



New Hampshire Building Officials Association

Established in 1965

*c/o NH Municipal Association
25 Triangle Park Drive
Concord, New Hampshire 03301
603-224-7447*

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The NH State Building and Fire Codes are Being Updated by September 15, 2019

In July of 2019, Governor Sununu signed into law House Bill 562, which updates the NH State Building Code ([RSA 155-A](#)) to the 2015 editions.

The New Hampshire Building Officials Association is a proponent of equal and fair administration of all codes in New Hampshire and we firmly support a statewide uniform building code. We also understand and appreciate that updating of codes can bring challenges that may affect projects in your communities, especially those that may take many months to finalize. The following code updates are scheduled to go into effect by September 15, 2019.

The Updated NH State Building and Fire Codes:

2015 International Building Code	(purchase)
2015 International Residential Code	(purchase)
2015 International Plumbing Code	(purchase)
2015 International Mechanical Code	(purchase)
2015 International Existing Building Code	(purchase)
2015 International Energy Conservation Code	(purchase)
2015 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code	(purchase)
(New book; requirements moved from IBC and IRC)	
2017 National Electrical Code, NFPA 70 (already adopted)	(purchase)
2015 Fire Code, NFPA 1 (effective September 8, 2019)	(purchase)
2015 Life Safety Code, NFPA 101 (already adopted)	(purchase)

Amendments to the NH State Building and Fire Codes:

Several of the adopted codes have amendments to address specific New Hampshire concerns. Many of these amendments have been carried-over from the 2009 codes. These amendments can be found on the [NH Building Code Review Board](#) (BCRB) website for Building Codes or http://www.gencourt.state.nh.us/rules/state_agencies/saf-c6000.html for Fire Codes

The New Hampshire Building Officials Association offers the following guidance to all NH code officials on how to transition to and implement the 2015 International Codes and the 2015 NFPA 1 and NFPA 101 as the New Hampshire State Building and Fire Codes.

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Guidance to Manage Implementation of the 2015 Codes

Suggested Implementation Management:

1. Develop an early plan on how you will manage the transition to the 2015 Codes
 - a. How will you manage projects that are in process with your planning board?
 - b. How will you manage projects that are already in final design stages to the 2009 codes?
 - c. How will you manage phased projects that have multiple buildings and already have begun construction?

Communities should take into consideration impacts to larger construction projects that may have been in design for many months, possibly to the prior code edition, and develop processes to address project review, permitting and inspections. It is best to keep all processes consistent statewide and research should be conducted to know what other communities are proposing across the state, or at least within your region.

2. For projects which permits approved and issued prior to September 15, 2019 refer to IBC 107.3.2 or IRC 106.3.2 that addresses previous approvals.
3. Begin now educating design professionals, contractors and homeowners about the transition to the 2015 codes and how your department will manage the transition. Suggested sources are
 - a. Posting in public places or public information boards
 - b. Public access TV if provided
 - c. Community and department websites
 - d. Press release to local or regional papers
 - e. Social media (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)
4. Coordinate the transition with other code officials in your community, such as your fire department.
5. Coordinate the transition with your community land use boards, such as Planning Board.
6. Communicate and build relationships with any professional trade organizations, such as the local Home Builders Association chapter, Chamber of Commerce, etc.
7. For building projects involving State and University Buildings contact the [State Fire Marshal's Office](#).



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Training scheduled:

1. International Residential Code 2015 Transition from 2009 IRC
Wednesday, September 11, 2019
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Concord - NH Fire Academy
2. International Building Code 2015 Transition from 2009 IBC
Thursday, September 12, 2019
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Concord - NH Fire Academy
3. International Building Code 2009 – 2015 Exit Systems & Exterior Wall and Opening Protection
Wednesday, October 9, 2019
9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Concord - NH Fire Academy

Additional Resources:

- 2015 Transition from 2009 IBC ([purchase](#))
- 2015 Transition from 2009 IRC ([purchase](#))

Respectfully,

NH Building Officials Association
Board of Directors

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