FEMA FACT SHEET

2024 Building Code Adoption Tracking: FEMA Region 2

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-resistant[1] building codes. Notes in *italics* indicate non-weakening notes relating to administrative, enforcement, or other non-design provisions.

Why Building Codes?

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

Figure 1. FEMA Region 2

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 during natural hazards
- 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

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-resistant[2] building codes within each state and territory. The percentages are based upon jurisdictions within each state and territory which are at high risk[3] to one or more hazard types (Region 2's hazards are flood, damaging wind, hurricane wind, tornado, and seismic):

PUERTO RICO

100.0%

HIGHER RESISTANCE

IBC — Territory adopts the 2018 International Building Code (IBC).

IRC — Territory adopts the 2018 International Residential Code (IRC).

UNITED STATES VIRGIN ISLANDS

100.0%

HIGHER RESISTANCE

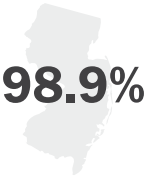
IBC — Territory adopts the 2021 IBC.

IRC — Territory adopts the 2021 IRC.

[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/.

NEW JERSEY



98.9%

HIGHER RESISTANCE

IBC

State adopts the 2021 IBC.

Note that New Jersey's replacement of IBC Chapter 1 omits NFIP-related administrative flood provisions for criteria for granting a variance in a flood hazard area (Sec. 104.10.1).

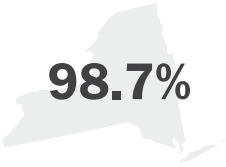
IRC

State adopts the 2021 IRC.

Note that New Jersey amends R322.1.9, which contains flood provisions regulating manufactured homes in flood hazard areas, such that it applies only to "relocated" rather than to "all new and replacement" manufactured homes. Note also that New Jersey's replacement of IRC Chapter 1 omits NFIP-related administrative flood provisions for criteria for granting a variance in a flood hazard area (R104.10.1).

Note: State is not fully resistant because some jurisdictions with high flood risk do not participate in the NFIP.

NEW YORK



98.7%

HIGHER RESISTANCE

IBC

State adopts the 2018 IBC.

Note that state's replacement of Chapter 1 omits several NFIP-related criteria for granting a variance in flood hazard areas, however.

IRC

State adopts the 2018 IRC.

Note that state's replacement of Chapter 1 omits several NFIP-related criteria for granting a variance in flood hazard areas, however.

Note: State is not fully resistant because some jurisdictions with high flood risk do not participate in the NFIP.