The ICC Code Development Process
ICC Vision

Protecting the health, safety, and welfare of people by creating better buildings and safer communities.
ICC Mission

Providing the highest quality codes, standards, products, and services for all concerned with the safety and performance of the built environment.
The I-Codes

13 Codes
- Building: IBC, IRC
- Fire: IFC, IWUIC
- Fuel Gas, Mechanical, Plumbing: IFGC, IMC, IPC, IPSDC
- Existing Buildings: IEBC, IPMC
- Specialty: IECC, ICC Performance, IZC
Characteristics of International Codes

- Each code is comprehensive
- All codes are coordinated and compatible with each other
- All codes are developed according to the same process in the same forum
- All codes reference consensus national standards
Coordination of I-Codes

- Defined scope of each code
- Interdependence and reliance on the entire family of codes - cross referencing and duplication of provisions within code scopes
- Issues resolved in a single and central public forum
- Single interpretation applies to all codes
ICC Code Development Process
Utilize a process open to all parties with safeguards to avoid domination by proprietary interests. ICC Governmental Consensus Process achieves this with the final vote resting with those enforcing the codes.
Code Committees

- Materially affected interests represented
- Not less than 33% of each committee is to be regulators
- All meetings in public forum
- All actions and reasons for action published
The Players

- Code officials
- Design professionals/consultants
- Trade associations
- Builders/contractors
- Manufacturers/suppliers
- Government agencies
- Anyone with an interest
The Process

- Open
- Transparent
- Balance of Interest
- Due Process
- Appeals Process
- Consensus
I-Code Coordination

- ICC Code Correlation Committee (CCC)
- Duplication between codes, maintained by one code
  - Example: Sprinklers – Identical provisions in IFC Section 903 and IBC Section 903. In Section 903 of the IBC, there is an “[F]” prior to the section number. This indicates the provisions are maintained by the IFC Code Committee.
The Procedures

• All aspects of the ICC Code Development Process regulated by published procedures
• Council Policy (CP) 28 – Code Development
• Website link:
Steps in a Typical 18 month cycle

- Code changes due. Announcement posted on the website and other media. Anyone can submit a code change
- Staff review
  - Form and format: Legislative format
  - Proposals must be based on current text
- Publish
  - Website: Approx. 90 days prior to Code Development Hearing
  - Published: Approx. 60 days prior to Code Development Hearing
Code Change Submittal

- Download Public Proposal form
  - [http://www.icc SAFE.org/cs/codes/publicforms.html](http://www.icc SAFE.org/cs/codes/publicforms.html)
- Name and entity represented
- Proposed language:
  - Legislative revisions to current text: Underline proposed new text and strike out text to be deleted
- Reason for change
- Email file as an attachment to ICC – instructions on form
Code Development Hearing

• 13 Code Committees. One for each code, except:
  – IBC 4 Subcommittees
  – IFC & IWUIC combined
  – IPC & IPSDC combined
  – IPMC & IZC combined
  – IRC 2 Subcommittees

• Anyone can attend and testify. No cost to attend the hearings
Code Development Hearing

- **Committee action**
  - Approval as Submitted (AS)
  - Approval as Modified (AM)
  - Disapproval (D)
- **Assembly action**
  - All members of ICC can vote in response to committee action
  - Successful assembly action results in an automatic public comment
Report of Hearing (ROH)

- Committee action
- Reason for committee action
- Assembly action
- Publish
  - Website: Approx. 30 days after Code Development Hearing
  - Published: Approx. 60 days after Code Development Hearing
Public Comment Submittal

• Public Comments on Report of Hearing (ROH) – due approximately 45 days after ROH published.
• Allows anyone to submit a comment in response to the results of the Code Development Hearing
Public Comment Submittal

- Download Public Comment form
  http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes/publicforms.html
- Disagree with the committee action
- Disagree with the assembly action
- Propose revisions (“modifications”) to the code change. Further revisions proposed in legislative format.
- Published in the Final Action Agenda
Final Action Agenda

- Original code change with the committee action and assembly action (if any)
- Public commenters requested action, including any changes to the code change in legislative format
- Publish
  - Website: Approx. 60 days prior to Final Action Hearing
  - Published: Approx. 30 days prior to Final Action Hearing
Final Action Hearing

- Anyone can attend and testify. No cost to attend the hearings.
- Agenda:
  - Consent agenda: Block vote on all code changes which did not receive a public comment or successful assembly action
  - Individual Consideration Agenda: Vote individually on each code change which received a public comment or successful assembly action
Final Action Hearing

Final vote on whether or not to change the code rests with the Governmental Member Representatives – those who enforce the code and are charged with the public’s safety

- Open, fair and objective with no proprietary interest
Results of Code Development

- First edition of full family of I-Codes in 2000
- Editions follow every 3 years after 2000
- Intervening Supplement between Editions
Webcasting

• Debut at 2002 Code Development Hearings
• Followed up in all subsequent hearings
• Streaming video and audio
• Internet access on your PC
• Currently testing remote voting capability
Conclusions

The ICC remains dedicated to a single family of comprehensive and coordinated model codes. The ICC process allows all interests to participate in the code development process.
If you are interested in code changes submitted in previous code development cycles or the current cycle, be sure to go to the website. All this info is posted.

- [http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes](http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/codes)

Questions? Call ICC’s Codes & Standards Development Department

- 888 – ICC – SAFE x 4340