STRUCTURAL ENGINEERING SUMMIT

NCSEA
National Council of Structural Engineers Associations

GENERAL REQUIREMENTS COMMITTEE
ICC CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS OVERVIEW

ICC CODE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS
HOW IT WORKS

The International Code Council (ICC) develops the International Codes, a coordinated, modern set of building codes used in all 50 U.S. states and many other countries. Changes to the I-Codes are made through a transparent and inclusive consensus-based process that complies with the OMB Circular A-119. The ICC selects individuals to serve on various "Code Development Committees" (typically up to 13 or 14 individuals) that review, hear, and vote on all of the code change proposals that are presented for a specific Code Cycle (Note: the next upcoming Code Cycle is for the 2027 I-Codes). It is to these ICC Code Development Committees that Code Change Proposals (CCP's) are presented; discussed (the public can provide testimony in support or in opposition to a CCP); and defended by the proponent that submitted the CCP. Each CCP is then voted on by the Code Development Committee (see below).

CODE CHANGE SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

Anyone can submit code change proposals via ICC's cloud-based program, cdpACCESS™. ICC staff reviews each proposal and assigns them to the applicable Code Development Committee for hearings.

COMMITTEE ACTION HEARINGS (C.A.H.) #1

There are two Committee Action Hearings. The first being C.A.H. #1, where the Code Development Committees approve, approve with modifications, or disapprove each code change proposal. Participants can testify before the committee in support or in opposition of any proposed code change.

C.A.H. #1 COMMENT SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

The results of C.A.H. #1 are made available to the public (via the ICC website) for review and commenting. Anyone can submit public comments via cdpACCESS™ on the results of the C.A.H. #1.

COMMITTEE ACTION HEARINGS (C.A.H.) #2

The second C.A.H. #2 provides an additional opportunity for participants in the process to submit revisions to the original proposals, and for the committee to consider comments submitted online. At the second C.A.H. #2, Code Development Committees approve, approve with modifications or disapprove each code change proposal. Participants can testify before the committee in support or in opposition of any proposed code change.

C.A.H. #2 COMMENT SUBMISSION AND REVIEW

The results of C.A.H. #2 are made available to the public for review and public commenting through cdpAccess™.

PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING (P.C.H.)

At the P.C.H., participants discuss, and eligible voters vote on proposed changes for Group A and B codes. Eligible voters include regulators serving in a governmental unit, department or agency engaged in the administration, formulation, implementation or enforcement of laws, ordinances, rules or regulations relating to the public health, safety and welfare and honorary members.

ONLINE GOVERNMENTAL CONSENSUS VOTE

Following the P.C.H., eligible voters vote online on the individual changes discussed at the public comment hearing. The final vote count combines the in–person P.C.H. and online votes. The ICC Validation Committee reviews and the ICC Board confirms the final results.

NEW EDITION PUBLISHED

An updated edition of the International Codes is published every three years.

The Code Council also develops a number of standards, including mechanical, plumbing, structural, resilience, accessibility and green standards, and is accredited by the American National Standards Institute as a standards developer.

For 2024–2026 Code Cycle Schedule, click here.