

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-00-00-11

REGULATION TITLE: Building Code Commission

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 Parts 1-8, 11, 14, 18, 19 and 20 of the Rhode Island Building Code that include adoption of the 2021 version of the International Building Code (IBC) for Parts 1-7, 14, 18, and 19 and the 2024 version of the IBC for Part 8. This Part 11, Rule 510-RICR-00-00-11, is being amended concurrently for consistency with the other building code regulations in Title 510 and the Fire Safety Codes in Title 450, compliance with RI statutes, and to ensure that the all Parts of the building code align with the needs of this state.

Additionally, all the building code regulations simultaneously being amended 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 all changes with the model code section number for quick reference; and focusing on model code numbering to simplify citation and avoid confusion.

Part 11 is amended to overhaul building official and inspector certification procedures to ensure clearer, more practical process.

§ 11.1 is amended to reference R.I. Gen. Laws §§ 23-27.3-107.1 through 23-27.3-107.7.

§ 11.2 is amended to update the purpose of the regulation.

§ 11.3 is amended to update defined terms for increased clarity.

§ 11.4 is amended to require a certificate instead of a letter confirming satisfaction of qualifications for building code officials and inspectors.

§ 11.5 is amended to provide clarification and specific application requirements for building code official and inspectors;

§ 11.6 is amended as to Building Official applicants and provides two alternatives to obtain certification based on experience, employment, and a certification exam for Option 1 and experience and employment for Option 2. These amendments remove and/or streamline previously confusing and impractical options for certification; as to the Building Inspector -1 and -2 applicants and provides two alternatives to obtain certification for both Building Inspector -1 and -2 based on education, experience, and certification. These amendments clarify qualification requirements and remove inconsistencies between the options for qualification; as to Mechanical Inspector, Electrical Inspector, and Plumbing Inspector applicants and clarifies options for meeting certification qualifications based on professional licensure and experience.

§ 11.7 is amended as to continuing education requirements in order to specify the necessary approval for, duration and frequency of, and record-keeping for such continuing education programs. § 11.8 is amended as to the state building inspector certification programs to provide greater clarity and detail related to certification program class requirements, including specific topics, hours of instruction, and eligibility.

B. Summary of the Regulatory Analysis

This regulation applies to all building code officials and inspectors and to the Building Code Standards Committee responsible for certifying building code officials and inspectors.

These amendments provide increased clarity and transparency for building code officials and inspectors, as well as for MEP inspectors to ensure more practical instructions and requirements are provided to applicants for building official and inspector and MEP inspector certifications.

These amendments modify the certification, recertification and continuing education processes to ensure building official, building inspector, and MEP inspector qualifications are better maintained through professional development programs and reviewed by the Certification Subcommittee with increased frequency.

These amendments benefit applicants for building official, building inspector, and MEP inspectors by providing less confusing and more practical steps for certification and benefit the State of Rhode Island through the more streamlined certification of well-qualified inspectors.

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. § 11.6 Specific Requirements for each Position/Certification – Commentary was received recommending that only the ICC B2 should be required, not both the ICC B1 and B2 if the individual meets the criteria to be a residential building inspector based on experience and successfully completes the State Building Academy, which would allow the certification subcommittee to approve combination inspectors with <1 year of service time and would help support municipal building offices in need of inspectors.

Pursuant to R.I.G.L. 23-27.3-107.1.1(b)(1), Building Inspectors-2 shall have a minimum of three (3) years' experience in both residential and commercial construction; and shall possess ICC certifications as a Residential Building Inspector and Commercial Building Inspector or any combination of education and experience that the building code standards committee deems to be substantially equivalent. The Building Inspector-2 shall complete the state certification program within one year of employment and shall enforce the provisions of both the state building code SBC-1 and the state residential code SBC-2. In reviewing the comment, the Building Code Standards Committee further determined that there would be practical issues with placing candidates in advanced roles with less than one year of experience.

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

2. *510-RICR-00-00-11* – 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.