

After publication of the following nationally promulgated codes, the City of Houston creates a Code Development Committee with the intent to evaluate the code changes made between the present adopted code editions and the newly published nationally promulgated codes for possible adoption. The nationally promulgated building codes are the minimum provisions applicable to all new construction, repairs, renovations (remodels) and additions located within the city limits of Houston. The following nationally promulgated codes and previous Houston amendments are being reviewed for adoption by the City of Houston.

**2015 International Building Code (IBC)**  
**2015 International Existing Building Code (IEBC)**  
**2015 International Fire Code (IFC)**  
**HFD Life-Safety Standards**

**2015 International Residential Code (IRC)**  
**2015 Uniform Mechanical Code (UMC)**  
**2015 Uniform Plumbing Code (UPC)**  
**2020 National Electrical Code (NEC)**

Upon completion of this review, an analysis of the code changes and the proposed Houston amendments will be posted to Code Development website for public comment. This posting will be followed by an E-newsletter announcing the beginning of a 30-day public comment period. **NOTE:** Code text in the nationally promulgated codes not specifically addressed in a proposed Houston amendment remains unchanged and shall be adopted as written in the appropriate published document unless specifically excluded by a Houston amendment.

Designers, contractors, the public, and other interested parties are encouraged to hold meetings to complete their own analysis of the updated code publications in preparation for submitting public comments or proposed code changes during the public comment period. Public comments or proposed code changes are accepted on code change proposal forms created specifically for this purpose. All code change proposals shall comply with the following:

- (1) A separate code change form shall be submitted for each proposed addition or modification to any code provision
- (2) Code change proposals shall be submitted in legislative format for all new, modified or deleted code text and shall include the code text of the applicable code section of the published code under review:

**Legislative format example:** Underline proposed new text and show ~~strike-out~~ text intended for deletion.

**NOTE:** No code change proposal shall include a reduction in fire or life-safety without including additional proposed fire or life-safety provisions to provide equivalency to the minimum provisions afforded by the unedited code for the intended use or occupancy.

- (3) Appropriate justification and supporting documentation shall be provided for each proposed code change. Each proposed code change shall document the need for a code clarification, Houston-specific historical data of physical injuries, loss of life or property, intended increase in effectiveness, increased safety impact, enforceability, and/or unique local conditions that warrant such addition or modification to the nationally promulgated codes.
- (4) **Cost Impact:** The proponent shall indicate one of the following regarding the cost impact of any proposed code change to the nationally promulgated codes:
  - a) the code change proposal will increase the cost of construction; or
  - b) the code change proposal will not increase the cost of construction.

Proponents shall submit information to substantiate either assertion on the code change proposal form. Any code change proposal submitted which does not include the requisite cost information shall be considered incomplete and shall not be processed.

**NOTE:** Completed code change proposal forms are accepted during the public comment period only.

### **Public Comment Committee Review**

The Houston Code Development Committee will review each submitted public comment in the order they are received. Staff may contact a code change proponent for additional information on an “as needed” basis. Responses to public comments are posted to the Houston Permitting Center’s Code Development website. Accepted code changes are incorporated into the proposed Houston amendments final draft and correlated with other applicable codes by the Code Development office. Code development and other important code related notices may be downloaded from the Houston Permitting Center Code Development website: [Customer Assistance & Code Development Section](#)

### **By Email**

Submit all completed code change proposal forms electronically to: [HPC-RA@houstontx.gov](mailto:HPC-RA@houstontx.gov)