



IDABO CODE ALERT:

2020 Adopted Amendments to the Building Codes

The 2020 Legislature adjourned the third week in March and rules updating the building codes in Idaho were made final. Those rules adopted the 2018 International Codes with Idaho amendments (summary listed below).

These codes and amendments are to be adopted and effective in local jurisdictions no later than **January 1, 2021**.

For more specific details on a comparison of changes between the last codes, 2018 editions and these Idaho amendments, visit <http://www.idabo.org/code-updates> or call the Idaho Association of Building Officials at 208-321-9182.

For copies of the final rules go to this link:

[https://dbs.idaho.gov/rules/2019%20Reauthorized%20Pending%20Rules/Building_Reauthorized_Rules_\[FINAL\].pdf](https://dbs.idaho.gov/rules/2019%20Reauthorized%20Pending%20Rules/Building_Reauthorized_Rules_[FINAL].pdf)

Summary-State Code Amendment Changes in the 2018 Codes

2018 International Building Code (IBC) – Adoption with the following amendments:

- Correlated language with the residential code on personal care, custodial care and childcare
- Clarification language to use commercial IBC code for medical care
- Deleted previous Lap Splices amendment in masonry chapter (is now in 2018 code)
- Less restrictive threshold of when a drinking fountain is required
- Correlated language on relocatable modular buildings referencing state statute provisions

2018 International Residential Code (IRC) – Adoption with the following amendments:

- Correlated language with the IBC code on personal care, custodial care and child care

- More options to address protection of roof eaves close to property lines
- Elimination of requirement to protect floors of unfinished basements
- Deleted previous townhouse wall options-amendments (are now in 2018 code)
- Exceptions from smoke detectors for exterior work or trade permits
- Exceptions from carbon monoxide detectors for exterior work or trade permits
- Amended flood hazard elevation requirements
- Replacement of footing section and Table to former edition of code
- Deleted Tiny Homes Appendix amendment (is now in 2018 code available for adoption)

2018 International Existing Building Code (IEBC) – Adoption with no amendments.

2018 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) – Adoption with the following amendments:

- Amendment, Exception for Air Leakage testing of the thermal envelope in large commercial buildings, allowing portions of building to be tested
- Deleted many of the previous residential amendments
- Some changes to residential prescriptive insulation and fenestration requirements, and U-Factors
- Air leakage rate for homes in Idaho is now to be less than 5 air changes per hour (ACH) vs. 7 ACH under previous code and 3 ACH for the national code
- Blower door test required on 20% of homes built by a contractor *(this requirement is a reduction and has an implementation schedule of an additional 6 months after January 1, 2021, code adoption for soft implementation for education period for contractors)*
- Reduction of some requirements for hot water pipe insulation
- Lighting requires a minimum of 75% of permanently installed fixtures must have high-efficacy lamps
- Energy Rating Index (ERI) (compliance alternative) required score is 68 or less in Climate Zones 5 & 6 *(relaxed to a figure more equivalent to the prescriptive method in Idaho)*

Idaho Association of Building Officials

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