

2018 IBC Update

Based on the 2018 International Building Code,® (IBC®)

ICC LEARNING CENTER

The *International Building Code*® (IBC®), establishes minimum regulations for building safety.

This handout will identify important changes in the IBC from 2015 to 2018 edition. Participants will be presented with those changes that will most impact their use of the code when they adopt these I-Codes. The learner will receive an overview of the most important code changes.

Goal

Participants will be able to use this document to identify changes between the 2015 and 2018 IBC allowing them to apply these code requirements to design, plan submittals and/or inspection.

The lecture and activity format allows participants to discuss the changes, reasons for the changes, and answer knowledge review questions. Information presented will allow participants to apply these new code requirements to design, plan review, and/or inspection.

Objectives

Upon completion, participants will be better able to:

- Identify the most significant differences between the 2015 and the 2018 IBC.
- Explain the differences between the current and previous edition.
- Identify changes in organization and code requirements.
- Identify the applicability of design, plan review and inspection requirements.

Content

Chapters of the IBC included in this handout:

- Chapter 2, Definitions
- Chapter 3, Use and Occupancy Classification
- Chapter 4, Special Detailed Requirements Based on Use and Occupancy
- Chapter 5, Building Heights and Areas
- Chapter 6, Types of Construction
- Chapter 7, Fire and Smoke Protection Features
- Chapter 8, Interior Finishes
- Chapter 9, Fire Protection Systems
- Chapter 10, Means of Egress
- Chapter 11, Accessibility
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- Chapter 30, Elevators and Conveying Systems
- Chapter 31, Special Construction
- Appendix G, Flood-Resistant Construction
- Appendix N, Replicable Buildings

Chapter 2: Definitions			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
202	202	Definitions (Several definitions have been added to this edition of the IBC, as well as deleting and revising existing definitions.)	<p>New definitions include “Greenhouse” and “Repair garage”.</p> <p>The definition for “Sleeping unit” has been clarified while “Ambulatory care facility” and “Clinic, outpatient” have been deleted.</p> <p>GREENHOUSE. A structure or thermally isolated area of a building that maintains a specialized sunlit environment used for, and essential to, the cultivation, protection or maintenance of plants.</p> <p>REPAIR GARAGE. A building, structure or portion thereof used for servicing or repairing motor vehicles.</p> <p>SLEEPING UNIT. A room or space in which people sleep, which can also include single unit providing rooms or spaces for one or more persons that includes permanent provisions for sleeping, and can include provisions for living, eating, and either sanitation or kitchen facilities but not both. Such rooms and spaces that are also part of a dwelling unit are not sleeping units.</p> <p>AMBULATORY CARE FACILITY.</p> <p>CLINIC, OUTPATIENT.</p>

Chapter 3: Use and Occupancy			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
302.1 Clarification	302.1	Classification of Outdoor Areas	It has been clarified that occupied roofs are to be assigned one or more occupancy classifications in a manner consistent with the classification of uses inside the building, based upon the fire and life safety hazards posed by the rooftop activities.
303.4 Clarification	303.4	Assembly Use of Greenhouses Classification	Where the use of the greenhouse is assembly in nature due to public access for the viewing of plants, classification as a Group A-3 occupancy is appropriate.
309.1 Clarification	309.1	Mercantile Use of Greenhouses Classification	Where a greenhouse is provided with public access for the purpose of the display and sale of plants, a Group M occupancy shall be assigned.
310.3, 310.4 Clarification	310.3, 310.4	Classification of Congregate Living Facilities	Dormitories and similar nontransient uses now are to be considered as Group R-3 occupancies where the occupant load is 16 or less. In addition, transient lodging houses, such as bed-and-breakfast establishments, can only be considered as Group R-3 occupancies where their total occupant load is 10 or less.

Chapter 3: Use and Occupancy, Continued			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
310.4.2 Modification	310.4.2	Owner-Occupied Lodging Houses	The criteria permitting compliance with the IRC for the design and construction of owner-occupied lodging houses has been expanded by now also requiring that the total number of lodging house occupants be limited to 10.
311.1.1 Modification	311.1.1	Classification of Accessory Storage Spaces	Regardless of size, storage rooms and spaces that are accessory to other uses are to be classified as part of the occupancy to which they are accessory.
312.1.1 Clarification	312.1.1	Classification of Agricultural Greenhouses	Because a Group U occupancy includes those low-hazard structures that do not conform to any other specific occupancy classification, it has been clarified that greenhouses are only to be considered as Group U where they are not more appropriately classified as one of the other occupancies established in the IBC.

Chapter 4: Special Requirements for Use and Occupancy			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
403.2.1.1 Modification	403.2.1.1	Type of Construction in High-Rise Buildings	The reduction in the minimum required fire-resistance ratings for certain building elements of high-rise buildings is no longer applicable to Group H-2, H-3 and H-5 occupancies due to the high physical hazard level such uses pose.
404.6 Modification	404.6	Enclosure of Atriums	The requirement that those spaces not separated from an atrium be accounted for in the design of the smoke control system now applies only in those cases where the atrium is provided with a smoke control system.
406.1 Clarification	406.1	Motor Vehicle-Related Occupancies	Provisions specific to motor-vehicle-related uses have been reformatted in a manner such that those requirements that apply to all such uses have been relocated in a single Section 406.1.
407.5 Modification	407.5	Maximum Smoke Compartment Size	The allowance for larger smoke compartments in hospitals and other Group I-2, Condition 2 occupancies has now been modified to only include compartments containing single-patient sleeping rooms and suites, as well as those compartments without patient sleeping rooms.
407.5.4 Modification	407.5.4	Required Egress from Smoke Compartments	In Group I-2 occupancies, any smoke compartment that does not have an exit from the compartment must now provide direct access to a minimum of two adjacent smoke compartments.
420.7 Modification	420.7	Corridor Protection in Assisted Living Units	Shared living spaces, group meeting spaces and multipurpose therapeutic spaces are now permitted to be open to fire-rated corridors in Group I-1 assisted living housing facilities provided specific conditions are met.
420.8 Addition		Group I-1 Cooking Facilities	A room or space containing a cooking facility with domestic cooking appliances is now permitted to be open to a corridor in Group I-1 occupancies provided nine specific conditions are met.
420.10 Addition		Dormitory Cooking Facilities	The installation and use of domestic cooking appliances are now regulated in both common areas and sleeping rooms of Group R-2 college dormitories.

Chapter 4: Special Requirements for Use and Occupancy, Continued			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
427 Addition		Medical Gas Systems	In order to provide a more comprehensive and efficient compilation of construction regulations, those IFC medical gas system requirements related directly to building construction have now been replicated in the IBC.
428 Addition		Higher Education Laboratories	Higher education laboratories using hazardous materials can now be considered Group B occupancies provided such laboratories comply with new Section 428 which provides an alternative approach to the existing control area provisions.

Chapter 5: Heights and Areas			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
503.1, 706.1 Modification	503.1, 706.1	Scope of Fire Wall Use	The use of fire walls is now strictly limited to only the determination of permissible types of construction, based upon allowable building area and height.
503.1.4 Addition		Allowable Height and Area of Occupied Roofs	New criteria is now provided establishing the appropriate methodology in the regulation of building height in stories above grade plane where one or more occupancies is located on the roof.
Table 506.2, Note i Modification	Table 506.2, Note i	Allowable Area of Type VB Greenhouses	The tabular allowable area for nonsprinklered single-story greenhouses classified as Group U occupancies has been substantially increased for Type VB buildings to be consistent with those greenhouses classified as Group B, M, F-2 and E.
507.4 Clarification	507.4	Sprinklers in Unlimited Area Group A-4 Buildings	The sprinkler omission permitted for indoor participant sport areas of unlimited area Group A-4 buildings is now clearly not applicable to storage rooms, press boxes, concession areas and other ancillary spaces.
508.4.1, Table 508.4 Modification	508.4.1, Table 508.4	508.4.1, Table 508.4 Separated Occupancies vs. Fire Area Separations	New provisions in Section 508.4.1 and Table 508.4 clarify that the fire separations used for mixed occupancy purposes and those used for fire area purposes address different concerns, and as such the most restrictive fire-resistance-rated conditions shall apply.
510.2 Clarification	510.2	Horizontal Building Separation	Vertical offsets are permitted in the horizontal fire-resistance-rated separation mandated for "podium buildings" provided the minimum required fire-resistance rating is maintained for the offsets and their supporting elements.

Chapter 6: Types of Construction			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
Table 601, Note b Modification	Table 601, Note b	Fire Protection of Structural Roof Members	All portions of the roof construction, including primary structural frame members such as girders and beams, are now selectively exempted from fire-resistance requirements based on Table 601 where every portion of the roof construction is at least 20 feet above any floor below.
602.3, 602.4.1 Clarification	602.3, 602.4.1	FRT Wood Sheathing in Exterior Wall Assemblies	It has now been clarified that wood sheathing, as well wood framing, is permitted in exterior walls of Type III and IV buildings where fire-retardant-treated wood is used.

Chapter 7: Fire and Smoke Protection Features			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
704.2, 704.4.1 Modification	704.2, 704.4.1	Column Protection in Light-Frame Construction	In walls of light-frame construction where primary structural frame members require fire-resistive protection, columns extending only between the bottom and top plates do not need to be provided with individual encasement protection.
Modification 705.2.3, 705.2.3.1, 705.2.4	1406.3, 1406.4	Combustible Balconies, Projections, and Bay Windows	Construction requirements for balconies, porches, decks, bay windows and oriel windows have been relocated from Section 1406 (Combustible Materials on the Exterior Side of Exterior Walls) to Section 705.2.3 (Combustible Projections).
706.1.1 Modification	706.1.1	Party Walls Not Constructed as Fire Walls	Construction as a fire wall is no longer required for a party wall provided the aggregate height and area of the buildings on each side of the party wall are compliant with Chapter 5 and applicable easements and agreements are established addressing the maintenance of all fire and life safety systems of both buildings.
706.2 Modification	706.2	Structural Continuity of Double Fire Walls	In Seismic Design Categories D through F, floor and roof sheathing is permitted to continue through light-frame double fire wall assemblies where the sheathing does not exceed a thickness of 3/4 inch.
708.4 Clarification	708.4	Continuity of Fire Partitions	The continuity requirements for fire partitions have been reformatted to provide for increased clarity of their construction requirements.
708.4.2 Clarification	708.4.2	Fireblocking and Draftstopping at Fire Partitions	Fireblocking and draftstopping requirements for fire partitions of combustible construction have been consolidated and modified.
713.8.1 Modification	713.8.1	Membrane Penetrations of Shaft Enclosures	Membrane penetrations not related to the purpose of a shaft enclosure are no longer prohibited from penetrating the outside of the enclosure.
716.2.6.5 Addition		Delayed-Action Self-Closing Doors	Self-closing doors that are not also required to be automatic-closing are now permitted to be equipped with delayed-action closers.

Chapter 8: Interior Finishes			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
803.3 Modification	803.3	Interior Finish Requirements for Heavy Timber Construction	Materials considered heavy timber construction must now comply with interior finish requirements where exposed in interior exit stairways and exit passageways.
803.11, 803.12 Addition		Flame Spread Testing of Laminates and Veneers	Specific flame-spread testing provisions have been added to the IBC to address the use of factory-produced laminated products with a wood substrate as well as facings and wood veneers applied over a wood substrate on site.

Chapter 9: Fire Protection Systems			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
901.6.2 Addition		Integrated Fire Protection System Testing	Test criteria have been added to the code with a reference to new NFPA 4, <i>Standard for Integrated Fire Protection and Life Safety System Testing</i> , to ensure that where multiple fire protection systems or life safety systems are integrated, the acceptance process and subsequent testing must evaluate all of the integrated systems as a whole.
902.8 Addition		Fire Pump and Fire Sprinkler Riser Rooms	A number of prescriptive requirements have been added regulating the design and construction of automatic sprinkler system riser rooms and fire pump rooms.
903.2.1 Clarification	903.2.1	Sprinklers Required in Group A Occupancies	The extent to which automatic sprinkler systems are required in multi-story Group A occupancies has been clarified.
903.2.3 Modification	903.2.3	Sprinklers in Group E occupancies	Criteria for occupant load threshold and location within the building have been added as conditions that could require sprinkler protection in an Group E educational occupancy.
903.3.1.2.1 Modification	903.3.1.2.1	Sprinkler Protection at Balconies and Decks	Where nonrated balconies and similar combustible projections of dwelling and sleeping units are permitted in Type IIIA and VA buildings, it has been clarified that the sprinkler protection is to be extended to the area of the projections.
903.3.1.2.3 Addition		Protection of Attics in Group R Occupancies	Sprinkler protection or acceptable alternative methods for the protection of attics are now addressed for mid-rise buildings housing multi-family occupancies and equipped with an NFPA 13R sprinkler system.

Chapter 9: Fire Protection Systems, Continued			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
904.13 Modification	904.13	Domestic Cooking Protection in Institutional and Residential Occupancies	Where domestic-type cooking operations are present in Group I-1 occupancies and college dormitories classified as Group R-2, an automatic fire-extinguishing system is now mandated in conjunction with the required hood over any cooktop or range.
904.14 Addition		Aerosol Fire Extinguishing Systems	The installation, inspection, testing and maintenance of aerosol fire extinguishing systems are now addressed through applicable references to Sections 901 and 904.4 of the IBC and NFPA 2010, as well as the system's listing and manufacturer's instructions.
905.3.1 Modification:	905.3.1	Class III Standpipes	Standpipe system protection is now required in those buildings having four or more stories above or below grade plane regardless of the vertical distance between the floor level of the highest story and the level of the fire department vehicle access.
905.4 Modification	905.4	Class I Standpipe Connection Locations	Modifications have been made regarding the location of hose connections within interior exit stairway enclosures as well as the minimum number of connections required where open breezeways and open stairs are provided.
907.2.1 Modification	907.2.1	Fire Alarms in Group A Occupancies	An additional criterion now mandates the installation of a manual fire alarm system where there is a Group A occupant load of more than 100 located above or below the level of exit discharge.
907.2.10 Deletion	907.2.10	Group R-4 Fire Alarm Systems	The installation of a manual fire alarm system and an automatic smoke detection system are no longer required in Group R-4 occupancies.

Chapter 10: Means of Egress			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1004.8, Table 1004.5 Modification	1004.8, Table 1004.5	Occupant Load Calculation in Business Use Areas	The method of calculating occupant load in business areas has been revised which will typically result in reduced design occupant loads. However, higher design occupant loads can be now be assigned to concentrated business areas such as telephone call centers and similar uses.
1006.2.1, Table 1006.2.1 Modification	1006.2.1, Table 1006.2.1	Group R Spaces with One Exit or Exit Access Doorway	Allowances for single-exit Group R spaces have been reformatted and the approach to accumulating occupant loads from adjacent rooms discharging through foyers and lobbies has been clarified.

Chapter 10: Means of Egress, Continued			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1006.3 Clarification	1006.3	Egress Through Adjacent Stories	The determination of means of egress requirements has been clarified where the occupants must travel to an adjacent story to reach a complying exit or exits.
1010.1.1 Clarification	1010.1.1	Size of Doors	Provisions addressing limits to the width and height of door openings have been selectively reformatted and revised as necessary to correlate with the technical accessibility requirements of ICC A117.1.
1010.1.4.4 Addition		Locking Arrangements in Educational Occupancies	Guidance has been provided to allow for enhanced security measures on educational classroom egress doors and yet still continue to comply with applicable means of egress requirements.
1010.1.9.8 Modification	1010.1.9.8	Use of Delayed Egress Locking Systems in Group E Classrooms	The allowance for the use of delayed egress locking systems has been expanded to also include egress doors serving Group E classrooms with an occupant load of less than 50, as well as secondary exits or exit access doors serving courtrooms.
1010.3.2 Addition		Security Access Turnstiles	New conditions of use are now provided to the building official with criteria to evaluate security access turnstiles that are located in a manner to obstruct a means of egress.
1013.2 Modification	1013.2	Floor Level Exit Sign Location	The permitted location for low-level exit signs selectively required in Group R-1 occupancies has been expanded to now allow the bottom of such sign to be mounted up to 18 inches above the floor.
1023.3.1 Modification	1023.3.1	Stairway Extensions	Fire-resistance-rated separation is not required between an interior exit stairway and its exit passageway extension where both the stair enclosure and exit passageway are pressurized.
1026.4 Modification	1026.4	Refuge Areas for Horizontal Exits	The method for determining the minimum required refuge area size where a horizontal exit has been provided has been modified to allow for a more appropriate determination of the occupant load assigned to the refuge area.
1030.1 Clarification	1030.1	Required Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings	The occupancies where emergency openings are required have been clarified and the minimum number of required openings in a residential basement has been revised.

Chapter 11: Accessibility			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1103.2.14 Modification	1103.2.14	Access to Walk-In Coolers and Freezers	Revised conditions have now been placed on the use of walk-in cooler and freezers exempted from accessibility provisions by requiring them to be accessed from only employee work areas and limiting the scope to only pieces of equipment.
1109.2.1.2 Modification	1109.2.1.2	Fixtures in Family or Assisted-Use Toilet Rooms	Family or assisted-use toilet rooms may now also contain a child height water closet and lavatory in order to provide a higher level of accommodation.

Chapter 12: Interior Environment			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1206.2, 1207.3 Modification	1206.2, 1207.3	Engineering Analysis of Sound Transmission	A performance-based alternative approach for meeting the required sound transmission class ratings for unit separation walls and floor/ceiling assemblies in residential buildings has been introduced which allows for the use of an engineering analysis based upon a comparison to previously-tested assemblies.

Chapter 14: Exterior Walls			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
Modification Table 1404.2	Table 1404.2	Weather Covering Minimum Thickness	The minimum required thicknesses of masonry and stone veneer weather coverings have been updated to align with current industry standards.

Chapter 15: Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1504.3.3 Addition		Metal Roof Shingles	Metal roof shingles are now addressed separately from other metal panel roof systems with reference made to applicable standards for the labeling and testing of wind resistance for the shingles.
1507.1 Clarification	1507.1	Underlayment	Reorganization: Underlayment and ice barrier requirements have been relocated from sections describing each type of roofing material and placed into one new section describing the type, attachment and application of underlayment.

Chapter 16: Structural Design			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1603.1 Modification	1603.1	Construction Documents	The construction document requirements for environmental and special loads have been updated for rain, snow and wind forces and their components.
1604.3.7 Addition		Deflection of Glass Framing	Limits to the deflection of framing which supports glazing has been added to Section 1604.3.
1604.10 Addition		Storm Shelters	The development of loads for storm shelters is to be based on ICC 500 which provides wind speeds for tornado and hurricane shelter design using ASCE 7 load combinations.
Table 1607.1 Modification	Table 1607.1	Deck Live Load	Table 1607.1 is now consistent with the provisions in the 2010 and 2016 editions of ASCE 7 for minimum uniformly distributed live loads on decks and balconies by increasing the deck live load to one and one-half times the live load of the area served.
1607.14.2 Addition		Minimum Fire Load	The minimum lateral load that fire walls are required to resist has been established at five pounds per square foot.
1609 Modification	1609	Wind Loads	Section 1609 now has updated wind speed maps, including maps for the state of Hawaii. Terminology for describing wind speeds has been changed again with ultimate design wind speeds now called basic design wind speeds.
1613 Modification	1613	Earthquake Loads	The site coefficients contained in the IBC have now been brought into alignment with the newest generation of ground motion attenuation equations.
1613.3.1 Modification	1613.3.1	Seismic Maps	The IBC seismic maps have been updated to match new maps in the 2015 NEHRP Provisions and 2016 ASCE 7 standard.
1615 Addition		Tsunami Loads	There are many coastal communities in the western United States and on islands in the Pacific Ocean which need tsunami-resistant design of critical infrastructure and essential facilities. New IBC Section 1615, Tsunami Loads, has been added to address design of these facilities.

Chapter 17: Special Inspections and Tests			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1704.6 Modification	1704.6	Structural Observations	Section 1704.6.1 has been added requiring structural observation of buildings that are considered a high-rise or assigned to Risk Category IV.
1705.2.2 Modification	1705.2.2	Metal-plate-connected Wood Trusses	Five-foot tall wood trusses requiring permanent bracing now require a periodic special inspection to verify that the required bracing has been installed.
1705.12.6 Item 6 Addition		Designated Seismic Systems	Section 1705.12.6 adds a provision for minimum clearance of fire sprinkler components considered as a designated seismic system.

Chapter 18: Soils and Foundations			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1807.2 Modification	1807.2	Retaining Walls	The requirement for consideration of a keyway in the sliding analysis of retaining walls has been deleted from Section 1807.2.1.
1810.3.8.3 Modification	1810.3.8.3	Precast Prestressed Piles	Equations in Section 1810.3.8.3 addressing precast prestressed piles have been updated.

Chapter 19: Concrete			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1901.2 Modification	1901.2	Seismic loads for precast concrete diaphragms	New language adds a requirement for the design of precast concrete diaphragms in high seismic regions to use ASCE 7 Section 14.2.4.

Chapter 22: Steel			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
2207.1, Chapter 35 Modification	2207.1, Chapter 35	SJI standard	The 2015 edition of the combined SJI-100, Standard Specification for K-Series, LH-Series, and DLH-Series Open Web Steel Joists and Joist Girders, is the new referenced standard for steel joists.
2211 Modification	2211	Cold-formed Steel Light-frame Construction	The 2015 editions of the AISI standards for cold-formed steel are adopted in the 2018 IBC. These new standards include AISI S240, AISI S400 and AISI S202.

Chapter 23: Wood			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
2303.2.2 Modification	1203.2.2	Fire-retardant treated wood	The types of chemical treatment allowed for fire-resistant-treated lumber are clarified.
2303.6 Modification	2303.6	Nails and Staples	Nails and staples are required to conform to the standard ASTM F 1667 including Supplement 1. Minimum average bending moment values are added for staples.

Chapter 23: Wood			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
Table 2304.9.3.2 Addition		Mechanically Laminated Decking	A new alternative fastener schedule for construction of mechanically laminated decking is added to the 2018 IBC giving equivalent power-driven fasteners for the 20 penny nail.
Table 2304.10.1 Modification	Table 2304.10.1	Ring Shank Nails	The 2018 IBC and IRC are now aligned by requiring an 8-penny common or ring shank nail when nailing 6:12 on center for roof sheathing.
2304.12.2.5, 2304.12.2.6 Modification	2304.12.2.5, 2304.12.2.6	Supporting members for permeable floors and roofs	The provisions for permeable floors and roofs are modified to require positive drainage of water and ventilation below the floor or roof to protect supporting wood construction.
Table 2308.4.1.1 (1) Modification	Table 2308.4.1.1 (1)	Header and Girder Spans – Exterior Walls	The header and girder spans for the exterior bearing wall table are updated to allow #2 Southern Pine design values rather than #1 Southern Pine thereby reducing span lengths.
Table 2308.4.1.1 (2) Modification	Table 2308.4.1.1 (2)	Header and Girder Spans – Interior Bearing Walls	The header and girder spans for the interior bearing walls table are updated to allow No. 2 Southern Pine design values for spans rather than No. 1 Southern Pine thereby reducing span lengths.

Chapter 26: Plastic			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
2603.13 Addition		Cladding attachment over foam sheathing to wood framing	Requirements for cladding over foam sheathing and wood framing are added to the <i>International Building Code</i> to match the <i>International Residential Code</i> and cold-framed steel stud requirements.

Chapter 30: Elevators and Conveying Systems			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
3001.2 Addition		Emergency Elevator Communication Systems	Additional communication capabilities are now required in accessible elevators to enhance the usability of the two-way communication system by individuals with varying degrees of hearing or speech impairments.

Chapter 30: Elevators and Conveying Systems			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
3007.1 Modification	3007.1	Extent of Fire Service Access Elevator Travel	Fire service access elevators, where required, now only need to provide access to those floor levels at and above the lowest level of fire department access. In addition, elevators that only connect a parking garage to a building's lobby need not serve as fire service access elevators.
3008.1 Modification	3008.1	Required Number of Occupant Evacuation Elevators	A reduction in the minimum number of elevators that must be considered as occupant evacuation elevators now reflects a more reasonable performance-based approach while still retaining the capacity to evacuate a high-rise building more quickly than stairs alone.

Chapter 31: Special Construction			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
3112 Addition		Relocatable Buildings	A process of acceptance for relocatable modular buildings has been established in order to provide clear and consistent direction in the relocation, reuse and/or repurposing of such buildings.

Chapter 33: Safeguards During Construction			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
3310.1 Modification	3310.1	Stairways in Buildings under Construction	At least one temporary or permanent stairway must now be provided in a building under construction once the building has reached a height of 40 feet as measured from the lowest level of fire department vehicle access.
3314 Addition		Fire Watch During Construction	In order to protect adjacent properties from fire in a building of considerable height when under construction, new provisions have been established to give authority to the fire code official to require a fire watch during those hours where no construction work is being done.

Appendix G: Flood-Resistant Construction			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
G103.6 Modification	G103.6	Watercourse Alteration	Notification of a watercourse alteration should be given to all adjacent building departments, not just those a building department believes will be affected.

Appendix N: Replicable Buildings			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
Appendix N Addition		Replicable Buildings	Guidelines for replicable buildings have been added to the appendix in order to give jurisdictions a tool they can adopt to help streamline the plan review process in regard to code compliance.