

Ordinance 18-114 – To amend *New Castle County Code* Chapter 6

Purpose: Revise the administrative sections of Chapter 6 and adopt the following codes published by the International Code Council.

- 2018 International Building Code
- 2018 International Residential Code
- 2018 International Existing Building Code
- 2018 International Swimming Pool and Spa Code

This ordinance also recognizes the following State adopted Codes.

- 2018 International Mechanical Code as the Statewide HVACR Code
- 2018 International Plumbing Code as the Statewide Plumbing Code
- 2018 International Fuel Gas Code as the Statewide Fuel Gas Code
- 2018 International Energy Conservation Code as the Statewide Energy Conservation Code.

What are the ICC Codes

- ❖ The International Codes are developed on a three-year cycle through a collaborative effort with building safety officials and other industry professionals. The essence of the I-Codes is to preserve the health, safety and welfare of the public in the built environment, and to recognize the innovation of materials to ensure they meet or exceed public health and safety goals.



Benefits of Adopting Current Codes

- ❖ **Increase Disaster Resiliency** – Organizations, such as FEMA, have recognized the economic benefits to communities by decreasing damage to homes and businesses from natural disasters and enabling continuous operation of essential services.
- ❖ **Cost Savings on Insurance** as the Insurance Services Office (ISO) National Building Code Assessment Report states that communities with well-enforced, up-to-date codes generally fare better in the face of hazards. New Castle County's latest review in 2017 placed us in the highest tier (overall rating of 3) for insurance discounts ranging from 1% to 13%.
- ❖ **Protect and Enhance Your Investment** by recognizing the latest safety products and lessons learned to ensure the long-term life of homes, businesses and communities.
- ❖ **Strengthens Code Knowledge** by encouraging continuous education and training throughout the building code profession. To date, the Licensing Division holds 141 professional certifications.

Lessons Learned



Code Adoption Timeline

March
12, 2018

Public Notified
regarding
forthcoming
adoption efforts

March - July
2018

Hosted 11 public
meetings with
HBA of Delaware,
NCC Plumbing and
Mechanical
Technical Advisory
Committee, and
industry
professionals

August - Sept.
2018

Department
review of public
meeting
comments and
working
documents

September
26, 2018

Public Code
Adoption
Workshop to
review and
discuss proposed
changes

October
2018

Document
modified and
Ordinance 18-114
Created

TRANSPARENT AND COLLABORATIVE REVIEW



Significant Changes

❖ Article 1 General

- Clarify the scoping provisions for the enforcement of the International Swimming Pool and Spa Code

❖ Article 3 Administration

- Added clarification language to the license to bid section
- Expanded work exempt from permit
- Reduced timeframe for abandonment of permits from 90 days to 30 days

❖ Article 4 Building Code

- The occupant load factor for business uses has been expanded to one occupant per 150 square feet. Previously one occupant per 100 square feet
- Increased the live load requirements on decks and balconies to one and one-half times the live load of the area served

❖ Appendix 5 Guide to Home Improvement Contracts *New Section*

- Provides guidelines for homeowner's entering into contracts for home improvements
- Advisory and encourages written contracts
 - Name, Address and License # on Contract
 - Start and Finish Dates
 - Deposit and Payment Schedule
 - Rights to Cancel