

## 2012 Significant Changes to Chapter 5

Effective January 1, 2012, the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) updated the Maryland Building Performance Standards (MBPS) to adopt the 2012 International Code Council (ICC or I-codes). Local jurisdictions are expected to begin enforcing these codes by July 1, 2012. Each jurisdiction may modify these codes to suit local conditions with the exception to the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). The Energy code can be made more stringent but not less by local jurisdictions.

In the spring of 2010, a comprehensive revision of Chapter 5 was completed and adopted by the Mayor and Council with an effective date of July 1, 2010. The current proposed changes to Chapter 5 are very minor changes and most are general housekeeping items to align the amendments to the 2012 editions of the I-codes. Below is a summary of significant changes, by article, that are being proposed for this code cycle.

The City has also formed a code review committee consisting of 11 individuals. The committee members were comprised of individuals who previously commented on the City's amendments, architects, fire protection engineers, builders and members of the business community. Members of the committee have met twice and the City has reviewed and amended Chapter 5 based on their comments.

### **Article I-IV: General, Numbering of Buildings, Dangerous Buildings**

- No significant changes made.

### **Article V: Basic Building Code**

- Inspection Services Division (ISD) will now maintain a copy of referenced codes rather than the Clerk's Office. Maintaining one set of codes in ISD saves money, maintains public access to the information and is more efficient because the use of the codes is almost exclusively at the ISD counter.
- Clarified what work is exempt from permits.
- Now allows ISD Chief to exempt Fire Protection Engineering Design and Evaluation (FPEDE) requirement for certain buildings.

### **Article VI: One and Two Family Dwelling Code**

- ISD will now maintain a copy of referenced codes.
- Changed definition of *family* to align with zoning ordinance.
- Added exemption for wall rating on detached tools and storage sheds, playhouses, and similar structures based on lot location.
- Revised amendments to section 507 (Wood Decks). The International Residential Code now has a section on wood decks.

- Heating and cooling equipment need not be Energy Star certified so long as it meets or exceeds the Energy Star requirements.

#### **Article VII: Electrical Code**

- ISD will now maintain a copy of referenced codes.
- No other significant changes made.

#### **Article VIII: Energy Conservation Code**

- The format of the 2012 International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) has significantly changed from the 2009 IECC. Article VIII was modified to correspond to the new 2012 IECC format.
- In 2010, the Mayor and Council adopted the 2009 IECC with additional (local) amendments for increased home energy efficiency. Many of these increased efficiency requirements are now incorporated in the standard 2012 IECC; therefore these local amendments have been removed.

#### **Article IX: Gas Code**

- ISD will now maintain a copy of referenced codes.
- Added amendment for gas pipe inspection and testing on minor scopes of work that will allow a more cost efficient testing procedure.

#### **Article X - XIII: Mechanical, Plumbing, Property Maintenance & Existing Building Codes**

- No significant changes made.

#### **Article XIV: Green Building Regulations**

- Minor changes made to ensure that Article XIV meets the minimum requirements of the 2012 IECC.