

2021 International Codes: Summary of Changes to Flood Provisions

The following summarize the key changes to the flood provisions of the 2018 International Codes (I-Codes) that appear in the 2021 edition.

International Building Code

- Sec. 1610.2: added to require basement floors, slabs on ground, and foundations to resist uplift loads, including hydrostatic loads.
- Sec. 1612.4: added requirements to (a) include the flood emergency plan specified in American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 24, *Flood Resistant Design and Construction*, with documentation for dry floodproofed nonresidential buildings, and (b) submit a design statement when engineered openings are used in walls designed to breakaway.
- Sec. 3114: added to allow public use restroom buildings in flood hazard areas with lowest floors below the elevation required in American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) 24, *Flood Resistant Design and Construction*, provided other flood resistance requirements are met.
 - Sec. 3114 does not meet the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program because it does not require elevation or dry floodproofing of a specific type of nonresidential building that the program does not allow to be wet floodproofed.
- Appendix G, G101.5: added to allow communities to designate an official other than the building official as the floodplain administrator (and modified throughout Appendix G to refer to floodplain administrator).
- Appendix G, G104.10: added to specify use of changed technical data (flood hazard area boundaries and flood elevations) must not be used unless FEMA has approved a conditional letter of map amendment.

International Residential Code

- Table R301.2: modified the footnote for “Flood Hazards” to remove expectation that every Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) panel would be listed.
- R309.3: modified to refer to requirements for garages and carports which are moved to R322:
 - R322.2.1 (Zone A) and R322.3.2 (Zone V and Coastal A Zone): modified to include requirements for garages and carports and clarify that the requirements for walls apply to the walls of garages.



- R322 (several sections): modified to apply requirements below the elevation required by R322.2.1 or R322.3.2, rather than below the design flood elevation.
- R322.3.3: modified to more clearly apply to pilings and columns.

International Existing Building Code

- Sec. 109.3.10: added to require submission of elevation documentation prior to the final inspection.

International Mechanical, Plumbing, Fuel Gas, Fire, Swimming Pool and Spa, Private Sewage Disposal, and ICC Performance Codes

- No changes.