

Summary of updates to Chapter 170 construction codes

The Maryland Codes Administration updates Maryland's building codes every 3 years to ensure latest technologies and techniques can be used in the construction industry. Local jurisdictions are required to adopt within 12 months of the States adoption. The Bureau of Permits and Inspections is responsible for adoption and compliance of Chapter 170 construction codes.

The Bureau has reviewed the appropriate codes with the local plumbing board, electrical boards and with the Code Steering Committee. All changes were approved by each group and Chapter 170 has been prepared for a public hearing.

1. The International Building Code, 2018 Edition

No substantial changes, most changes are editorial in nature.

2. National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Fire Prevention Code

Adopted by the State Fire Marshal's Office with no substantial changes. No modification permitted by local authorities.

3. International Mechanical Code, 2018 Edition

No substantial changes, most changes are editorial in nature.

4. International Energy Conservation Code, 2018 Edition

An additional option was added to calculate energy usage thereby allowing builders an additional path to comply. No modification permitted by local authorities.

5. International Residential Code, One and Two-Family Dwelling Code, 2018 Edition

An option was included to remove the emergency exit from a basement bedroom provided the structure is sprinklered. This will decrease the cost of construction. No other substantial changes.

6. NFPA 101 Life Safety Code, as adopted by the Maryland State Fire Code

No substantial changes, No modification permitted by local authorities.

7. International Plumbing Code, 2018 Edition

The Md. State Plumbing Board adopted the IPC in place of the previously adopted National Standard Plumbing Code. While the codes are very similar, fixture counts within the new code are lower in some scenarios. This will decrease the cost of construction. Minimal modification permitted by local authorities.

8. NFPA 70 National Electrical Code, 2017 Edition

No changes to this code, only local ordinances were revised. Owners who reside at their residence will be required to pass a test when installing certain electrical systems exceeding a certain size.

9. International Existing Building Code, 2018 Edition

No substantial changes and will only apply to commercial structures.

10. International Fuel Gas Code 2018 Edition

The Md. State Plumbing Board adopted the IFGC in place of the National Fuel Gas Code. No substantial differences.

11. Maryland Accessibility Code

No changes to this code adopted by the State, No modification permitted by local authorities.

12. Liquefied Petroleum Gas Code, NFPA 58, 2011 Edition

No changes to this code.