

**RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING**

BUILDING CODE COMMISSION

Title of Rule: RISBC-1 Rhode Island Building Code

Rule Identifier: 510-RICR-00-00-1

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: 02/08/2019

Hearing Date: 02/26/2019

End of Public Comment: 03/10/2019

Authority for this Rulemaking:

R.I. Gen. Laws § Chapter 23-27.3

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

RISBC-1 State Building Code sets forth the requirements for building structures in Rhode Island. Rhode Island Building Codes are amendments to the International Building Codes which we use as our model. The State Building Code Standards Committee has reviewed this regulation and proposes the following non-technical amendments as described below:

- All references to International Building Code (IBC) 2012, have been changed to the 2015 edition. Some IBC section numbers have been amended to conform to IBC 2015.
- Throughout the regulation: updated internal cross-references with new RICR citations and references to the 2019 version for all Parts in Title 510 being amended this year.
- § 1.2(A)(4) and (5) and (B) because this information is not regulatory content and could change. The dates of distribution of updated codes cannot be known in the drafting process so this information will be provided on the State Building Code Standards Committee's website. The date of adoption by the Legislative Regulation Committee will be recorded in the Concise Explanatory Statement.
- Chapter 4: Special Detailed Requirements – Section 403.6.1. The RI amendment is deleted as the model code inclusion makes the amendment no longer necessary. No Code Changes or additional requirements result.
- Added sections 406.4.9 + 406.4.10. Administrative / Enforcement. New provisions to support Electric Vehicle Charging Stations to ease future installation.

This article requires the installation of underground conduits in new construction to avoid later, more costly modifications.

- Chapter 7: Fire and Smoke Protection Features, section 717.5.3 Shaft Enclosures. RI Amendment Deleted. Rhode Island amendment was no longer required as changes to model code incorporated or rendered the prior amendment obsolete
- Chapter 9: Fire Protection Systems, added Section 915 Carbon Monoxide Detection. The RI code references the RI Fire Code requirement for specific Carbon Monoxide Detection. No new requirement is created this is inserted to provide a cross-reference to existing Fire Code Detection requirements only.
- Chapter 10: Means of Egress. Deleted an Informational "User Note" at the chapter heading to avoid confusion between the model code adoption process and the State of Rhode Island code promulgation process. No Code Changes or additional requirements result.
- Chapter 16: Structural Design, 1609.1.2 Protection of openings. RI Amendment Deleted. Prior amendments not modified. This deletion reflects the changes resulting from the Building Code Standard Committee's errata, issued on April 9, 2015. Results in No Code Modifications. The errata was issued to clarify conflicting references, the result of deleting maps and substituting table information from remaining stray cross-references in the model code language.
- Chapter 16: Section 1609.3 Basic Wind Speed. RI Amendment modified. Prior amendments not modified. This deletion reflects the changes resulting from the Building Code Standard Committee's errata, issued on April 9, 2015. Results in No Code Modifications. The errata was issued to clarify conflicting references, the result of deleting maps and substituting table information from remaining stray cross-references in the model code language.
- Chapter 16, Section 1608.1, Insert Table 1608.1. Table 1608.1 was developed as an alternate to illegible maps provided in the model code which determined design criteria at the 2004 changeover to ICC Model Codes. The tables provide clarity and reference each municipality.
- Chapter 16, Table 1608.1 Ground Snow Column. Modified +5 PSF Structural / Life Safety. Snow loads are modified to increase by 5 pounds in higher snowfall areas, to address damage to buildings. The increase is required based on field observation and roof issues encountered over recent years.
- Chapter 16, Figure 1609 (A), Insert New Figure (Wind-Borne Debris Coastal Region offset). This is a new figure developed to provide a graphic interpretation of preexisting limits of wind borne debris. This delineation is also intended to be available in the statewide planning GIS Database as a tool for designers. It was

developed as a usable reference for designers and for officials that allows for consistent interpretation.

- Chapter 21 Masonry, section 2106.1. Rhode Island amendment was withdrawn as changes to model code incorporated or rendered the prior amendment obsolete
- Chapter 29: Plumbing, Section P2902.2 Exceptions. Added exception for existing facilities that provide multiple or separate sex facilities to include fewer than 50 occupants. This exception provides relief from the requirement of constructing additional restrooms in limited occupancy facilities.
- Chapter 31: Special Construction, section 3112.1 Definition Fabric Structure Addition of BV Language. Prior amendments not modified. These alterations provide consistency with 2014 blanket variance BV 30, which will continue as adopted code.
- Chapter 34: Existing Structures, Retention of Article. The ICC Model Code actions recommended removing and transferring this article to an additional code (Existing Buildings Code IEBC 2015). The RI Building Code Standards Committee has elected to retain the existing article in its entirety as Chapter 34 within the RI Building Code. This Article provides for definable alternate performance standards allowing existing structures to remain in use, but to be repaired, altered, and renovated.

Additional Information and Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until March 10, 2019 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

Jeanne Enos
Building Code Commission
560 Jefferson Blvd.
Warwick, RI 0286
Jeanne.Enos@doa.ri.gov

Public Hearing:

A public hearing, in accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, to consider the proposed amendment shall be held on February 26, 2019 at 10:00 am at Public Utilities Commission (PUC), Conference Room A, 1st Floor, 89 Jefferson Blvd, Warwick, RI 02886 at which time and place all persons interested therein will be heard. The seating capacity of the room will be enforced and therefore the number of persons participating in the hearing may be limited at any given time by the hearing officer, in order to comply with safety and fire codes.

The place of the public hearing is accessible to individuals who are handicapped. If communication assistance (readers/interpreters/captioners) is needed, or any other

accommodation to ensure equal participation, please call 401-889-5487 or RI Relay 711 at least three (3) business days prior to the meeting so arrangements can be made to provide such assistance at no cost to the person requesting.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

Building codes have a significant impact on the state. The following economic analysis will explain the process of regulatory development and the potential impacts that these regulations will have on Rhode Islanders. The construction standards in the state building codes impacts include:

- Safety, health, livability, and environmental impacts related to increased protective requirements;
- Building quality and resiliency impacts related to higher-quality construction and energy savings requirements;
- Construction cost impacts related to the cost of construction and compliance with the state building code requirements; and,
- Procedural and administrative impacts related to the management and application of the code requirements.

In the development of the proposed amendment consideration was given to: (1) alternative approaches; (2) overlap or duplication with other statutory and regulatory provisions; and (3) significant economic impact on small business. No alternative approach, duplication, or overlap was identified based upon available information. The complete regulatory analysis can be found here: <http://www.ribcc.ri.gov/>

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation see agency contact person above.