

Concise Explanatory Statement

Rhode Island Government Register

In accordance with the Administrative Procedures Act, R.I. Gen. Laws § 42-35-2.6, following is a concise explanatory statement:

AGENCY: Rhode Island Department of Business Regulation

DIVISION: Building Code Commission

RULE IDENTIFIER: 510-RICR-00-00-8

REGULATION TITLE: Rhode Island Energy Conservation Code

RULEMAKING ACTION: Full rulemaking
Amendment

COMMENT PERIOD: June 27, 2025 – July 27, 2025

A. Statement of Purpose of the Amendments

The Building Code Standards Committee (BCSC) has proposed amendments to the Rhode Island Energy Conservation. The current version of the Property Maintenance Code adopted the International Code Council's (ICC) International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) 2018 edition. Currently, these amendments reflect the BCSC's proposed adoption of the 2024 edition of the IECC pursuant to a statutory mandate in R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-27.3-100.1.5.4. Notably, § 23-27.3-100.1.5.4(a)(1) states: "The state building code standards committee shall revise the state energy conservation code to comply with this requirement within one year of any update to the International Energy Conservation Code; provided, however, that the 2021 IECC published by the International Code Council shall not be adopted and the 2024 IECC published by the International Code Council shall be adopted within (3) three months of its release."

The few state specific amendments to the IECC 2024 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:

The Regulation adopts IECC 2024 as required by the statutory mandate, R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-27.3-100.1.5.4

§§ 8.1 and 8.2 – Updated and simplified the provisions in these sections.

Notably, IECC 2024 contains separate parts of the Code for commercial and residential structures.

The majority of IECC 2024 is adopted, with only minimal changes to ensure consistency with existing RI laws and procedures. These amendments are in the Commercial Chapter 1 and Residential Chapter 1.

Specific appendices have been adopted for both commercial and residential parts of the code. These appendices (Appendix CH and RK) are adopted pursuant to existing statutory requirements.

B. Summary of the Regulatory Analysis

This regulation contains building code requirements relating to energy and energy efficiency requirements for the “envelope” of all new commercial and residential buildings. This regulation does NOT encompass electrical, mechanical, or other interior components of new buildings as these are covered in other sections of the Building Codes.

All 39 municipalities, DLT licensed professionals, builders and construction industry, design professionals, homeowners, property owners, and business owners.

In accordance with a statutory mandate in R.I. Gen. Laws § 23-27.3-100.1.5.4(a)(1), the Commission is proposing these amendments to move from IECC 2018 to IECC 2024. The Commission has exercised its discretion in making a few administrative amendments to ensure that this model code can be read in conjunction with the rest of the state building codes and fire codes. These changes have no impact on actual building code requirements and are merely related to cross references and the removal of content that is otherwise covered by state law (jurisdiction, appeals, permitting, etc.).

These minor amendments benefit RI and the building and design industry by avoiding confusion and integrating this model code into the family of RI building codes adopted by regulation.

The Commission has not exercised any discretion in the adoption of IECC 2024 that would result in a cost to Rhode Islanders or the building industry.

C. Summary of Comments Not Resulting in Regulatory Language Changes

Below is a summary of other public comments received that did not result in changes to the text of the Regulation and a brief description of the Department’s reasons for not making any such changes after due consideration.

1. *510-RICR-00-00-8* – Commentary was received suggesting the adoption without amendment of the most up-to-date version of the model codes.

The proposed amendments to the State Building Codes reflect a conscientious effort to ensure that the Rhode Island State Building Code is updated in accordance with national standards while taking into consideration that the model code may not capture the circumstances that exist for building in Rhode Island. Therefore, certain amendments to the model codes have been made.

Accordingly, the Department declines to make a change in response to this comment.