

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

BUILDING CODE COMMISSION

Title of Rule: RISBC-3 Rhode Island Plumbing Code

Rule Identifier: 510-RICR-00-00-3

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Amendment

Important Dates:

Date of Public Notice: June 26, 2025

End of Public Comment: July 26, 2025

Rulemaking Authority:

R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-27.3-100.1.5 and 23.27.3-109.1

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Building Code Standards Committee (BCSC) is proposing amendments to the Rhode Island Plumbing Code. The current version of the Plumbing Code adopted the International Code Council's (ICC) International Plumbing Code (IPC) 2018 edition. Currently, these amendments reflect the BCSC's proposed adoption of the 2021 edition of the IPC. The state specific amendments to the IPC 2021 model code are for consistency with the other building code regulations in RICR Title 510 and the Fire Safety Codes in RICR Title 450, compliance with RI statutes, and ensure that the model codes align with the needs of this state.

Additionally, all building code regulations being amended in this cycle have been edited for clarity and internal consistency of formatting and style, and to be easily read with the other building code regulations and the model codes that these regulations adopt. Formatting changes include: listing every model code chapter and stating whether each chapter is adopted, adopted with changes or deleted; leading the all changes with the model code section number for quick reference; and focusing on model code numbering to simplify citation and avoid confusion.

Summary of substantive changes:

§§ 3.1 and 3.2 – Updated and simplified the provisions in these sections.

Chapter 1 contains the administrative provisions of IPC 2021, which are amended for consistency with R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-27.3 and other RI building codes within Title 510 and the Rhode Island Fire Safety Codes in RICR Title 450.

Chapters 2, 4, 5, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, and 15 of IPC 2021 are adopted with no substantive changes. Edits to these chapters are for formatting, consistency, and accuracy. No changes to status quo.

Chapter 3 of IPC 2021 is adopted with amendments. The 3 existing state specific amendments currently in place for IPC 2018 are being retained as amendments to IPC 2021. No change to status quo.

Chapter 6 of IPC 2021 is adopted with amendments. Three of the 4 state specific amendments to IPC 2018 are being retained as amendments to IPC 2021.

However, the RI amendment to Table 608.18.1 [erroneously labeled 608.17.1 in the regulation] for IPC 2018 has been deleted. This change aligns the state's requirements for well locations with the model code resulting in decreased costs of construction because the model code's minimum distances from sources of contamination are less than most of the minimum distances in now deleted RI amendment.

Chapter 7 of IPC 2021 is adopted with amendments. Two of the 4 state specific amendments to IPC 2018 are being retained as amendments to IPC 2021.

However, the RI amendments to sections 703.1 and 703.6 have been deleted. This deletion reflects the Model Code's alignment with previous Rhode Island amendments, which are therefore no longer necessary. No change to status quo.

Chapter 8 of IPC 2021 is adopted with amendments. Three of the 5 state specific amendments to IPC 2018 are being retained as amendments to IPC 2021.

However, the RI amendments to sections 802.1.8 and the exception to 802.2 have been deleted. This deletion reflects the Model Code's alignment with previous Rhode Island amendments, which are therefore no longer necessary. No change to status quo.

Chapter 10 of IPC 2021 is adopted with amendments. Four of the 7 state specific amendments to IPC 2018 are being retained as amendments to IPC 2021. The amendments to sections 1002.4, 1002.4.1 through 1002.4.4, and 1002.6 have been deleted. This deletion reflects the Model Code's alignment with previous Rhode Island amendments, which are therefore no longer necessary. No change to status quo.

Appendices – Upon review by the BCSC, only Appendix E to IPC 2021 is adopted. All other appendices to IPC 2021 are deleted. No change to status quo.

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed amendment until July 26, 2025 by contacting the appropriate party at the address listed below:

James Cambio, Commissioner

Building Code Commission
State Building Office
560 Jefferson Blvd, Suite 100
Warwick, RI 02886
DBR.StateBuildingOffice@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 a governmental agency or by an association having at least twenty-five (25) members. A request for an oral hearing must be made within ten (10) days of the publication of this notice.

Regulatory Analysis Summary and Supporting Documentation:

These amendments move the Plumbing Code from IPC 2018 to IPC 2021. As part of the adoption of IPC 2021 the BCSC has:

Deleted some of the prior RI specific amendments that are no longer necessary;
and

Simplified and standardized the formatting for a more user-friendly document that is easily read alongside IPC 2021.

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.

For full regulatory analysis or supporting documentation contact the agency staffperson listed above.