

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

BUILDING CODE COMMISSION

Title of Rule: RISBC-4 Rhode Island Mechanical Code

Rule Identifier: 510-RICR-00-00-4

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 Mechanical Code. The current version of the Mechanical Code adopted the International Code Council's (ICC) International Mechanical Code (IMC) 2018 edition. Currently, these amendments reflect the BCSC's proposed adoption of the 2021 edition of the IMC. The state specific amendments to the IMC 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:

§§ 4.1 and 4.2 – Updated and simplified the provisions in these sections.

Chapter 1 contains the administrative provisions of IMC 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, 7, 8, 9, and 14 of IMC 2021 are adopted with no substantive changes. Edits to these chapters are for formatting, consistency, and accuracy. No changes to status quo.

Chapters 3, 5, 13 and 15 of IMC 202 are adopted with amendments. In these chapters all amendments to IMC 2018 are being retained as amendments to IMC 2021. No changes to status quo.

Chapter 6 of IMC 2021 is adopted with no changes. All prior state specific amendments have been deleted. This deletion reflects the alignment of the Model Code with a previous Rhode Island amendment, which is therefore no longer necessary.

Chapter 10 of IMC 2021 is adopted with amendments. 1 of the 2 state specific amendments to IMC 2018 are being retained as an amendment to IMC 2021. The amendment to section 1003.1 has been deleted. This deletion reflects the alignment of the Model Code with a previous Rhode Island amendment, which is therefore no longer necessary.

Chapter 11 of IMC 2021 is adopted with amendments. 2 of the 3 state specific amendments to IMC 2018 are being retained as amendments to IMC 2021. The amendment to section 1105.3 has been deleted. This deletion reflects the alignment of the Model Code with a previous Rhode Island amendment, which is therefore no longer necessary.

Chapter 12 of IMC 2021 is adopted with no changes. The 2 state specific amendments to IMC 2018 have been deleted. This deletion reflects the alignment of the Model Code with a previous Rhode Island amendment, which is therefore no longer necessary.

Appendices – Upon review by the BCSC, only Appendix A to IMC 2021 is adopted. 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 Mechanical Code from IMC 2018 to IMC 2021. As part of the adoption of IMC 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 IMC 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 staff person listed above.