



HOUSTON CONSTRUCTION CODE UPDATE

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HOUSTON PERMITTING CENTER

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PURPOSE

together we create a strong foundation
for Houston to thrive



5 TO THRIVE VALUES

integrity | teamwork | ownership | communication | respect

OBJECTIVES

update permit fees for one & two-family residential & townhouse construction

update Houston Construction Codes from 2012 to 2015 editions to meet the minimum requirements consistent with national life safety & property protection best practices

2017 2008
(1970) 2001 1972 2000



Rockport, Texas after Hurricane Harvey

IMPORTANCE OF BUILDING CODES

CODE UPDATE PROCESS



CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL

American Fire Sprinkler Association

American Institute of Architects

American Society of Heating, Refrigeration & Air Conditioning Engineers

American Society of Plumbing Engineers

American Society of Sanitary Engineering

Associated Building & Contractors of Greater Houston

Associated General Contractors of America

Association of Chief Operating Engineers

City of Houston Building Code Enforcement

City of Houston Fire Department

Construction Specifications Institute

Fire Sprinkler Contractors Association

Greater Houston Builders Association

Greater Houston Restaurant Association

Hotel & Lodging Association of Greater Houston

Houston Apartment Association

CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY COUNCIL (CONT'D)

Houston Gulf Coast Building & Construction Trades Association

Houston Real Estate Council

Houston Sheet Metal Contractors Association

Independent Electrical Contractors Association

Institute of Real Estate Management

Mechanical Contractors Association of Houston

National Electrical Contractors Association

National Fire Sprinkler Association

Plumbing, Air-Conditioning & Mechanical Contractors Association

Society of Fire Protection Engineers

Texas Electrical Safety Association

Texas Institute of Building Design

Texas Society of Professional Engineers

Texas Water Quality Association

US Green Building Council

Water Quality Association

STAKEHOLDER PROPOSALS

STAKEHOLDER	PROPOSAL
Building Owners & Managers Association	elevator water sensors
Viega LLC	PEX tubing and joints
Greater Houston Builders Association	HVAC piping protection & return air provisions, exterior plaster / lath provisions, & definition corrections / removals
Construction Industry Council	fire pumps / break tank requirements & standpipe hose connection locations
Honeywell Building Technologies	energy storage gas detection systems
Champions / IW Consulting	hydromechanical grease interceptor sizing

HOUSTON CONSTRUCTION CODE

CODE	CODE TITLE	CURRENT EDITION	PROPOSED EDITION
IRC	international residential code (with Houston amendments)	2012	2015
IBC	international building code (with Houston amendments)	2012	2015
IFC	international fire code (with Houston amendments)	2012	2015
UMC	uniform mechanical code (with Houston amendments)	2012	2015
UPC	uniform plumbing code (with Houston amendments)	2012	2015
NEC	national electrical code (state mandated)	2017	2020
IEBC	international existing building code (with Houston amendments)	2012 IBC Ch. 34	2015
ISPSC	international swimming pool and spa code (state mandated)	health code	2018
LSB	Houston fire department life safety bureau	REV 04	REV 05

FIRE CODE

2015 International Fire Code 101.3

the purpose of this code is to establish the minimum requirements consistent with nationally recognized good practice for providing a reasonable level of life safety and property protection from the hazards of fire, explosion or dangerous conditions in new and existing buildings, structures and premises, and to provide a reasonable level of safety to fire fighters and emergency responders during emergency operations.



RECOMMENDATION

Houston Public Works and the Houston Fire Department recommend the adoption of an ordinance to update the current Houston Construction Code & Fire Code from the adopted 2012 edition to the 2015 editions, and other proposed changes, that continue to set the minimum standards of building regulations to safeguard the public safety, health and general welfare through affordability, energy conservation, structural strength and stability, and safety to life and property from fire and other hazards in the built environment.

PROJECTED SCHEDULE

request for council action September 2021

new code effective day January 2022

thank you!



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