



Voting Recommendations on Proposed International Code Changes

NAHB is urging its members to schedule meetings with your state and local building code officials to discuss and gain support of our positions on the following significant code change proposals.

The final disposition of any public comments submitted regarding these proposed code changes will take place during the ICC Public Comment Hearings to be held Oct. 19–25, 2016 in Kansas City, MO and during the final Online Governmental Consensus Voting Period which will take place approximately Nov. 8–21, 2016.

RB129-16 – Moves Fire Sprinkler Mandate to Appendix – *This proposed code change will modify Section R313 of the International Residential Code by moving the residential fire sprinkler requirements for one- and two- family dwellings and townhouses to a new optional appendix and thus fire sprinklers will not be required in houses or townhomes unless the Appendix is adopted at the state or local level. **Vote to “Approve As Submitted”***

ADM94-16 – Referenced Standards Update – *This proposed code change updates the publication date of existing referenced standards. The proposal includes an update to ASCE 7-16, the minimum design load standard for buildings, which will significantly increase the cost of construction in some regions of the country. Of particular concern are higher roof wind pressures which may limit roof covering options in high wind regions. NAHB’s Public Comment #13 keeps the current reference to ASCE 7-2010. **Vote to “Approve as Modified by Public Comment # 13”***

2018 Energy Code (IECC)

- **ADM42-16, Parts I & II – IECC Intent - Onsite Energy Generation** – *This proposed code change modifies the intent of the IECC to clarify that onsite energy generation should be included as part of the energy code. **Vote both parts to “Approve as Submitted”***
- **ADM45-16, Parts I & II – IECC Intent** – *This proposed code change modifies the intent of the IECC by removing the undefined phrase "over the life of the building". **Vote both parts to “Approve as Submitted”***
- **ADM46-16, Parts I & II – Above Code Programs** – *This proposed code change modifies the “Above Code Program” section of the energy code by removing the need for all*

“Mandatory” items to be met in addition to what already is already required by the above code program.

Vote both parts to “Approve as Submitted”

- **RE15-16 – Sampling & Zone Air Tightness Testing**– *This proposed code change adds a section to allow sampling and zone building tightness testing for multifamily buildings.*
Vote to “Approve as Modified”
- **RE58-16 – Building Air Tightness Trade-Off** – *This proposed code change allows performance trade-off options for building tightness.*
Vote to “Approve as Submitted”
- **RE79-16 – Encapsulation of Rim Joist Insulation** – *This proposed code change modifies the Air Barrier Table by adding a restrictive requirement to fully encapsulate floor rim joist insulation.* **Vote to “Disapprove”**
- **RE92-16 & CE115-16, Part II – Conditioning of Fuel Burning Appliance Rooms**– *These proposed code changes remove the requirement to insulate and seal rooms containing fuel burning appliances.* **Vote both proposals to “Approve as Submitted”**
- **RE100-16 – Air Ducts Buried in Attic Insulation** – *This change provides performance credit for ducts in conditioned space if the ducts are tested to be very tight and are covered with a full complement of attic insulation.* **Vote to “Approved as Modified”**
- **RE123-16– Heat Recovery Ventilators (HRV)** – *This proposed code change will require HRVs to be installed in all dwelling units for climate zones 6-8.* **Vote to “Disapprove”**
- **RE134-16 – Mechanical Equipment Trade-Offs** – *This proposed code change reinstates the mechanical equipment trade-off option, but incorporates a reduction of no less than 15% of the thermal envelope UA.* **Vote to “Approve as Modified”**
- **RE156-16 – Building Envelope Requirements Using Energy Rating Index (ERI)** – *This proposed code change increases trade-off flexibility by modifying the minimum ERI building envelope requirement from the current backstop of the 2009 IECC to no less than a 15% reduction of the thermal envelope UA.* **Vote to “Approve as Modified”**
- **RE173-16 – Energy Rating Index Scores** – *This proposed code change increases the ERI values to be closer to the prescriptive stringency than what was approved during the 2015 code cycle.* **Vote to “Approve as Submitted”**
- **RE179-16 – Additional Mandatory Energy Efficiency Requirements** – *This proposed code change requires additional efficiency through a points based compliance process. The new multi-page table assigns points for various additional energy efficiency measures that need to be installed.* **Vote to “Disapprove”**

- **CE105-16 – Building Air Tightness** – *This proposed code change mandates building tightness testing for certain sized buildings in specific climate zones. This will include nearly all mid- and high-rise multifamily construction. **Vote to “Disapprove”***
- **CE218-16 – Metering and Monitoring of Buildings** – *This proposed code change adds new requirements for metering and monitoring multiple end use loads for both gas and electric. **Vote to “Disapprove”***
- **CE272-16, Parts I & II – New Multifamily Chapter** – *This proposed code change attempts to combine all multifamily energy requirements, regardless of height, into a new commercial energy chapter. **Vote to “Disapprove”***

2018 Residential Code (IRC)

- **RB17-16 – Seismic Design Categories** – *This proposed code change updates the seismic design maps in Section R301.2 to be consistent with those in ASCE 7-16. The new maps move portions of New Hampshire, Tennessee, and South Carolina into higher seismic design categories. **Vote to “Approve as Modified by Public Comment #1”***
- **RB19-16 – Ground Snow Loads** – *This proposed code change modifies Figure R301.2 (5) by replacing the contour lines and case study areas from states in the Northwest with references to new tables by county in ASCE 7-16. Deferring to ASCE 7 for obtaining loads violates the “one book” philosophy of the IRC. Also, a new study done for Colorado significantly increases ground snow loads for the major population centers (e.g. Denver) in the eastern portion of the state. **Vote to “Disapprove”***
- **RB20-16 – Wind Loads** – *This proposed code change updates Table R301.2 (2) based on new roof pressure coefficients in ASCE 7-16. Roofing costs in high-wind regions would increase significantly and material options would be limited. A new wind map reduces wind speeds in the West, but a fully coordinated revision of wind-related provisions to take advantage of the reductions has not been completed. **Vote to “Disapprove”***
- **RB26-16, RB27-16 & RB190-16 – Balconies and Decks** – *These proposed code changes increase the live load for decks and balconies in Table R301.5 from 40 psf to 60 psf. The change would conflict with existing requirements in Section R507, industry guidance local details, and proposed code changes based on the traditional 40 psf requirement. The WABO/City of Seattle public comment does not fix all of the conflicts.
Vote to “Disapprove” all three proposals*
- **RB51-16 – Prohibition of Stacked Dwelling Units** – *This proposed code change will prohibit two-family dwellings from being built in a stacked configuration.
Vote to “Disapprove”*

- **RB52-16 – Duplexes Divided by Property Line** – *This proposed code change will require duplexes that are divided by a lot line to be separated by two independent 1-hour fire-resistance rated walls and will prohibit the use of a two-hour fire-resistance rated common wall. The public comment clarifies that a single 1-hour fire-resistant separation is required whether or not a lot line is present. **Vote to “Approve as Modified by Public Comment #1”***
- **RB69-16 – Underfloor Protection of Dimensional Floor Joists** – *This proposed code change will remove the current exception which allows dimensional lumber used in floor assemblies to be installed without fire protection. The public comment modifies the proposal by adding fire performance criteria for flooring systems based on ASTM E119 fire endurance testing with a loading factor of 100%. **Vote to “Disapprove”***
- **RB160-16 & RB161-16 – Flood Resistant Construction** – *These proposed code changes add new Zone V requirements for exterior slabs (e.g. parking pads, sidewalks), stairs and ramps. Slabs must be constructed to break up under flood conditions or designed to resist flood loads, erosion and scour. Stairs and ramps must be designed to resist flood loads or to break away without damaging the dwelling.
Vote both to “Approve as Modified by Public Comment #2 (RB160-16) and Public Comment #1 (RB161-16)”*
- **RB266-16 – Interior Vapor Retarders** – *This proposed code change revises vapor retarder provisions to separate Class I, II and III requirements and clarifies where Class I and Class II vapor retarders are permitted. As modified at the Committee Action Hearings, Latex paint is permitted to be a Class II vapor retarder if tested and specified as such by the paint manufacturer. Public Comment #1 removes an inappropriate limitation on Class II vapor retarders in hot-humid climates. **Vote to “Approve as Modified by Public Comment #1”***
- **RB295-16 – Lath and Plaster (Stucco)** – *This proposed code change revises requirements for exterior lath and plaster (stucco) to correlate with ASTM C 926 and C 1063 and recommended best practices. The proposal addresses installation issues observed in Pennsylvania and Florida. The committee modification inadvertently eliminated existing code-compliant wall assemblies that are not experiencing field issues.
Vote to “Approve As Submitted”*

2018 IBC – (Structural)

- **S23-16 – Hail-Resistant Roofing** – *This proposed code change requires roof coverings in areas at risk of moderate and severe hail to be tested to UL 2218. No industry consensus exists on identifying high-risk areas, and the existing steel ball drop tests are overly conservative. In most states, the cost increase for the roofing is not offset by significant insurance discounts. **Vote to “Disapprove”***
- **S105-16 – Wind Loads** – *This proposed code change adds a new exception limiting component and cladding roof pressures to 130% of ASCE 7-10 values. The exception*

mitigates the impact of increased roof pressure coefficients in ASCE 7-16 that will significantly increase roofing costs and limit product options in high-wind areas.

Vote to “Approve as Submitted”

- **S137-16 – Expands Special Inspection Requirements for Wood Construction** – *This proposed code change adds new requirements for special inspection of wood framing, including grade stamps, framing size and layout, and sheathing thickness and nailing for buildings over three stories. **Vote to “Disapprove”***
- **S138-16 – Expands Special Inspection Requirements for Wood Trusses** – *This proposed code change adds new special inspection requirements for the permanent truss bracing for all trusses over 60 inches in height. **Vote to “Approve as Modified by NAHB’s Public Comment #1” or “Disapprove”***

2018 Fire Code (IFC)

- **F37-16 – Fire Access Roads** – *This proposed code change will require a minimum of two (2) fire apparatus access roads for all buildings of combustible construction which are 4 or more stories in height. **Vote to “Disapprove”***
- **F172-16 – Multifamily Buildings Attic Height Restrictions/Fire Sprinklers**
*This proposal adds section 903.3.1.2.3 Attics, which requires a sprinkler system in the attic, if the roof assembly is located more than 55 feet above the lowest level of the fire department vehicle access. **Vote to “Approve as Modified by Public Comment #3” or “Disapprove”***
- **F332-16 – Protection of Smoke Detectors/Alarms during Remodeling** – *This proposed code change will require smoke detectors and alarms to be covered in an area where airborne construction dust is expected and an approved fire watch will be required for the duration that they are covered. **Vote to “Approve as Modified” or “Disapprove”***