

RHODE ISLAND GOVERNMENT REGISTER
PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING

BUILDING CODE COMMISSION

Title of Rule: RHODE ISLAND EXISTING BUILDING CODE

Rule Identifier: 510-RICR-00-00-7

Rulemaking Action: Proposed Adoption

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) adopts the various components of the Rhode Island Building Code by adopting national model codes. The BCSC has decided to delete Chapter 34, which contained RI specific amendments related to Existing Buildings, and adopt the International Code Council's (ICC) International Existing Building Code (IEBC), 2021 edition, as a new Part 7 in Title 510.

The IEBC applies to the renovation of all buildings and structures not otherwise covered by SBC-2, the one- and two-family residential code. For example: Renovation of an office building would fall under SBC-7, the IEBC; renovation of a single family house would fall under SBC-2. Additionally, three-family dwellings are prohibited from using the IEBC and are subject to the provisions of SBC-1, the Rhode Island Building Code.

This adoption will be promulgated simultaneously with the amendments to 510-RICR-00-00-1 so there is no gap in the law.

This regulation was drafted to be consistent with the formatting changes implemented in this year's update of all building codes.

Summary of proposed new regulation.

§§ 7.1 and 7.2 – These standard sections are consistent with similar provisions across Title 510 explaining the adoption of the model codes.

The BCSC is adoption the IEBC as written with minimal changes.

Chapter 1 is adopted with administrative amendments for consistency with other RI statutes, the other building code regulations in Title 510, and the Fire Safety Codes in Title 450.

Chapter 2 through 16 are adopted with no changes.

Appendices A, B and C are adopted, they contain various guidelines.

Appendix D is deleted as it contains information about appeals procedures which are unnecessary as those procedures are governed by statutory provisions in R.I. Gen. Laws Chapter 23-27.3

Additional Information and Public Comments:

All interested parties are invited to request additional information or submit written or oral comments concerning the proposed adoption 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:

The ICC's International Building Code (IBC), which RI adopts as its building code in 510-RICR-00-00-1, used to contain a Chapter 34 entitled, "Existing Structures." However, ICC Code Development Process for the 2015 code cycle removed Chapter 34 from the IBC and relocated to its own code, the IEBC. Rhode Island is finally catching up to the model and deleting the 48 pages of 510-RICR-00-00-1 which contained RI's existing building code provisions and instead, more efficiently adopting the IEBC.

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.