CODE DEVELOPMENT

Construction technology, methods, materials, equipment and processes are constantly evolving. Accordingly, the International Code Council model codes (I-Codes) are systematically revised at periodic intervals to keep up with technical changes and to address the improved understanding of hazards. The I-Codes are revised and updated through an open process that invites participation by all stakeholders and affected parties. This code development process can involve exhaustive research, review, discussion and debate of the potential changes.

A code change begins with the submittal of a proposal to add, revise or delete a code provision. Any interested individual or group (other than ICC staff) may submit a code change proposal and participate in the proceedings in which it and all other proposals are considered. Proposed code changes are submitted online through the ICC cdpACCESS™ website (code development process access). Following the publication and distribution of the proposals, an open public hearing, the Committee Action Hearing (CAH), is held before a committee comprising representatives from across the construction industry and government, including code officials, contractors, builders, architects, engineers, industry professionals and others with expertise related to the applicable code or portion of the code under consideration. This open debate and broad participation before the committee reflects a consensus of the construction community and those impacted by building and fire codes in the decision-making process. The committee may approve, modify or disapprove the code change proposal.

If there is a successful motion from the floor regarding the committee's action, then the assembly floor motion will become available for online balloting after the Committee Action Hearing concludes. All members of ICC can participate in the Online Assembly Floor-Motion Votes. If the assembly floor motion receives a majority vote, then the motion becomes a Public Comment to be heard at the Public Comment Hearing. Once the first stage of online voting is completed, the results of the Committee Action Hearing and the subsequent online voting are compiled and become available as the Report of Committee Action Hearing (ROCAH). Following the availability of the ROCAH, anyone may submit a public comment proposing to modify or overturn the hearing results.

The next public hearing is the Public Comment Hearing, in which the merits of code change proposals that received public comment are debated. Though any interested party may offer testimony, only ICC Governmental Member Voting Representatives (designated public safety officials of a government jurisdiction responsible for administering and enforcing codes) and ICC Honorary Members are permitted to cast votes at the Public Comment Hearing. Public safety officials have no vested financial interest in the outcome, and they legitimately represent the public interest. Votes are cast electronically at the Public Comment Hearing, and the results are then made available online at cdpACCESS. In the Online Governmental Consensus Vote, again only the

ICC Governmental Member Voting Representatives and ICC Honorary Members are permitted to vote. The voting at the Public Comment Hearing and the Online Governmental Consensus Vote will determine the revisions to the next edition of the code.

A new edition of the code is published every three years. Each I-Code is developed during a single twelve-month cycle during the three-year period. There are three separate code change cycles within each three-year period, with individual codes assigned to one of the three cycles. This important process ensures that the International Codes reflect the latest technical advances and address the concerns of those throughout the industry in a fair and equitable manner (Figures 1-3 and 1-4).