

ICC Unveils Redesigned 2024 I-Codes

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Earlier this month, the [International Code Council](#) (ICC), an international standard-setting organization that emphasizes building safety, started releasing the 2024 editions of its International Codes ([I-Codes](#)), including its 2024 International Plumbing Code and 2024 International Zoning Code. By the first quarter of next year, the ICC will publish its entire slate of 2024 I-Codes, which will include an updated International Building Code, International Residential Code, and International Energy Conservation Code.

Altogether, the ICC's 2024 update revises more than a dozen I-Code standards and includes more than one thousand code changes, with a continued focus on energy efficiency. [New features this year](#) include embedded QR codes (for cross-referencing updates, revisions, and other code changes) and a near-field communication (NFC) pilot program (for linking code books and other physical documents with the ICC's web or app-based subscription services). In addition, beginning with the 2024–2026 code development cycle, which will culminate with the release of the 2027 edition of the I-Codes, the ICC and its committees approved several procedural changes, including expanding the development process to a single, continuous three-year cycle (instead of multiple one-year cycles) and adjustments to the Public Comment Hearing period.

Understanding how the I-Codes affect construction and building safety requirements is critical for anticipating legal challenges. The ICC, through its various committees, updates the I-Codes on three-year cycles—with state, municipal, and local adoption usually trailing several years behind. While the I-Codes themselves are not legally binding, eventually, most U.S. jurisdictions will either adopt them as written or with amendments. As a result, the I-Codes are a reliable tool not only for anticipating building, manufacturing, and safety requirements but also for gauging future regulatory enforcement activity.

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