



m e m o r a n d u m

TO: Building Safety Board of Appeals

FROM: Nicholas Hanson, Building Official

DATE: 04/01/2022

SUBJECT: Significant Changes of the 2021 International Residential Code

The purpose of this memo is to identify any significant changes in the adoption of the 2021 *International Residential Code* (IRC).

The following Sections of the 2021 IRC have changed. The adoption of the new section(s) does not change the purpose or intent of the Code.

- **Section R301.1.4 Intermodal Shipping Containers.** Has been added.
 - Provisions for construction with intermodal shipping containers.
- **Section R301.2 Wind Speeds.** Has been amended.
 - Ultimate design wind speed was increased to 107 mph.
- **Section R302.5 Dwelling-Garage Opening Protection.** Has been amended.
 - Doors shall be self-latching and equipped with self-closing or automatic-closing device.
- **Section R305.1 Ceiling Height.** Has been amended.
 - Minimum ceiling height is reduced to 6 feet 6 inches under beams spaced at least 36 inches apart.
- **Section 310.5, 310.6, & 310.7 Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings in Existing Building.** Has been amended.
 - Opening dimension have been reduced for emergency escape and rescue openings for a basement remodel, basement addition or change of occupancy.
- **Section R506.2.3 Vapor Retarders Under Concrete Slabs.** Has been amended.
 - A minimum 10-mil vapor retarder is now required.
- **Section R609.4.1 Garage Doors.** Has been added.
 - All garage doors must have a permanent label identifying wind pressure ratings.
- **Section E3902.5 GFCI Protection for Basement Receptacles.** Has been amended.
 - GFCI protection has been expanded to include all basement areas.

The following appendixes are added. The adoption of these appendixes does not change the purpose or intent of the Code.

Appendix AF – Radon Control Methods

Appendix AH – Patio Covers

Appendix AJ – Existing Building and Structures

Appendix AO – Automatic Vehicle Gates

Appendix AQ – Tiny Houses

Appendix AS – Strawbale Construction

Appendix AT – Solar-Ready Provisions—Detached One- and Two-Family Dwellings and Townhouses

Appendix AW – 3-D-Printed Building Construction is ADOPTED as part of this code.