

2012 I-Codes: Summary of Changes to Flood Provisions

The following summarize the changes to the 2009 I-Codes that will appear in the 2012 editions.

International Building Code

1. 104.10.1. Add limitation that the building official shall not grant modifications to any provision required in flood hazard areas as established by Section 1612.2 unless a specific determination has been made (equivalent to variance provisions).
2. 110.3.10.1. Add requirement that documentation of the elevation of the lowest floor required in Section 1612.5 be submitted prior to the final inspection.
3. 801.5. Require interior finishes below the lowest floor elevation specified in Section 1612 (rather than below the DFE) to be flood damage-resistant materials.
4. 1403.5. Require exterior walls below the lowest floor elevation specified in Section 1612 (rather than below the DFE) to be flood damage-resistant materials.
5. 1612.5(2.3). Modified the phrasing to use correct terminology so that breakaway wall resistance of more than 20 psf is determined using allowable stress design.
6. 3403.2 [existing buildings, additions]. In second paragraph, delete “or substantial damage”.
7. 3404.2 [existing buildings, alterations]. In second paragraph, delete “or substantial damage”.
8. 3405.5 [existing buildings, repairs]. In second paragraph, change to “repair of substantial damage”.

International Residential Code

9. General: Everywhere, replace “areas prone to flooding” with “flood hazard areas.”
10. R109.1.6.1. Add requirement that documentation of the elevation of the lowest floor required in Section R322.1.10 be submitted prior to final inspection.
11. R301.2.4 and R322.1. Move the sentence in the exception into the body of the provisions.
12. R301.2.4.1 and R322.1.1. Modified to allow use of ASCE 24 within Coastal A Zones, if delineated.
13. R322.3.2. Delete reference to mat and raft foundations and, in R322.3.3, specify limitations on spread footing, mat, raft or other foundations that support columns, which if permitted, must be designed in accordance with ASCE 24.
14. R322.3.3. Add requirement that the space below elevated homes must be free of obstructions.
15. R404.1.9.5. New subsection on isolated masonry piers, specifies that in flood hazard areas such piers shall be designed in accordance with Section R322.

International Mechanical, Plumbing, and Fuel Gas Codes

16. IMC 301.13. Require mechanical systems, equipment and appliances to be located above the lowest floor elevation specified in Section 1612 (rather than above the DFE), to be consistent with the freeboard requirements in ASCE 24, or meet the performance requirement if located below that elevation.
17. IMC 401.4. Require air intake openings to be above the lowest floor elevation specified in Section 1612 (rather than above the DFE), to be consistent with the freeboard requirements in ASCE 24.
18. IMC 501.2.1. Require exhaust outlets to be above the lowest floor elevation specified in Section 1612 (rather than above the DFE), to be consistent with the freeboard requirements in ASCE 24.
19. IMC 602.4. Same as IMC 301.13 for plenum spaces.
20. IMC 603.13. Same as IMC 301.13 for ducts.
21. IMC 1305.2.1. Same as IMC 301.13 for fuel pipe, equipment and appliances.
22. IPC 309.2. Require plumbing systems and equipment to be located above the lowest floor elevation specified in Section 1612 (rather than above the DFE), to be consistent with the freeboard requirements in ASCE 24, or meet the performance requirement if located below that elevation.
23. IFGC 301.11. Require fuel gas appliances, equipment and system installations to be located above the lowest floor elevation specified in Section 1612 (rather than above the DFE), to be consistent with the freeboard requirements in ASCE 24, or meet the performance requirement if located below that elevation.