

North Central Texas Council Of Governments

DATE: March 31, 2016

TO: City Managers and Building Officials of North Texas

FROM: David Kerr, Chair
Regional Codes Coordinating Committee

SUBJECT: Clarification and Corrections to the 2015 International Codes Regional Recommended Amendments

On September 21, 2015, the North Central Texas Council of Government's (NCTCOG) Executive Board issued a letter endorsing and encouraging jurisdictions to adopt the 2015 International Codes with NCTCOG regional recommended amendments. This included the recommendation to adopt the 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) and the International Fire Code (IFC). The 2015 International Codes Regional Recommended Amendments can be found at www.nctcog.org/envir/codes.

The Regional Codes Coordinating Committee (RCCC) develops and formalizes the regional recommended code amendments for adoption by the NCTCOG Executive Board. In this capacity, the RCCC is providing clarification and administrative corrections to the 2015 IECC and 2015 IFC regional recommended amendments as outlined below.

Clarification of 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) Regional Recommended Amendments

Due to the passage of House Bill 1736 in the last legislative session, the RCCC would like to provide clarity and suggested actions for cities that may adopt the 2015 IECC with the NCTCOG recommended amendments. Further background regarding this clarification is included in Attachment A.

Two possible options for jurisdictions to consider for adoption of the 2015 IECC are:

1. **Adoption Prior to September 1, 2016:** If the 2015 IECC is adopted prior to September 1, 2016, use the revised language from Attachment 1 for tables/sections Table N1102.1.2 (R402.1.2), Table N1102.1.4 (R402.1.4), and Section N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2). This revised language will codify the expiration of these sections and eliminate additional ordinance changes.
2. **Adoption On or After September 1, 2016:** If the energy code is adopted on or after September 1, 2016, do not include the NCTCOG recommended amendment language from tables/sections **Table N1102.1.2 (R402.1.2), Table N1102.1.4 (R402.1.4), and Section N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2).**

Corrections to the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) Regional Recommended Amendments:

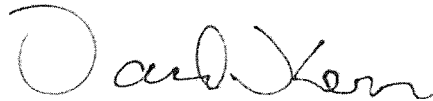
The RCCC Fire Advisory Board is recommending the corrections to the 2015 IFC Regional Recommended Amendments shown in Attachment 2.

NCTCOG appreciates your attention to these important clarifications to the 2015 International Codes Regional Recommended Amendments. Should you have additional questions, please contact Tamara Cook, Manager of Environment and Development at (817) 695-9221 or tcook@nctcog.org.

Sincerely,



Edith Marvin, P.E.
Director, Environment and Development



David Kerr, Chair
Regional Codes Coordinating Committee

cc: Tamara Cook, Manager, Environment and Development, NCTCOG
Ed Dryden, Assistant Building Official, City of Dallas
Bob Morgan, Senior Fire Protection Engineer, Fort Worth Fire Department
Selso Mata, Chief Building Official, City of Plano

Attachment 1
**Clarification of 2015 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) Regional
Recommended Amendments**

Background

Review of the recently adopted 2015 IECC regional recommended amendments by the Regional Codes Coordinating Committee (RCCC) in relation to the passage of House Bill (HB) 1736 revealed that effective dates concerning three (3) energy code amendments that are deemed *not less stringent* than the current energy code (2009 editions) will be deemed *less stringent* when HB 1736 becomes effective September 1, 2016.

The review process for the energy code is more complicated than other codes due to statutory oversight. In 2001, a state mandated energy code was established by the Texas State legislature (SB5 – 77th Regular Session). SB5 established certain regions in the State as non-attainment areas. As you may know, a nonattainment area is considered to have air quality worse than the National Ambient Air Quality Standards. Currently, the DFW region has 10 counties designated as a non-attainment area for the pollutant ozone. The designation requires that any amendments to the energy codes be *not less stringent* than the published code as determined by the Energy Systems Laboratory (ESL) of Texas A&M University. In subsequent legislation, the State Energy Conservation Office (SECO) was given rule making authority by the legislature to adopt subsequent editions of the energy code based on stringency findings by ESL.

The current energy code for the State is the 2009 IECC with energy provisions of the 2009 International Residential Code (IRC). In the last legislative session, HB 1736 was signed into law by the Governor on June 16, 2015. HB 1736 adopts the energy efficiency chapter of the International Residential Code (IRC) as it exists on May 1, 2015 as the energy code for single-family construction with an effective date of September 1, 2016. SECO's rule making process will adopt the 2015 IECC for all other construction effective November 1, 2016.

Recommended Action

Due to the passage of House Bill 1736 in the last legislative session, the RCCC would like to provide clarity and suggested actions for cities that may adopt the 2015 IECC with the NCTCOG recommended amendments prior to September 1, 2016. Further background regarding this clarification is included in Attachment A.

Two possible options for jurisdictions to consider for adoption of the 2015 IECC are:

1. **Adoption Prior to September 1, 2016:** If the 2015 IECC is adopted prior to September 1, 2016, use the revised language from Table N1102.1.2 (R402.1.2), Table N1102.1.4 (R402.1.4), and Section N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2). This revised language will codify the expiration of these sections and eliminate additional ordinance changes.
2. **Adoption On or After September 1, 2016:** If the energy code is adopted on or after September 1, 2016, do not include the NCTCOG recommended amendment language from tables/sections **Table N1102.1.2 (R402.1.2), Table N1102.1.4 (R402.1.4), and Section N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2).**

Should you have any questions, please contact Ed Dryden, RCCC Energy and Green Advisory Board Chair at ed.dryden@dallascityhall.com or 214-948-4132.

IECC Amendment to Table N1102.1.2 (R402.1.2), Table N1102.1.4 (R402.1.4), and Section N1102.4.1.2 (R402.4.1.2)

**** Table R402.1.2 INSULATION AND FENESTRATION REQUIREMENTS BY COMPONENT; Amend by changing the WOOD FRAME WALL R-VALUE for CLIMATE ZONE 3 to read as follows:**

~~20~~ ~~or 13~~ + 5^h 13^j

^jThis amendment expires on August 31, 2016 and the code requirements revert to the code as published.

(Reason: This amendment retains the values in the 2009 code. The state mandated adoption of the residential provisions of the 2015 IRC effective September 1, 2016 will deem this amendment less stringent and therefore must expire.)

**** Table R402.1.4 EQUIVALENT U-FACTORS; Amend by changing the WOOD FRAME WALL U-FACTOR for CLIMATE ZONE 3 to read as follows:**

~~0.060~~ 0.082^d

^dThis amendment expires on August 31, 2016 and the code requirements revert to the code as published.

(Reason: This amendment retains the values in the 2009 code. The state mandated adoption of the residential provisions of the 2015 IRC effective September 1, 2016 will deem this amendment less stringent and therefore must expire.)

****Section R402.4.1.2 Testing; modify the first paragraph to read as follows:**

R402.4.1.2 Testing. The building or dwelling unit shall be tested and verified as having an air leakage rate of not exceeding 5 air changes per hour in Climate Zones 1 and 2, and 3 air changes per hour in Climate Zones 3 through 8. *{Remainder of text unchanged}* This amendment expires on August 31, 2016 and the code requirements revert to the code as published.

(Reason: This amendment retains the values in the 2009 code. The state mandated adoption of the residential provisions of the 2015 IRC effective September 1, 2016 will deem this amendment less stringent and therefore must expire.)

Attachment 2
Corrections to the 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) Regional Recommended Amendments

The RCCC Fire Advisory Board is recommending the following corrections to the 2015 IFC Regional Recommended Amendments.

When the amendments were written, the **Existing Amendment Language** section was existing in the published 1st printing of the IFC, but it was stricken by errata, so the Fire Advisory Board filled it with their existing spray booth sprinkler amendment. However, in the later printings of the code, that section for retroactively sprinkling A-2's was deleted and other sections moved up to take its place.

The **Recommended Changes to Amendment Language** makes clear that the Fire Advisory Board's intent was to remove the stricken errata item in favor of the advisory board's spray booth amendment. This should help to avoid confusion with the later printings of the IFC, so that everyone understands the intent of the amendment. The double asterisk should remain because the subject amendment has not changed since the 2012 edition with the exception of the section number, and the advisory board did not change the published code because the A-2 section stricken was already stricken by errata in the 1st published printing of the IFC.

Should you have any questions, please contact Bob Morgan, RCCC Fire Advisory Board Chair at bob.morgan@fortworthtexas.gov or 817-392-2838.

Existing Amendment Language:

****Section 1103.5; add Section 1103.5.1 to read as follows:**

1103.5.1 Spray Booths and Rooms. Existing spray booths and spray rooms shall be protected by an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system in accordance with Section 2404.

(Reason: Consistent with amendment to IFC 2404, and long-standing regional requirement. The published 1103.5.1 requiring sprinklers retroactively in A-2 occupancies was deleted by ICC Errata.)

Recommended Changes to Amendment Language:

****Section 1103.5; change Section 1103.5.1 to read as follows:**

1103.5.1 Group A-2. ~~An automatic sprinkler system shall be installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 throughout existing buildings or portions thereof used as Group A-2 occupancies with an occupant load of 300 or more.~~ **Spray Booths and Rooms.** Existing spray booths and spray rooms shall be protected by an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system in accordance with Section 2404.

(Reason: Consistent with amendment to IFC 2404, and long-standing regional requirement. The published 1103.5.1 requiring sprinklers retroactively in A-2 occupancies was deleted by ICC Errata.)