ICC Model CODE DEVELOPMENT – 2021 EDITIONS

NMHC/NAA are actively involved in the development of model building codes and standards to ensure that the unique needs of multifamily construction are considered and that proposed changes to codes and standards do not unnecessarily undermine the affordability and availability of housing.

While there are a number of building code and standard-setting organizations, the most widely-used set of codes and standards is developed by the International Code Council (ICC). The ICC family of codes and standards provide minimum requirements for all facets of multifamily construction, including structural and mechanical systems, energy efficiency, plumbing, fire safety, accessibility and sustainability, and often serve as the basis for code requirements adopted at the state and local levels.

The ICC national model codes are updated every three years according to a detailed development process and timeline. While the process is open to the public and allows for participation by interested stakeholders, final approval of new code editions is made by government code and safety officials.

ICC CODES DEVELOPMENT PROCESS

The ICC produces 16 model codes known as the I-Codes. The most recent edition - the 2018 I-Codes - were published in 2017 (except for the 2018 International Green Construction Code which are expected to be published in 2018).

The ICC is now developing the 2021 I-Codes, which are divided into two groups - Groups A and B. Changes to each group are considered on a staggered basis and include these key elements:

- *Code Change Review.* At the beginning of each code cycle, the ICC publishes all proposals for public review. During this period, NMHC/NAA analyze the proposals and identify those having repercussions for multifamily properties. Throughout the process, we advocate for codes and standards that are technologically feasible, cost-effective and reflect the needs of the apartment industry.

- *Code Development Hearings.* Approximately two months after code change proposals are published, the ICC holds public code development hearings where interested parties testify before the Code Development Committees (CDC) in support of or in opposition to a proposed change. NMHC/NAA routinely testify at these hearings to ensure that the code committees understand the issues important to the apartment industry. After testimony is complete, the committee recommends accepting or denying a code change proposal.

- *Report and Public Comment.* The ICC publishes the hearing results shortly after completion. The public is then invited to submit comments on the CDC decisions, which can include objections to the hearing results. NMHC/NAA review the hearing results and comment as necessary.

- *Final Action Hearing and Publication.* Roughly eight months after code change proposals are released, the ICC holds another round of public hearings, allowing interested parties to offer testimony on the public comments and CDC recommendations. After testimony is completed, designated ICC voting members (largely code officials) vote for or against code change proposals. The ICC then incorporates all approved proposals into the next editions of the I-Codes.

- *State and Local Adoption.* The revised codes are not in effect until adopted by a state or local jurisdiction. Advocacy on behalf of the apartment sector at the state and local level can help policymakers understand the code changes and make recommendations for amendment or non-adoption of model code provisions.

Group A Codes and Timeline

Group A includes the following codes:

- International Building Code (IBC) – Egress, Fire Safety, General Portions
- International Fire Code (IFC)
- International Fuel Gas Code (IFGC)
- International Mechanical Code (IMC)
- International Plumbing Code (IPC)
- International Private Sewage Disposal Code (IPSDC)
- International Residential Code (IRC) – Mechanical, Plumbing
- International Swimming Pool and Spa Code (ISPSC)
- International Zoning Code (IZC)
- International Property Maintenance Code (IPMC)
- International Wildland-Urban Interface Code (IWUIC)

Group A Development Schedule:

- ➤ **February 2018**: Proposed code changes are released.
- ➤ **April 2018:** Initial Committee Action Hearings held.
- ➤ **October 2018:** Code proposals are finalized at Public Comment Hearings.
- ➤ **November 2018:** ICC voting members finalize 2021 Group A codes.
- ➤ **Mid- to Late 2020:** Expected publication of 2021 I-Codes.

Group B Codes and Timeline

Group B includes the following codes:

- Administrative provisions for all I-Codes
- International Building Code (IBC) – Structural
- International Existing Building Code (IEBC)
- International Energy Conservation Code – IECC (Commercial and Residential)
- International Residential Code – Building (IRC-B)

Group B Development Schedule:

- ➢ **March 2019**: Proposed code changes are released.
- ➢ **April 2019:** Initial Committee Action Hearings held.
- ➢ **October 2019:** Code proposals are finalized at Public Comment Hearings.
- ➢ **November 2019:** ICC voting members finalize 2021 Group A codes.
- ➢ **Mid- to Late 2020:** Expected publication of 2021 I-Codes.