

**Recommended Amendments to the  
2015 International Plumbing Code**  
North Central Texas Council of Governments Region

The following sections, paragraphs, and sentences of the *2015 International Plumbing Code* are hereby amended as follows: Standard type is text from the IPC. Underlined type is text inserted. ~~Lined through type is deleted text from the IPC.~~ A double asterisk at the beginning of a section identifies an amendment carried over from the 2012 edition of the code and a triple asterisk identifies a new or revised amendment with the 2015 edition of the code.

**Note:** Historically NCTCOG has limited Chapter 1 amendments in order to allow each city to insert their local policies and procedures. We now have suggested certain items to be brought to the attention of cities considering adoption of the code that may be of concern to several jurisdictions. **It is still intended to be discretionary to each city to determine which Chapter 1 amendments to include.**

**\*\*Table of Contents, Chapter 7, Section 714; change to read as follows:**

714     Engineered ~~Computerized~~ Drainage Design . . . . . 69

*(Reason: Editorial change to make compatible with amendment to Section 714.1.)*

**\*\*Section 102.8; change to read as follows:**

**102.8 Referenced codes and standards.** The codes and standards referenced in this code shall be those that are listed in Chapter 15 and such codes, when specifically adopted, and standards shall be considered as part of the requirements of this code to the prescribed extent of each such reference. Where the differences occur between provisions of this code and the referenced standards, the provisions of this code shall be the minimum requirements. Whenever amendments have been adopted to the referenced codes and standards, each reference to said code and standard shall be considered to reference the adopted amendments. Any reference to NFPA 70 or the *National Electrical Code* (NEC) shall mean the Electrical Code as adopted.

*(Reason: Legal wording to recognize locally adopted codes and amendments adopted with referenced codes.)*

**\*\*Sections 106.6.2 and 106.6.3; change to read as follows:**

**106.6.2 Fee schedule.** The fees for all plumbing work shall be as ~~indicated in the following~~ schedule: ~~(JURISDICTION TO INSERT APPROPRIATE SCHEDULE)~~ adopted by resolution of the governing body of the jurisdiction.

**106.6.3 Fee Refunds.** The code official shall establish a policy for ~~authorize~~ ~~authorizing~~ the refunding of fees ~~as follows.~~ *{Delete balance of section}*

*(Reason: This calls to attention of local jurisdictions considering adoption that they need a fee schedule and a refund policy.)*

**\*\*Section 109; delete entire section and insert the following:**

**SECTION 109**  
**MEANS OF APPEAL**

**109.1 Application for appeal.** Any person shall have the right to appeal a decision of the code official to the board of appeals established by ordinance. The board shall be governed by the enabling ordinance.

*(Reason: Most jurisdictions already have an ordinance establishing and governing an appeals board for this code. This also calls to the attention of jurisdictions not having such a board that it needs to be established.)*

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**\*\*Section 305.4.1; change to read as follows:**

**305.4.1 Sewer depth.** ~~Building sewers that connect to private sewage disposal systems shall be a minimum of [number] inches (mm) below finished grade at the point of septic tank connection. Building sewers shall be a minimum of 12 inches (304 mm) below grade.~~

*(Reason: Provides sewer depth that is common in this region. Deleted reference to private sewage disposal because a private sewage disposal code is not typically adopted in this region.)*

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**\*\*Section 305.7; change to read as follows:**

**305.7 Protection of components of plumbing system.** Components of a plumbing system installed within 3 feet along alleyways, driveways, parking garages or other locations in a manner in which they could be exposed to damage shall be recessed into the wall or otherwise protected in an *approved* manner.

*(Reason: Provide a common cutoff point to designate a general separation distance at which plumbing systems should be safe for consistency in enforcement.)*

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**\*\*Section 314.2.1; change to read as follows:**

**314.2.1 Condensate disposal.** Condensate from all cooling coils and evaporators shall be conveyed from the drain pan outlet to an *approved* place of disposal. ... {text unchanged} ... Condensate shall not discharge into a street, alley, sidewalk, rooftop, or other areas so as to cause a nuisance.

*(Reason: Greater specificity in prohibited locations for condensate discharge. It is the intent of this amendment to send condensate discharge into a sanitary sewer drain. Consistent with regional amendment to IMC 307.2.1.)*

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**\*\*Section 409.2; change to read as follows:**

**409.2 Water connection.** The water supply to a commercial dishwashing machine shall be protected against backflow by an air gap or backflow preventer in accordance with Section 608. (Remainder of section unchanged)

(Reason: Domestic dishwashing machines would be difficult to enforce and should already come equipped with backflow preventers. Consistent with regional amendments in IPC Section 608.)

**\*\*Section 412.4; change to read as follows:**

**412.4 Required location for floor drains ~~Public laundries and central washing facilities.~~** Floor drains shall be installed in the following areas.

1. In public coin-operated laundries and in the central washing facilities of multiple family dwellings, the rooms containing automatic clothes washers shall be provided with floor drains located to readily drain the entire floor area. Such drains shall have a minimum outlet of not less than 3 inches (76 mm) in diameter.
2. Commercial kitchens. In lieu of floor drains in commercial kitchens, the code official may accept floor sinks.
3. Public restrooms.

(Reason: To make more compatible with local health code practices.)

**\*\*Section 419.3; change to read as follows:**

**419.3 Surrounding material.** Wall and floor space to a point 2 feet (610 mm) in front of a urinal lip and 4 feet (1219 mm) above the floor and at least 2 feet (610 mm) to each side of the urinal shall be waterproofed with a smooth, readily cleanable, hard, nonabsorbent material.

(Reason: Match un-amended IBC 1210.2.2.)

**\*\*\*Section 502.3; change to read as follows:**

**502.3 Appliances in attics.** Attics containing a water heater shall be provided . . . {bulk of paragraph unchanged} . . . side of the water heater. The clear access opening dimensions shall be a minimum of 20 inches by 30 inches (508 mm by 762 mm), or larger where such dimensions be not less than 20 inches by 30 inches (508mm by 762mm) where such dimensions are large enough to allow removal of the water heater. A walkway to an appliance shall be rated as a floor as approved by the building official. As a minimum, for access to the attic space, provide one of the following:

1. A permanent stair.
2. A pull down stair with a minimum 300 lb (136 kg) capacity.
3. An access door from an upper floor level.
4. Access Panel may be used in lieu of items 1, 2, and 3 with prior approval of the code official due to building conditions.

Exceptions:

1. The passageway and level service space are not required where the appliance is capable of being serviced and removed... {remainder of section unchanged}

*(Reason: To provide a safe means of accessibility to appliances in attics and to allow for different types of construction limitations. Consistent with regional amendment to IMC and IFGC)*

**\*\*Section 502.6; add Section 502.6 to read as follows:**

**502.6 Water heaters above ground or floor.** When the attic, roof, mezzanine or platform in which a water heater is installed is more than eight (8) feet (2438 mm) above the ground or floor level, it shall be made accessible by a stairway or permanent ladder fastened to the building.

**Exception:** A max 10 gallon water heater (or larger with approval) is capable of being accessed through a lay-in ceiling and a water heater is installed is not more than ten (10) feet (3048 mm) above the ground or floor level and may be reached with a portable ladder.

*(Reason: To provide safe access to water heaters. (Consistent with regional amendments to IFGC 306.7 and IMC 306.3. Note reference to amendment above.)*

**\*\*Section 504.6; change to read as follows:**

**504.6 Requirements for discharge piping.** The discharge piping serving a pressure relief valve, temperature relief valve or combination thereof shall:

1. Not be directly connected to the drainage system.
2. Discharge through an air gap. ~~located in the same room as the water heater.~~
3. Not be smaller than the diameter of the outlet of the valve served and shall discharge full size to the air gap.
4. Serve a single relief device and shall not connect to piping serving any other relief device or equipment.

**Exception:** Multiple relief devices may be installed to a single T & P discharge piping system when approved by the administrative authority and permitted by the manufactures installation instructions and installed with those instructions.

5. Discharge ~~to the floor,~~ to an indirect waste receptor or to the outdoors.
6. Discharge in a manner that does not cause personal injury or structural damage.
7. Discharge to a termination point that is readily observable by the building occupants.
8. Not be trapped.
9. Be installed so as to flow by gravity.
10. Terminate not more than 6 inches above and not less than two times the discharge pipe diameter above the floor or flood level rim of the waste receptor.

11. Not have a threaded connection at the end of such piping.
12. Not have valves or tee fittings.
13. Be constructed of those materials listed in Section 605.4 or materials tested, rated and *approved* for such use in accordance with ASME A112.4.1.

*(Reason: To provide a higher degree of safety.)*

**\*\*\*Section 504.7.1; change to read as follows:**

**Section 504.7.1 Pan size and drain to read as follows:** The pan shall be not less than 1 1/2 inches (38 mm) in depth and shall be of sufficient size and shape to receive all dripping or condensate from the tank or water heater. The pan shall be drained by an indirect waste pipe having a diameter of not less than 3/4 inch (19 mm). Piping for safety pan drains shall be of those materials listed in Table 605.4. Multiple pan drains may terminate to a single discharge piping system when approved by the administrative authority and permitted by the manufactures installation instructions and installed with those instructions.

**\*\*Section 604.4; add Section 604.4.1 to read as follows:**

**604.4.1 State maximum flow rate.** Where the State mandated maximum flow rate is more restrictive than those of this section, the State flow rate shall take precedence.

*(Reason: To recognize State standards.)*

**\*\*Section 606.1; delete items #4 and #5.**

*(Reason: The code is too restrictive as written.)*

**\*\*Section 606.2; change to read as follows:**

**606.2 Location of shutoff valves.** Shutoff valves shall be installed in the following locations:

1. On the fixture supply to each plumbing fixture other than bathtubs and showers in one- and twofamily residential occupancies, and other than in individual sleeping units that are provided with unit shutoff valves in hotels, motels, boarding houses and similar occupancies.
2. ~~On the water supply pipe to each sillcock.~~
3. On the water supply pipe to each appliance or mechanical equipment.

*(Reason: To provide shut-off valves to every fixture.)*

**\*\*Section 608.1; change to read as follows:**

**608.1 General.** A potable water supply system shall be designed, installed and maintained in such a manner so as to prevent contamination from non-potable liquids, solids or gases being introduced into the potable water supply through cross-connections or any other piping connections to the system. Backflow preventer applications shall conform to applicable local regulations, Table 608.1, ~~except and~~ as specifically stated in Sections 608.2 through 608.16.10.

*(Reason: To recognize local requirements.)*

**\*\*Section 608.16.5; change to read as follows:**

**608.16.5 Connections to lawn irrigation systems.**

The potable water supply to lawn irrigation systems shall be protected against backflow by an atmospheric-type vacuum breaker, a pressure-type vacuum breaker, a double-check assembly or a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer. A valve shall not be installed downstream from an atmospheric vacuum breaker. Where chemicals are introduced into the system, the potable water supply shall be protected against backflow by a reduced pressure principle backflow preventer.

*(Reason: To recognize regional practices.)*

**\*\*Section 608.17; change to read as follows:**

**608.17 Protection of individual water supplies.** An individual water supply shall be located and constructed so as to be safeguarded against contamination in accordance with applicable local regulations. Installation shall be in accordance with Sections 608.17.1 through 608.17.8.

*(Reason: To allow local requirements to govern.)*

**\*\*Section 610.1; add exception to read as follows:**

**610.1 General.** New or repaired potable water systems shall be purged of deleterious matter and disinfected prior to utilization. The method to be followed shall be that prescribed by the health authority or water purveyor having jurisdiction or, in the absence of a prescribed method, the procedure described in either AWWA C651 or AWWA C652, or as described in this section. This requirement shall apply to “on-site” or “in-plant” fabrication of a system or to a modular portion of a system.

1. The pipe system shall be flushed with clean, potable water until dirty water does not appear at the points of outlet.
2. The system or part thereof shall be filled with a water/chlorine solution containing at least 50 parts per million (50 mg/L) of chlorine, and the system or part thereof shall be valved off and allowed to stand for 24 hours; or the system or part thereof shall be filled with a water/chlorine solution containing at least 200 parts per million (200 mg/L) of chlorine and allowed to stand for 3 hours.
3. Following the required standing time, the system shall be flushed with clean potable water until the chlorine is purged from the system.
4. The procedure shall be repeated where shown by a bacteriological examination that contamination remains present in the system.

**Exception:** With prior approval the Code Official may wave this requirement when deemed un-necessary. by the Code Official.

(Reason: May not always be needed)

**Section 703.6; Delete**

(Reason: not a standard practice in this region)

**\*\*\*Section 704.5; added to read as follows:**

**704.5 Single stack fittings.** Single stack fittings with internal baffle, PVC schedule 40 or cast iron single stack shall be designed by a registered engineer and comply to a national recognized standard.

(Reason: to allow owners, installers, inspectors, and design professionals to readily identify product markers to determine they meet all required standards.)

**\*\*\*Section 705.11.2; change to read as follows:**

**705.11.2 Solvent cementing.** Joint surfaces shall be clean and free from moisture. A purple primer that conforms to ASTM F 656 shall be applied. Solvent cement not purple in color and conforming to ASTM D 2564, CSA B137.3, CSA B181.2 or CSA B182.1 shall be applied to all joint surfaces. The joint shall be made while the cement is wet and shall be in accordance with ASTM D 2855. Solvent cement joints shall be permitted above or below ground.

~~Exception: A primer is not required where both of the following conditions apply:~~

- ~~1. The solvent cement used is third-party certified as conforming to ASTM D 2564~~
- ~~2. The solvent cement is used only for joining PVC drain, waste, and vent pipe and fittings in not pressure applications in sizes up to and including 4 inches (102mm) in diameter.~~

(Reasoning: to keep the "process of joining PVC pipe")

**\*\*Section 712.5; add Section 712.5 to read as follows:**

**712.5 Dual Pump System.** All sumps shall be automatically discharged and, when in any "public use" occupancy where the sump serves more than 10 fixture units, shall be provided with dual pumps or ejectors arranged to function independently in case of overload or mechanical failure. For storm drainage sumps and pumping systems, see Section 1113.

(Reason: To address dual pump system. To provide reference for storm drainage systems.)

**\*\*Section 714, 714.1; change to read as follows:**

**SECTION 714**  
**ENGINEERED COMPUTERIZED DRAINAGE DESIGN**

**714.1 Design of drainage system.** The sizing, design and layout of the drainage system shall be ~~permitted to be~~ designed by a registered engineer using approved computer design methods.

(Reason: Code was too restrictive.)

**\*\*\*Section 804.2; added to read as follows:**

**804.2 Special waste pipe, fittings, and components.** Pipes, fittings, and components receiving or intended to receive the discharge of any fixture into which acid or corrosive chemicals are placed shall be constructed of CPVC, high silicone iron, PP, PVDF, chemical resistant glass, or glazed ceramic materials.

*(Reason): To clarify the allowable materials which are specifically listed for chemical drainage applications.*

**\*\*Section 903.1; change to read as follows:**

**903.1 Roof extension.** Open vent pipes that extend through a roof shall terminate not less than six (6) inches (152 mm) above the roof. Where a roof is to be used for assembly or as a promenade, observation deck, sunbathing deck or similar purposes, open vent pipes shall terminate not less than 7 feet (2134 mm) above the roof.

*(Reason: To provide regional guideline on standard installation method for this area and address reference number correction.)*

**\*\*Section 917 Single stack vent system. Delete entire section.**

*(Reason: Not in conformance with regional practices.)*

**\*\*Section 1002.10; delete.**

*(Reason: Texas State regulations cover plumbing in mental health centers. Consistent with regional amendment to IPC 405.6.)*

**\*\*Section 1003; see note below:)**

*{Until the Health and Water Departments of the area can coordinate a uniform grease interceptor section, each city will have to modify this section individually.}*

**\*\*Section 1101.8; change to read as follows:**

**1101.8 Cleanouts required.** Cleanouts or manholes shall be installed in the ~~building~~ storm drainage system and shall comply with the provisions of this code for sanitary drainage pipe cleanouts.

**Exception:** ~~Subsurface drainage system~~

*(Reason: To specify that where cleanouts are only required. in the building.)*

**\*\*Section 1106.1; change to read as follows:**

**1106.1 General.** The size of the vertical conductors and leaders, building storm drains, building storm sewers, and any horizontal branches of such drains or sewers shall be based on six (6) inches per hour ~~the 100-year hourly rainfall rate indicated in Figure 1106.1 or on other rainfall rates determined from approved local weather data.~~

*(Reason: Specify the roof drain size normally used in the area.)*

**\*\*Section 1108.3; change to read as follows:**

**1108.3 Sizing of secondary drains.** Secondary (emergency) roof drain systems shall be sized in accordance with Section 1106 ~~based on the rainfall rate for which the primary system is sized in Figure 1106.1 or on other rainfall rates determined from approved local weather data.~~ Scuppers shall be sized to prevent the depth of ponding water from exceeding that for which the roof was designed as determined by Section 1101.7. Scuppers shall not have an opening dimension of less than 4 inches (102 mm). The flow through the primary system shall not be considered when sizing the secondary roof drain system.

*(Reason: Specify that overflow drainage is to be the same size as the normal roof drains.)*

**\*\*Section 1109; delete this section...**

**\*\*Section 1202.1; delete Exception 2.**

*(Reason: State law already specifies that vacuum systems must comply with NFPA 99C.)*

**END**