixture Protection from Sewage Backflow	46	■ 306.5 Equipment and Appliances on Roofs or Elevated Structures	76
■ 802.1.8 Indirect Discharge of Food Preparation Sinks	48	■ 308.5 Labeled Assemblies	79
■ 802.2 Installation of Indirect Waste Piping	49	■ 401.4 Intake Opening Location	80
■ 802.3 Prohibited Locations for Waste Receptors	51	■ Table 403.3 Minimum Ventilation Rates for Nail Salons	82
■ 901.3, 918.8 Air Admittance Valves for Chemical Waste Vent Systems	53	■ 404.1 Enclosed Parking Garages	83
■ 903.5 Location of Vent Terminals	54	■ 501.2, 506.4 Independent Exhaust Systems Required	84
■ 915.2 Combination Waste and Vent System Sizing	55	■ 505.1 Domestic Kitchen Exhaust Systems	85
■ 917 Single-Stack Vent Systems	56	■ 506.3.7.1 Grease Reservoirs	86
■ 1002.1 Floor Drains in Multi-Level Parking Structures	60	■ 506.3.8 Grease Duct Cleanouts and Other Openings	87
		■ 506.3.9 Grease Duct Horizontal Cleanouts	89
		■ 506.3.10 Underground Grease Duct Installations	90

■ 506.3.11.2	Field-Applied Grease Duct Enclosures	92	■ 928	Evaporative Cooling Equipment	110
■ 507.2	Type I or Type II Hood Required	93	■ 1101.10	Locking Access Port Caps	111
■ 507.2.1	Type I Hoods	94	■ 1105.6, 1105.6.3	Machinery Room Ventilation	112
■ 507.2.1.1	Operation of Type I Hoods	95	■ 1106.4	Flammable Refrigerants	113
■ 507.2.1.2	Exhaust Flow Rate Label of Type I Hoods	97			
■ 507.2.2	Type II Hoods	98	PART 3		
■ 507.10	Hoods Penetrating a Ceiling	99	International Fuel Gas Code		114
■ 510.7	Fire Suppression Required for Hazardous Exhaust Ducts	100	(Chapters 1 through 8)		
■ 601.4	Contamination Prevention in Plenums	101	■ 202, 401.9, 401.10, 404.1	Identification, Testing and Certification	116
■ 602.2.1	Materials within Plenums	103	■ 308.1	Clearance to Combustible materials	117
■ 603.7	Rigid Duct Penetrations	105	■ 404.2	CSST piping systems	118
■ 603.9	Duct Joints, Seams, and Connections	106	■ 404.18	Prohibited Devices	119
■ 603.17, 202	Air Dispersion Systems	107	■ 408.4	Sediment Traps	120
■ 805.3	Factory-Built Chimney Offsets	108	■ 410.4	Excess Flow Valves	121
■ 901.4	Fireplace Accessories	109	■ 202, 410.5	Flashback Arrestor Check Valve	122
			■ 618.4	Prohibited Sources	123
			Index		125

Preface

The purpose of *Significant Changes to the International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code, and International Fuel Gas Code*® 2012 Edition is to familiarize plumbing and mechanical officials, building officials, fire officials, plans examiners, inspectors, design professionals, contractors, and others in the construction industry with many of the important changes in the 2012 *International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code, and International Fuel Gas Code* (IPC/IMC/IFGC). This publication is designed to assist code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred and, more important, in understanding the reasons behind the changes. It is also a valuable resource for jurisdictions in the code-adoption process.

Only portions of the total number of code changes to the IPC/IMC/IFGC 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 all code changes can be found in the *Code Changes Resource Collection*, published by the International Code Council® (ICC®), which provides the published documentation for each successful code change contained in the 2012 IPC and 2009 IMC.

Throughout this significant changes 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 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 strikethrough, whereas new code text is indicated by underlining. As a result, the actual 2012 code language is provided, as well as a comparison with the 2009 language, so the user can easily determine changes to the specific code text.

As with any code-change text, *Significant Changes to the International Plumbing Code, International Mechanical Code, and International Fuel*

Gas Code 2012 Edition is best used as a study companion to the 2012 IPC, 2012 IMC, and 2012 IFGC. 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 code. In many cases, the explanatory material is derived from the reasoning expressed by code-change proponents.

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

About the *International Plumbing, International Mechanical, and International Fuel Gas Codes*

Code officials, design professionals, and others involved in the building construction industry recognize the need for a modern, up-to-date building code addressing the design and installation of building systems, including plumbing, mechanical, and fuel gas systems, through requirements emphasizing performance. The 2012 editions of the *International Plumbing Code*[®] (IPC), *International Mechanical Code*[®] (IMC), and *International Fuel Gas Code*[®] (IFGC) are intended to meet these needs through model code regulations that safeguard public health and safety in all communities, large and small. The IPC/IMC/IFGC are kept up to date through the ICC's open code-development process. The provisions of the 2009 editions, along with those code changes approved through 2010, make up the 2012 editions.

The ICC, publisher of the I-Codes, was established in 1994 as a non-profit organization dedicated to developing, maintaining, and supporting a single set of comprehensive and coordinated national model building construction codes. Its mission is to provide the highest-quality codes, standards, products, and services for all concerned with the safety and performance of the built environment.

The IPC, IMC, and IFGC are three of the 13 International Codes[®] published by the ICC. These comprehensive codes establish minimum regulations for plumbing, mechanical, and fuel gas systems by means of prescriptive and performance-related provisions and are founded on broad-based principles that make possible the use of new materials and new system designs. The IPC, IMC, and IFGC are available for adoption and use by jurisdictions internationally. Their use within a governmental jurisdiction is intended to be accomplished through adoption by reference, in accordance with proceedings establishing the jurisdiction's laws.

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Bob Guenther, author of the IMC and IFGC portions of this book, would like to thank the ICC staff members that assisted with this publication, in particular Alexandria Pearce, Audrie Cetina, and Doug Thornburg.

About the Authors

Lee Clifton

Director of Plumbing Programs

International Code Council

Lee Clifton is the Director of Plumbing Programs for the International Code Council, Plumbing and Mechanical Activities. Prior to joining the Code Council, Lee was with the City of Los Angeles for 21 years. As the Principal Inspector with the City of Los Angeles, his duties included planning, organizing, and coordinating the training programs for inspectors and clerical staff. Lee has served on the Board of Directors for the Southern California Health and Housing Council and participated on the Strategic Planning Committee to end lead poisoning in Los Angeles County. In prior years he also served as a Senior Plumbing Training Officer for the Department of Building and Safety. Lee has taught the model plumbing code for the Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors Association (PHCC) of the Greater Los Angeles Area and the North Orange County Regional Occupation Program. His career began as a second generation plumber, working for his father at Clifton Plumbing Inc. in Tampa, Florida, and then entering the United States Coast Guard. Lee completed his plumbing apprenticeship training in southern California.

Lee holds an L.A. City Journeyman Plumber's license; numerous certificates for training and medical gas inspection and an ICC Certified Plumbing and Mechanical Inspector. He is a member of the American Society of Sanitary Engineers, the American Society of Plumbing Engineers, and a member of the American Backflow Prevention Association. In the past Lee has participated on numerous industry committees and has authored many technical books and publications.

Bob Guenther
Director of Mechanical Programs
International Code Council

Bob Guenther is the Director of Mechanical Programs for the ICC in Whittier, California. He provides technical assistance to the members of the ICC on the IPC/IMC/IFGC. Bob also develops and reviews technical publications that involve mechanical, fuel gas, and plumbing material. Bob also presents mechanical and fuel gas code seminars throughout the country. Prior to coming to work for the ICC, Bob was the Mechanical Official for Long Beach, California, where he worked for 24 years, and prior to that he was a Mechanical Inspector for the City of Los Angeles for 5 years. Bob has taught the mechanical code in community colleges in southern California and has presented mechanical code seminars for 30 years. Bob has served on the IMC and Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC) code-changes committees and was on the committee that formed the original IMC.

About the International Code Council®

The International Code Council® (ICC®) is a nonprofit membership association dedicated to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of people by creating better buildings and safer communities. The mission of ICC is to provide the highest quality codes, standards, products and services for all concerned with the safety and performance of the built environment. ICC is the publisher of the family of the International Codes® (I-Codes®), a single set of comprehensive and coordinated model codes. This unified approach to building codes enhances safety, efficiency and affordability in the construction of buildings. The Code Council is also dedicated to innovation, sustainability and energy efficiency. Code Council subsidiary ICC Evaluation Service issues Evaluation Reports for innovative products and reports of Sustainable Attributes Verification and Evaluation (SAVE).

Headquarters:

500 New Jersey Avenue, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20001-2070

District Offices:

Birmingham, AL; Chicago, IL; Los Angeles, CA

1-888-422-7233
www.iccsafe.org