

# 2018 IBC Summary of Changes

Chapter 2: Definitions			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
1	202	202	<b>Definitions</b> New definitions include “Greenhouse” and “Repair Garage” The definition for “Sleeping unit has been clarified while “Ambulatory care facility” and “Clinic, outpatient” have been relocated to chapter 2 with all definitions. 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.
Chapter 3: Use and Occupancy			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
2	302.1 Clarifications	302.1	<b>Classification of Outdoor Areas</b> It has been clarified that occupied roofs are to be assigned one or more occupancy classification in a manner consistent with the classification of uses inside the building, based upon the fire and life safety hazard posed by the rooftop activities.
3	310.4.2 Modification	310.4.2	<b>Owner-Occupied Lodging Houses</b> The criteria permitting compliance with the IRC for the design and construction of owner-occupied lodging houses has been expanded by now also requiring the the total number of lodging house occupants be limited to 10.
4	311.1.1 Modifications	311.1.1	<b>Classification of Accessory Storage</b> 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.
Chapter 4: Special Requirements for Use and Occupancy			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
5	407.5 Modification	407.5	<b>Maximum Smoke Compartment Size</b> 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.
6	407.5.4 Modification	407.5.4	<b>Required Egress from Smoke Compartments</b> 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.
7	420.7 Modification	420.7	<b>Corridor Protection in Assisted Living Units</b> Shared living spaces, group meeting spaces and multipurpose therapeutic spaces are now permitted to be open to fire-rated corridors in I-1 assisted living housing facilities provided specific conditions are met.

**Chapter 4: Special Requirements for Use and Occupancy Cont.**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
8	427 Addition		<b>Medical Gas Systems</b>	In order to provide a more comprehensive and efficient compilation of construction regulation, those IFC medical gas system requirements related directly to building construction have now been replicated in the IBC.
9	428 Addition		<b>Higher Education Laboratories</b>	Higher education laboratories using hazardous materials can now be considered Group B occupancies provided sub laboratories comply with the new Section 428 which provides an alternative approach to the existing control area provisions.

**Chapter 5: Height and Areas**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
10	503.1, 706.1 Modification	503.1, 706.1	<b>Scope of Fire Wall Use</b>	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.
11	503.1.4 Addition		<b>Allowable Height and Area of Occupied Roofs.</b>	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.

**Chapter 6: Type of Construction**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
12	Table 601, Note b Modification	Table 601, Note b	<b>Fire Protection of Structural Roof Members</b>	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. Footnote B-Except in Group F-1, H, M, and S-1 occupancies, fire protection of structural members in roof construction shall not be required, including protection of primary structural frame members, roof framing and decking where every part of the roof construction is 20 feet or more above any floor immediately below.

**Chapter 7: Fire and Smoke Protection Features**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
13	704.2, 704.1 Modification	704.2, 704.4.1	<b>Column Protection in Light-Framed Construction</b>	In walls of light-frame construction where primary structural frame members require fire-restive protection, columns extending only between the bottom and top plates do not need to be provided with individual encasement protection.

**Chapter 7: Fire and Smoke Protection Features Cont.**

Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
14	706.1.1 Modification	7061.1 <b>Party Walls Not Constructed as Fire Walls</b>	New Exception #2- 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.
15	713.8.1 Modification	713.8.1 <b>Membrane Penetration of Shaft Enclosures</b>	Membrane penetrations not related to the purpose of a shaft enclosure are no longer prohibited from penetrating the outside of the enclosure.
16	716.2.6.5 Addition	<b>Delayed-Action Self-Closing Doors</b>	Self-closing doors that are not also required to be automatic-closing are not permitted to be equipped with delayed-action closers.
<b>Chapter 8: Interior Finishes</b>			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
17	803.11, 803.12, Addition	<b>Flame Spread Testing of Laminates and Veneers</b>	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 veneer applied over a wood substrate on site.
<b>Chapter 9: Fire Protection Systems</b>			
Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
2018	2015		
18	902.8 Addition	<b>Fire Pump and Fire Sprinkler Riser Rooms</b>	A number of prescriptive requirements have been added regulating the design and construction of automatic sprinkler system riser rooms and fire pump rooms. Access/Marking on access door/Environment/Lighting.
19	903.2.1 Clarification	9.3.2.1 <b>Sprinkler Requirements in Group A Occupancies</b>	The extent to which automatic sprinkler system are required in multi-story Group A occupancies has been clarified. Each A occupancy now specifically indicates the portions of the buildings required to be sprinklered.
20	903.2.3 Modification	903.2.3 <b>Sprinklers in Group E Occupancies</b>	Criteria for occupant load threshold and location within the building have been added as conditions that could require sprinkler protections in an Group E education occupancy.
21	903.3.1.2.1 Modification	903.3.1.2.1 <b>Sprinkler Protection at Balconies and Decks</b>	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.
22	903.3.1.2.3 Addition	<b>Protection for Attics in Group R Occupancies</b>	Sprinkler protection or acceptable alternative methods for protection of attics are now addressed for mid-rise building housing multi-family occupancies and equipped with an NFPA13R sprinkler system.

**Chapter 9: Fire Protection Systems Cont.**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
23	907.2.10 Deletion	907.2.10	<b>Group R-4 Fire Alarm Systems</b>	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		
24	1004.8, T1004.5 Modification	1004.8, Table 1004.5	<b>Occupant Load Calculation in Business Use Areas</b>	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 assigned to concentrated business areas such as telephone call centers and similar uses. Business OLF 150 gross (formerly 100) Concentrated OLF 50 gross, call centers.
25	1008.2.3 Clarification	1008.2.3	<b>Illumination of the Exit Discharge</b>	Illumination shall be provided along the path of travel from the exit discharge from the exit to the public way.
26	1010.1.4.4 Addition		<b>Locking Arrangements in Educational Occupancies</b>	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.
27	1010.1.9.8 Modification	1010.1.9.8	<b>Use of Delayed Egress Locking Systems in Group E Classrooms and Courtrooms</b>	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.
28	1010.3.2 Addition		<b>Security Access Turnstiles</b>	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.
29	1013.2 Modification	1013.2	<b>Floor Level Exit Sign Location</b>	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.
30	1023.3.1 Modification	1023.3.1	<b>Stairway Extensions</b>	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.
31	1030.1 Clarification	1030.1	<b>Required Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings</b>	The occupancies where emergency openings are required have been clarified and the minimum number of required openings in a residence has been revised.

**Chapter 11: Accessibility**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
32	1109.2.1.2 Modification	1109.2.1.2	<b>Fixtures in Family or Assisted-Use Toilet Rooms</b>	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 15: Roof Assemblies and Rooftop Structures**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
33	1507.1 Clarification	1507.1	<b>Underlayment/ Ice Barriers</b>	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.
34	1507.18 Addition		<b>Building-Intergrated Photovoltaic Roof Panels</b>	Building-integrated photovoltaic panel systems have specific requirements as a roof-covering material in the IBC.

**Chapter 16: Structural Design**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
35	1603.1 Modification	1603.1	<b>Construction Documents</b>	The construction document requirements for environmental and special loads have been updated for rain, snow and wind forces and their components.
36	Table 1607.1 Modification	Table 1607.1	<b>Deck Live Load</b>	Table 1607.1 is now consistent with the provisions in the 2010 and 2016 editions of the ASCE 7 for minimum uniformly distributed live loads on decks and balconies by increasing the deck live load to 1.5 times the live load, not to exceed 100, of the area served. (2015 IBC-same as occupant served)
37	1607.15.2 Addition		<b>Minimum Fire Load</b>	The minimum lateral load that fire walls are required to resist has been established at 5 pounds per square foot.
38	1609 Modification	1609	<b>Wind Loads</b>	Section 1609 now has updated wind speed maps. Terminology for describing wind speeds has been changed again with ultimate design wind speeds now called basic design wind speeds.
39	1613 Modification	1613	<b>Seismic Loads</b>	Section 1613 the site coefficients contained in the IBC have been brought into alignment with the newest generation of ground motion attenuation equations. Table 1613.2.3(1) and Table 1613.2.3(2) have been updated.

Chapter 17: Special Inspections				
	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
40	1704.6 Modification	1704.6	<b>Structural Observation</b>	Section 1704.6.1 has been added requiring structural observation of buildings that are considered a high-rise or assigned to Risk Category IV.
41	1705.2.2 Modification	1705.2.2	<b>Meta-plate-connected Wood Trusses</b>	Five-foot tall wood trusses requiring permanent bracing now requires a periodic special inspection to verify that the required bracing has been installed.
42	1705.12.6 Item 6 Addition		<b>Designated Seismic Systems/ Fire Sprinklers</b>	Section 1705.12.6 adds a provision for special inspection 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		
43	1807.2 Modification	1807.2	<b>Retaining Walls</b>	The requirement for consideration of a keyway in the sliding analysis of retaining walls has been deleted from Section 1807.2.1.
Chapter 23: Wood				
	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
44	2303.6 Modification	2303.6	<b>Nails and Staples</b>	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.
45	Table 2304.9.3.2 Addition		<b>Mechanically Laminated Decking</b>	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.
46	Table 2304.10.1 Modification	Table 2304.10.1	<b>Ring Shank Nails</b>	The 2018 IBC and IRC are now aligned by requiring an 8-penny common or ring shank nails when nailing 6:12 on center for roofing.
Chapter 29: Plumbing Fixtures				
	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
47	Table 2902.1	Table 2902.1	<b>Min Number of Required Plumbing Fixtures</b>	The table has been reformatted and no longer includes occupancy classifications.

**Chapter 29: Plumbing Fixtures Cont.**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
48	Table 2902.2 Addition	Table 2902.2	<b>Footnote F</b>	Foot note F has been added to the table. The required number and type of plumbing fixtures for outdoor swimming pools shall be in accordance with Section 609 of the International Pool and Spa Code.
49	2902.2 Addition	2902	<b>Separate Facilities</b>	Exception #4 added -Separate facilities shall not be required in business occupancies in which the maximum occupant load is 25 or fewer. This would only apply to B occupancies.

**Chapter 30: Elevators and Conveying Systems**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
50	3001.2 Addition		<b>Emergency Elevator Communication Systems</b>	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.
51	3006.2.1 Addition		<b>Rated Corridors</b>	Where corridors are required to be fire-resistance rated in accordance with Section 1020.0, elevator hoistway openings shall be protected in accordance with Section 3006.3.

**Chapter 31: Special Construction**

	Code Section		Section Title	Description of Change
	2018	2015		
52	3111.1 Addition		<b>Solar Energy Systems</b>	Solar Energy System section has been extensively added to address many code and life safety issues.
53	3113 Addition		<b>Relocatable Building</b>	A process of acceptance for relocatable modular building 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		
54	3314 Addition		<b>Fire Watch During Construction</b>	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.