

## **2018 I-Codes: Summary of Changes to Flood Provisions**

The following summarize the changes to the flood provisions of the 2015 I-Codes that appear in the 2018 edition.

### **International Building Code**

1. Sec. 202 Definitions. Removed from the definitions “existing building” and “existing structure” the references to effective date of community’s first floodplain management code, ordinance or standard. Thus, the Substantial Improvement/Substantial Damage determinations are made for buildings that meet the I-Code definition: “A building (or structure) erected prior to the date of adoption of the appropriate code, or one for which a legal building permit has been issued.”
2. Sec. 2702.1.8 [Electrical] Group I-2 Occupancies. Changed to require location and installation of new essential electrical systems and new essential electrical system generators in accordance with ASCE 24 and to specify connections for hook up of temporary generators, where provided, must be at or above the elevation required in ASCE 24.
3. G103.8 Records. Expands list of documentation to be retained permanently to include certifications and documentations required by Appendix G and design certifications and documentation of elevation required by the IBC and IRC.

### **International Residential Code**

1. R322.3.4 Concrete slabs (in Zone V and Coastal A Zone). Moved specifications for slabs from R322.3.3 to a separate subsection and clarified slabs used for parking, floors of enclosures, landings, decks, walkways, patios and similar uses that are beneath buildings or located such that they could be undermined or displaced and could cause damage must either be (1) structurally independent of foundations (and no more than 4 inches thick, no turn-downed edges, no reinforcing, and have isolation joints at pilings and columns and control or construction joints in both directions no more than 4 feet apart) or (2) self-supporting, remain intact under base flood conditions, taking into account scour and erosion, and building foundations capable of resisting any added loads due to the presence of the slabs.
2. R322.2.7 Stairways and ramps (in Zone V and Coastal A Zone). New section. Four options are available for stairs and ramps located below the lowest floor elevation: (1) open or partially open risers and guards; (2) breakaway; (3) retractable; or (4) designed to resist flood loads. In all cases, the area below stairs and ramps must not be enclosed with walls unless the walls are designed to break away.
3. R322.2.8 Decks and porches (in Zone V and Coastal A Zone). New section. Attached decks and porches must meet lowest floor elevation requirement and either have compliant foundations or be cantilevered from or knee-braced to the building. Self-supporting decks and porches must be designed to remain in place or breakaway, and may be below the BFE if not enclosed by solid walls (including breakaway walls).

### **International Existing Building Code**

1. Sec. 202 Definitions. See IBC for “existing building” and “existing structure.”

### **International Mechanical, Plumbing, Fuel Gas Codes, Private Sewage Development, Fire**

1. International Fire Code, Sec. 1203.1.8 [Emergency and Standby Power Systems] Group I-2 Occupancies. See IBC Section 2702.1.8.