

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

BUILDING CODE COMMISSION

Title of Rule: RISBC-8 State of Rhode Island Energy Conservation Code

Rule Identifier: 510-RICR-00-00-8

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: 04/09/2021

End of Public Comment: 05/10/2021

Authority for this Rulemaking:

R.I. Gen. Laws § Chapter 23-27.3

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

RISBC-8 Rhode Island Energy Conservation Code sets forth the standards for the optimal utilization of fossil fuel and nondepletable resources in Rhode Island. Rhode Island Building Codes are amendments of the International Building Codes which we use as our model. The Building Standards Committee modifies parts of the Codes to adhere to our State and the elements of our State. The State Building Code Standards Committee has reviewed this regulation and proposes the following non-technical amendments as described below:

- Numerous punctuation and grammatical changes have been made throughout that do not result in substantive changes to the regulation.
- All references to International Energy Conservation Code ("IEC") 2015, have been changed to the 2018 edition. Some IEC section numbers have been amended to conform to IEC 2018.
- Throughout the regulation: updated internal cross-references with new RICR citations and references to the 2021 version for all Parts in Title 510 being amended this year.
- Chapter 1[CE]: Administration: adds that the Provisions of the Rhode Island Swimming Pool and Spa Code SBC-14 (Part 14 of this Subchapter) shall apply whenever the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code is referenced.
- Chapter 2[CE] Definitions: Changes the definition of Residential Buildings as it applies to the SBC.
- Chapter 3[CE]: Climate Zones: deletes § C302.1 and C301.4

- Chapter 3[CE]: Climate Zones: makes amendments to Table C301.3(2)
- Chapter 4[CE]: Makes amendments to Tables
 - o C402.1.3 Opaque Thermal Envelope Requirements
 - o C402.1.4 Opaque Thermal Envelope Assemble Requirements, and
 - o C402.4 Building Envelope Requirements: Fenestration
- Chapter 4[CE]: Adds clarifying information pertaining to Table C402.1.4
- Chapter 4[CE]: Delete C403.2.4.5
- Chapter 4[CE]: Change numbering from C403.2.6.1 to C403.7.1
- Chapter 4[CE]: Change numbering from C403.2.9 to 403.11.1
- Chapter 4[CE]: Change numbering from Table C403.3.3.3 to C403.5.3.3
- Chapter 5[CE]: Change numbering to Chapter 6[CE]
- Chapter 5[CE]: Change 2012 ASHRAE HVAC Systems and Equipment to 2016 ASHRAE HVAC Systems and Equipment
- Chapter 1[RE]: Administration: adds that the Provisions of the Rhode Island Swimming Pool and Spa Code SBC-14 (Part 14 of this Subchapter) shall apply whenever the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code is referenced.
- Chapter 4[RE]: adds to several items to the R401.3 certificate
- Chapter 4[RE]: Makes amendments to table R402.1.2 Insulation and Fenestration Requirements by Component.
- Chapter 4[RE]: Deletes and substitutes Table R402.1.4 Equivalent U-Factors
- Chapter 4[RE]: Amends R402.4.1.2 by removing specified maximum air change rates per hour.
- Chapter 4[RE]: Deletes R402.3.3 Sealing (Mandatory)
- Chapter 4[RE]: Deletes R403.3.5 Building Cavities
- Chapter 5[RE]: Changes numbering to Chapter 6[RE]

- Chapter 5[RE]: Changes ASHRAE 2013 to 2017

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Additional Information and Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until May 10, 2021 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

John Dean
Building Code Commission
560 Jefferson Blvd
Suite 100
Warwick, RI 02886
john.dean@dbr.ri.gov

In accordance with R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.8, an oral hearing will be granted if requested by twenty-five (25) persons, by an agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within thirty (30) days of this notice.

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.