

Significant Changes From The 2006 International Fire Code to 2012 International Fire Code

Overall The purpose for this report is to familiarize the development construction industry with the important changes related to construction design and installation. It is intended to assist those code users in identifying the specific code changes that have occurred, understanding the reason behind the change as well as a valuable resource for the jurisdiction in their code adoption process. The changes selected were identified for their special significance or change in application.

Chapter 4 Emergency Planning and Preparedness Established requirements for development of plans and training for lockdowns and enhanced fire evacuation drills.

Chapter 5 Fire Service Features No major changes.

Chapter 6 Building Services and Systems

- 1). New provision in 2012 IFC that enhances the testing requirements for emergency lighting (battery testing now in specification)
- 2). Added cleaning frequencies for Type I Hoods. Not a cost concern if owners are provided time to initiate the cleaning frequencies stated in the associated table.

Chapter 7 Fire-resistance-rated Construction The changes apply to the enhanced maintenance of the fire resistive construction and openings/enclosures and unsafe conditions in existing buildings. Imminent hazard classification can be determined by referencing Section 110.2 as well as Chapter 11 and Appendix I.

Chapter 8 Interior Finish, Decorative Materials and Furnishings Interior Finishes saw few changes with some new material recognitions and clarifications on testing.

Chapter 9 Fire Protection Systems

- 1). Increased sprinkler requirements for Day Surgery Centers/Group Ambulatory Healthcare Facilities.
- 2). Group M, F1 & S1 display and storage now have “upholstered” furniture triggering fire sprinkler protection.
- 3). Will now require carbon monoxide alarms in Group I and R occupancies which contain fuel burning appliances or attached garages.

Chapter 10 Means of Egress Several additions/changes seen in 2006 IFC and 2012 IFC, yet all correlate to the 2009 IBC and 2012 IBC.

Chapter 11 Construction Requirements for Existing Buildings This regulated chapter allows consolidation of many provisions affecting existing buildings into one chapter.

Chapters 20-36 Part IV Special Occupancies and Operations has some changes but do not appear to have a major impact.

Chapters 50 – 67 Part V Hazardous Materials has some changes but do not appear to have a major impact.