



## Top Ten Proposed Code Changes to the 2015 ICC Codes

***NAHB is urging our members to get involved locally in the ICC code development process and schedule a meeting with your state and local building code official to discuss and gain support on the following 10 critical code change proposals. NAHB is calling on all members to take actions which will ensure only those code changes that are necessary, practical and cost-effective will be approved during the ICC Final Action Hearings to be held October 2-10, 2013 in Atlantic City, NJ.***

1. **RE166-13** - This code change proposal will reinstate the performance option in the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to reduce prescriptive energy code requirements by installing HVAC equipment with higher energy efficiency performance ratings than required by the code. **Requested Final Action: *Approve As Submitted***
2. **RE 109-13** - This code change proposal will reinstate the performance option in the IECC to reduce prescriptive energy code requirements by installing ducts with less air leakage than required by the code. **Requested Final Action: *Approve As Submitted***
3. **RE 72-13** - This code change proposal will allow builders to trade improvements in other building energy components for less stringent building envelope pressure test results. This proposed performance option provides flexibility in meeting the air tightness requirements and provides options for recovering from an unexpected air tightness test failure.  
**Requested Final Action: *Approve As Submitted***
4. **RE 170-13** - Currently the 2012 IECC provides no incentive in the performance path to optimize the window area in order to save energy and provide day lighting, egress and views that makes for a safe and comfortable house. This code change proposal will provide the building designer the ability to reduce window area and get credit for the energy saved.  
**Requested Final Action: *Approve As Submitted***
5. **RE 90-13** - The current 2012 IECC requires residential homes to have a leakage rate of 3 air changes per hour (3 ACH) in climate zones 3-8. The ASHRAE Handbook of Fundamentals shows that less than 10% of homes achieve 3 ACH or less. This code change proposal modifies the requirement from 3 ACH to 4 ACH, which is still an aggressive tightness level which will provide a tight, comfortable, energy efficient home for the consumer.  
**Requested Final Action: *Approve As Submitted***

6. **RE 132-13** - The amount of energy saved by insulating hot water pipes is very small- roughly \$3-\$7/yr for plastic piping based on a study by the Home Innovation Research Labs- results were also duplicated by NREL in a 2009 study. This proposal limits insulation requirements to ¾" or larger piping, underground or under slab piping, exterior piping, recirculation piping, and from the water heater to the distribution manifold.  
**Requested Final Action: *Approve As Submitted***
  
7. **RB179-13 Accessibility Requirements** - This proposal would require all one- and two-family dwellings and townhouse to meet the accessibility requirements of A117.1 for type C dwellings. If this proposal should be approved, all dwellings would have to be designed to allow individuals with disabilities to have the ability to enter the dwelling unassisted from the public way or driveway, have a zero clearance entrance into the dwelling or be provide with an elevator or lift, an accessible bathroom, bedroom and (if located on the accessible level) a kitchen with 40 inches of clear floor space at all counters.  
**Requested Final Action: *Disapprove***
  
8. **RB46-13 Wind Exposure Categories**—This code change proposal would change the default wind Exposure Category to Exposure C (flat, open terrain) versus the current Exposure B (urban and suburban, or wooded areas). If approved, this change could result in many dwellings being incorrectly classified as Exposure C, which would require as much as a 40% increase in design wind loads. **Requested Final Action: *Disapprove***
  
9. **ADM62-13 Automatic Code Standard Update-** In accordance with ICC policy, any currently referenced code or standard can be automatically updated. The problem with this proposal is a there are several standards that have been identified for an automatic update that have not completed their revision process. Some of the standards that are in the middle of the revision process are proposing significant changes, which cannot be addressed in the 2015 ICC code development cycle. **Requested Final Action: *Disapprove***
  
10. **RB127-13- Maximum 50 Foot travel Distance-** This proposal would require all single family homes or townhouses with multiple levels to have a stair or landing within 50 feet of any habitable portion of the dwelling. Currently, the code only requires a single set of stairs in all one and two family dwellings and townhouses. Depending on the size and configuration of the dwelling this could require additional stair or ramp. Requiring two or more stairs would significantly impact the design layout, add additional costs and reduce the available living space. **Requested Final Action: *Disapprove***

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