

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

BUILDING CODE COMMISSION

Title of Rule: RISBC-11 Certification of Building Code Officials and Inspectors

Rule Identifier: 510-RICR-00-00-11

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 § 23-27.3-107.1 through 23-27.3-107.7

Summary of Rulemaking Action:

The Building Code Standards Committee (BCSC) is proposing amendments to the Rhode Island Building Code, which is the primary building code that applies to all buildings that are not a one or two-family residences. The current version of this regulation adopted the International Code Council's (ICC) International Building Code (IBC), 2018 version, with RI specific amendments. Currently, the BCSC has proposed adopting the 2021 version of the IBC. The proposed amendments to the IBC 2021 model code are for consistency with the other building code regulations in Title 510 and the Fire Safety Codes in Title 450, compliance with RI statutes, and ensure that the model codes 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.

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 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.

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.