

Frequently Asked Questions

State Legislative Action to Adopt Residential Sprinkler Requirements

- ***Which states have adopted the 2009 IRC?***

To check the status of state adoptions of the *2009 International Residential Code*, you can visit our website: <http://www.iccsafe.org/gr/Pages/default.aspx> You should check this site frequently as many states are in the final process of adoption and this site is updated with new information on a quarterly basis.

- ***Which states that have adopted the 2009 IRC have retained the sprinkler requirements?***

ICC only tracks the adoption of its model codes. ICC promotes adoption of the latest editions of the model *I-Codes* as approved through our governmental consensus process. However, ICC respects the home-rule rights of states or other jurisdictions to make amendments to the model *I-Codes* to address their specific needs for safety in the built environment. We do not have the resources or staff to accurately report any and all fifty states' modifications to the model *I-Codes*.

- ***Why was the 2009 IRC approved by the ICC membership with a delayed effective date?***

During many previous code development cycles, proposals were debated to include mandatory requirements for residential fire sprinklers. Issues concerning contractor and inspector training and certification along with other administration concerns to implement these provisions were raised. The delayed effective date was considered the best way to allow building and fire inspectors the opportunity to receive training and certification to effectively administer these new requirements. It also provided a time period for the installation trades to gear-up through training, certification and other jurisdiction administration procedures, such as licensing, to implement the new requirements with minimal impact on construction.

- ***Have any states delayed the effective date for the implementation of the 2009 IRC Sprinkler requirements.***

Again, ICC only tracks the adoption and effective dates of its model codes and doesn't specifically monitor if a state or other jurisdiction enacts delayed effective dates for any *I-Code* requirements.

- ***If the sprinkler requirements are eliminated from the 2009 IRC, are other sections of the IRC that are affected?***

There has been no formal analysis by the ICC or any other impartial design professional (individual or organization) that has made an assessment of the overall safety impact that would result from removing the sprinkler requirements from the 2009 IRC

The 2009 IRC contains many new requirements that embrace new building materials, methods and best practices while maintaining an acceptable level of safety in the built environment. A list of those benefits is available from the ICC. The 2009 IRC was thoroughly vetted through

ICC's governmental consensus process with all interested organizations and individuals participating and governmental voting members determining the content of the 2009 IRC at the Final Action Hearings. If any state or jurisdiction is considering the removal of those requirements, the deciding agency (Building Code Review Board or State Legislature) should undertake the technical analysis to answer this question utilizing an impartial third-party before rendering a final decision.

- ***Why are the I-Codes revised and published every three years?***

The model codes produced by the International Code Council are a coordinated family of codes that are correlated to provide a societal accepted level of safety for both the building occupants and emergency first responders in our built environment. The *I-Codes* are developed through a governmental consensus process that is open and provides several opportunities for participation by all interested stakeholders. Each three-year update to the *I-Codes* considers a balance of new technology, innovative building materials and construction practices while balancing both cost and environmental impacts to the minimum acceptable level of safety in our built environment. This March, ICC released the Public Version of the new International Green Building Code (IgCC), which will integrate Sustainable Building Materials and Technology into the existing family of *I-Codes*.

The ICC website also provides an up to date ***Adoptions Tool kit*** with valuable information that may be of interest. You can access that Tool Kit at:

<http://www.iccsafe.org/gr/Pages/resources.aspx>

Other helpful information in the adoptions Tool kit:

ISO position on removal of the residential sprinkler requirements
FAQs - Residential Fire Sprinklers and the IRC

Released April 2010 - FM Global study on environmental impacts of residential fires in homes with sprinklers versus homes without fire sprinklers.

http://www.fmglobal.com/press_release/2010/Sprinklers_041310.html