

2022 Building Code Adoption Tracking: FEMA Region 3

This fact sheet provides a high-level overview of the status of hazard-resistant building code adoption in each state and territory within a FEMA region. The regional fact sheets show an annual metric of the percent of communities adopting hazard-resistant¹ building codes.

Why Building Codes?

Disaster resilience starts with building codes because they enhance public safety and property protection.

Why Track Codes?

- Represent the best evidence for disaster resistance
- Create best overall return on investment
- Comply with [Technology Transfer Act](#)
- Cornerstone of effective mitigation to reduce losses in future disasters
- Codes = better built buildings, better performance
- Hazard codes for seismic, high winds, water and fire enable uniformity, efficiencies, and predictable performance
- Recognize the disaster preparedness of communities when determining level of federal funding

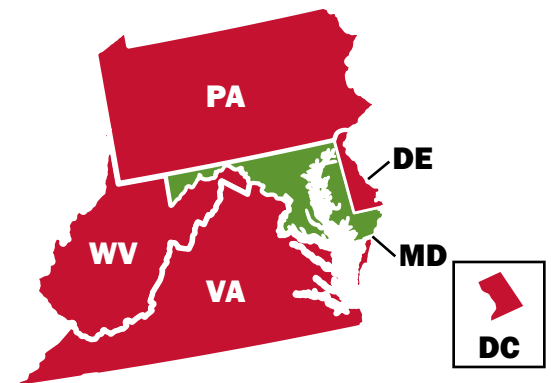


Figure 1. FEMA Region 3

Purpose of Building Code Adoption Tracking

- Track the adoption rate of the latest consensus-based codes across the nation
- Track the results of adoption in improving disaster-resistant buildings in natural hazard areas
- Use the emerging data to inform FEMA policies and laws in pre-disaster and post-disaster goals
- Federal funding assistance requirements may be correlated to adoption of the latest published building code editions as required by legislation and/or FEMA policies such as the [Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018](#) and the associated Federal Cost Share Reform Incentive

¹ Hazard-resistant codes mean the 2018 or later International Building Code and International Residential Code, without weakening of any resilience provisions related to any of the five tracked hazards for which the jurisdiction is at high risk.



FEMA’s Role Will Be Continuous

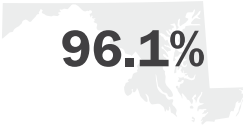
- Proposing building code changes to maintain consistency with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and to incorporate best practices identified in post-disaster investigations.
- Defending against changes that weaken flood, wind, and seismic provisions.
- Contributing to requests for interpretations by International Code Council.
- Supporting the training of state, local, tribal and territorial officials.



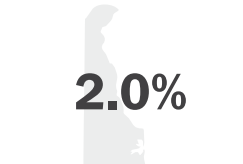
Figure 2. Building Code Adoption Tracking Process

The following percentages indicate the tracked jurisdictions which have adopted hazard-resistant² building codes within each state. The percentages are based upon jurisdictions within each state which are at high risk³ to one or more hazard types (Region 3’s hazards are flood, damaging wind, hurricane wind, and tornado):

MARYLAND

 <p>96.1%</p>	HIGHER RESISTANCE	
	IBC	State adopts the 2018 International Building Code (IBC) but allows jurisdictions to modify it with wide discretion.
	IRC	State adopts the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC) but allows jurisdictions to modify it with wide discretion.
Note: State is not fully resistant because some counties with high flood risk have weakened flood resilience in the IRC by local amendment.		

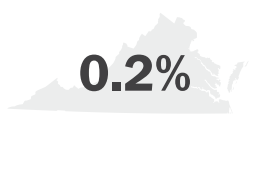
DELAWARE

 <p>2.0%</p>	LOWER RESISTANCE	
	IBC	No statewide building code.
	IRC	No statewide residential code.

² Hazard-resistant codes mean the 2018 or later IBC and IRC, without weakening of any resilience provisions related to any of the five tracked hazards for which the jurisdiction is at high risk.

³ High-risk is defined according to national consensus-based standards, the National Flood Insurance Program, and the Building Code Effectiveness Grading Schedule. For a detailed description of the high-risk methodology, visit the FEMA Building Code Adoption Tracking landing page at www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/risk-management/building-science/bcat/.

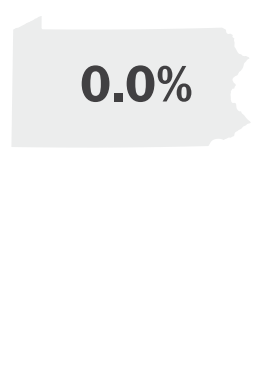
VIRGINIA

 <p>0.2%</p>	LOWER RESISTANCE	
	IBC	Commonwealth adopts the 2018 IBC, but allows for a 1-year transition where the (outdated) 2015 IBC remains in effect alongside the new code until July 1, 2022.
	IRC	Commonwealth adopts the 2018 IRC, but allows for a 1-year transition where the (outdated) 2015 IRC remains in effect alongside the new code until July 1, 2022.

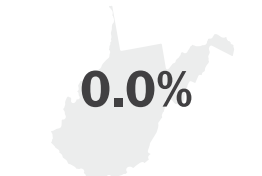
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

 <p>0.0%</p>	LOWER RESISTANCE	
	IBC	District adopts the (outdated) 2015 edition of the IBC, with Appendix G (Flood-Resistant Construction).
	IRC	District adopts the (outdated) 2015 edition of the IRC.

PENNSYLVANIA

 <p>0.0%</p>	LOWER RESISTANCE	
	IBC	Commonwealth adopts the 2018 IBC, but allows the (outdated) 2015 IBC to still be used until the six-month transition period ends on 8/14/2022. <i>Note that Pennsylvania removes NFIP-related flood administrative provisions for criteria for granting a variance in a flood hazard area (Sec. 104.10.1).</i>
	IRC	Commonwealth adopts the 2018 IRC, but allows the (outdated) 2015 IRC to still be used until the six-month transition period ends on 8/14/2022. Commonwealth weakens flood resistance in the 2018 IRC and the 2015 IRC in R322.2.1 for A zones by removing +1 foot freeboard requirement and for AO zones by specifying elevation requirements that are one foot lower than the model values. Commonwealth also weakens flood resistance in R322.3.2 by making +1 foot minimum freeboard requirement depend on the orientation to wave approach.

WEST VIRGINIA

 <p>0.0%</p>	LOWER RESISTANCE	
	IBC	State adopts the (outdated) 2015 IBC but does not require jurisdictions to adopt it, in which case it does not apply in those jurisdictions.
	IRC	State adopts the (outdated) 2015 IRC but does not require jurisdictions to adopt it, in which case it does not apply in those jurisdictions.